



# THE VOICE OF THE LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER



Newsletter Date: Winter 2010

Volume 10 Issue 4

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As my term as President of the Master Plumbers Council draws to a close, I would like to welcome incoming President, John Sideris. It has been my honor and pleasure to have served our industry. Despite our progress and achievements over the past couple of years, there is much work still to be done and I therefore look forward to continuing to serve as a member of the Master Plumbers Council's Board of Directors. I have learned that there are people across all walks of our industry who truly care about this industry, including the MPC's Executive Director Janene Meyerowitz, the MPC's Board of Directors, the Plumbing Foundation, the industry's manufacturers, distributors and suppliers, the Plumbing Licensing Board, NYC Department of Buildings and City Council, to name a few.

I have also learned that there are those who conspire against the plumbing industry, causing great harm to the legitimate licensed plumbing contractors, to unsuspecting property/building owners and residents, as well as to the City of New York. The fact is that plumbing work performed by a licensed master plumbing company, under permit and inspected by the DOB, is the **only** way to ensure safe and code compliant plumbing work. When unlicensed/unsupervised individuals perform this work, only to be "**covered**" by a licensed master plumber circumventing the system for the purpose of financial gain, it not only mocks the law, but jeopardizes safety, costs jobs and steals New York City's wealth. Property owners, builders, developers and contractors who knowingly partake in these activities are as equally culpable as the "covering plumbers", for these problems. This "**disease**" has turned into a plague that is taking over the plumbing industry, as the "cover-ups" continue to operate with impunity. There is no doubt that the plumbing industry, if it is to survive, must come together and provide both the leadership and resources required to finally vanquish this disease, before it is too late.

My best wishes to all for the Holiday Season, and may 2011 prove to be healthy, joyous and prosperous.

*Robert J. Bellini*

President

Master Plumbers Council

## THANK YOU DELLON SALES

The Master Plumbers Council would like to thank Scott Dellon and the entire staff of Dellon Sales for opening their training facility, Dellon University, to us. On Saturday, December 11th, members of the MPC and their staff were able to get Lead Safety Training. Thanks Dellon Sales for making it a great experience!



# nycww

# nyc Water Works

**40 Bruckner Blvd. Bronx, NY 10454**  
*(212) 567-3300 • Fax (718) 292-2233*

## WATER MAINS & SEWERS

- **Fire Sprinkler Water Mains • Site Work • Storm Drainage**
- **Water Taps & Sewer Connections Plugged • Fire Hydrants**

**HIGHEST LEVEL OF SERVICE IN THE INDUSTRY SINCE 1929**

**nycwaterworks.com**

**Paul J. Foley, LMP#9739**



**DO YOU BELIEVE  
IN SIGNS?**

**WELL, BELIEVE IN THIS ONE**

**Joseph L. Balkan**  
**PLUMBING HEATING**  
**CONTRACTOR**  
**Complete Engineering Services**  
**102-16 159<sup>TH</sup> AVE. PHONE**  
**HOWARD BEACH, N.Y. | Michigan 1-1222**

**WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.**

This hand painted sign made in the mid 1950's touts Joseph L. Balkan, and to call 'Michigan 1-1222'. Today, well over 50 years later, the name is the same and the phone number still rings (try it!). This makes Joseph L. Balkan one of the oldest sewer and water main companies in the City of New York. Balkan goes to great lengths to keep connected to its roots. That is why Balkan maintains the original phone number even after re-locating to expanded facilities three times over its history.

Through good times and bad alike Joseph L. Balkan has operated under the same trusted name. That translates into an iron-clad and secure guarantee on Balkans work, and the security of customer care before, during, and long after the work is done. Please visit us @ balkanplumbing.com to learn more.

**Paul R. Balkan L.M.P. 01281**  
 130-01 Jamaica Ave.  
 Richmond Hill, NY 11418

(718) 849-0900  
 Fax (718) 849-9570



## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

### Licensing Unit Update:

Many Licensed Master Plumbers and Licensed Master Fire Suppression Piping Contractors have renewed their license in the past year. The renewal process has been a little different from years past in that you are required to complete past history on fines, violations, etc.

Many have received a "Conditional Renewal". The conditional renewal may be offered if hearings are pending or a payment agreement has been entered in to between the Licensee and the Department of Finance or the Law Department. Although the license is issued for a 3-year term, the condition requires the licensee to notify the Licensing Unit within 6-months of the date of the conditional letter, and every 6 months thereafter. Failure to respond to the Licensing Unit within this time frame will result in the license being inactivated.

Some contractors have found themselves unable to pull permits or perform inspections only to find out this 6-month window has come and gone. If you received a conditional renewal, you must be diligent with the deadline and take proper action. The date of the conditional letter is the starting date of the 6-month period, and every 6-months thereafter until all fines are cleared and a final renewal granted. The Department of Buildings will not be sending reminders to you.

## DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS UPDATE

In a press release dated December 7, 2010, Rose Gill Hearn, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation, announced a Licensed Master Electrician was arrested on charges of submitting four signed electrical license renewal applications to the Department of Buildings. These applications falsely indicated he was responsible for the work performed under his license. However, *"the investigation found, he had agreed to sell the license to another individual for a monthly fee of \$2,000 and did not oversee the work"*.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn stated, *"Duping a City licensing agency is a fool's game that ends in criminal charges. The City's construction codes are meant to protect the public's safety and the integrity of construction work in New York City, and deliberate schemes to circumvent them will not be tolerated."*

While this particular case is related to a Licensed Master Electrician, the same principle applies to Licensed Master Plumbers and Licensed Master Fire Suppression Piping Contractors. As was stated in this month's President's Message, Cover-up plumbing is rampant. Many allegations have been submitted to DOI for investigation. We can only hope that their diligent work will in fact bring similar results to our industry.

For more information on this DOI Press Release (#85-2010), contact Diane Struzzi at (212) 825-5931



# Training the Plumbing & HVAC Technicians of the Future

Technical training in the field of Plumbing, and H.V.A.C.  
 State Approved Apprenticeship Instruction  
 Teachers are licensed with NY state education department

Technician upon completion of course will be registered in a National Database working in their trade.  
 Complete with all State & City certification in work place safety, CPR, NYC, & International Building codes including Plumbing, Electrical & H.V.A.C

Financial aid Available to those who Qualify Placement Assistance  
**Additional Financing Available with No Payments for One Year**  
 High School diploma or GED Required

**Next Class: January 31, 2011**  
**Call Today: 718-786-9298 or 800-342-6315**

Located ConEdison Learning Center in Long Island City  
 IMTI of New York  
 43-82 Vernon Boulevard  
 Long Island City, NY 11101  
 Phone: 718-786-9298 • Fax: 718-786-9328

Class Size Limited to 20

Visit our website: [www.IMTIUSA.com](http://www.IMTIUSA.com)



## Support Those Who Support Our Industry

*The Master Plumber's Council would like to recognize our affiliate members who continue to support the Council and the plumbing industry. Thank You!*

### Plumbing Supply

#### AM/PM Supply

Phone: 718-381-2845  
 E-mail: [anthony@ampmsupply.com](mailto:anthony@ampmsupply.com)  
 Web: [www.ampmsupply.com](http://www.ampmsupply.com)

#### Blackman Plumbing Supply

Phone: 718-939-7200  
 Fax: 718-539-4260  
 E-mail: [iklein@blackman.com](mailto:iklein@blackman.com)  
 Web: [www.blackman.com](http://www.blackman.com)

#### Bruce Supply Corp.

Phone: 718-259-4900  
 Fax: 718-259-3954

#### Coastal Plumbing Supply

Phone: 718-447-2692  
 Fax: 718-448-7534  
 E-mail: [alex@coastalplumbingsupply.com](mailto:alex@coastalplumbingsupply.com)  
 Web: [www.coastalplumbingsupply.com](http://www.coastalplumbingsupply.com)

#### Gil Meyerowitz, Inc.

Phone: 718-821-6200  
 Fax: 718-456-0217  
 E-mail: [sales@meyerowitzsupply.com](mailto:sales@meyerowitzsupply.com)  
 Web: [www.meyerowitzsupply.com](http://www.meyerowitzsupply.com)

#### Gilmour Supply

Phone: 718-832-7900  
 Fax: 718-832-7905  
 E-mail: [Anthony@gilmoursupply.com](mailto:Anthony@gilmoursupply.com)

### Manufacturers

#### Weil-McLain

Phone: 201-797-8550, Ext. 14  
 Fax: 201-796-4096  
 E-mail: [rliparulo@weil-mclain.com](mailto:rliparulo@weil-mclain.com)  
 Web: [www.weil-mclain.com](http://www.weil-mclain.com)

### Distributors

#### Dellon Sales

Phone: 516-625-2626  
 Fax: 516-625-3030  
 E-mail: [andym@dellonsales.com](mailto:andym@dellonsales.com)  
 Web: [www.dellonsales.com](http://www.dellonsales.com)

#### Venco Sales, Inc.

Phone: 631-754-0782  
 Fax: 631-754-4659  
 E-mail: [venco@vencosales.com](mailto:venco@vencosales.com)  
 Web: [www.vencosales.com](http://www.vencosales.com)

#### Wallace Ennace Assoc.

Phone: 516-454-9300  
 Fax: 516-454-9307  
 E-mail: [Rschiele@wea-inc.com](mailto:Rschiele@wea-inc.com)  
 Web: [www.wea-inc.com](http://www.wea-inc.com)

### Insurance

#### The AMERISC Corp.

Phone: 516-745-7542  
 Fax: 516-745-7565  
 E-mail: [FDeMartino@theAmerisc.com](mailto:FDeMartino@theAmerisc.com)  
 Web: [www.amerisc.com](http://www.amerisc.com)

### Meter Repair

#### City Water Meter Repair Co., Inc.

Phone: 212-473-7296  
 Fax: 212-473-7340

### Utility

#### National Grid

Phone: 718-270-5942  
 Fax: 718-270-5756  
 E-mail: [alberto.rodriguez@us.ngrid.com](mailto:alberto.rodriguez@us.ngrid.com)  
 Web: [www.nationalgrid.com](http://www.nationalgrid.com)

## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS UPDATES CONTINUED

### Notification for Self Certification of Gas Test Inspections:

Please be advised that it is the Licensed Master Plumbers responsibility to indicate the gas test pressure at the time an inspection is requested.

This information is required so that the Department of Buildings will be aware of the type and duration of test being conducted. It will also enable them to verify that the OP-98 Results match the type of inspection requested.

### Notice for Self-Inspection may be requested on line at:

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dob/html/news/op-98\\_form.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dob/html/news/op-98_form.shtml)

When completing the online for you must fill out the gas test pressure in the **“Additional information/comments section”**. For example, **gas test pressure is 3 psig**

The OP-98 form, instructions and other information are available at:

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dob/html/forms/forms\\_plumbing.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dob/html/forms/forms_plumbing.shtml)

The test pressure required for all types of gas inspections can be found in the **NYC Fuel Gas Code section 406.4**.

Please note that if you do not specify the correct test pressure in your notification, the inspection results may not be accepted and you may have to conduct the inspection again.

## LIMITED ALTERATION APPLICATION UPDATE:

- When hand delivering Emergency LAA's, you will now receive a receipt for the submitted emergency application. This will serve as proof of drop-off.
- Please note if you mail Emergency LAA applications, there is no guarantee that your application will be submitted in the appropriate time. You would best be served by having the application dropped off in person.
- If you filed for an Emergency LAA yet no work was done, you need to submit a letter on your letterhead stating why no work was done (be sure to reference the Emergency number). This will allow DOB to close out the emergency permit.
- LAA Limits are now expanded. The Code allows for a \$25,000 limit in each of the following four categories within a 12-month time period: Plumbing, Fire Suppression, Sprinkler/Standpipe and Oil. In addition, the limit for each Co-op or Condo is also \$25,000 (per unit). However, please note that all common areas within are limited to \$25,000.

**PURPOSE:** To clarify the filing and amending of the PW-1B

**CLARIFICATION:**

The PW-1B must be filed at the start of all applications as usual. No amendments (PAA's) will be needed for the following fixture changes: Bathtubs/Whirlpools/Hot Tubs/Saunas, Bidets, Dishwashers, Domestic Water Tanks/Pumps, Drinking Fountains, Ice Makers, Laundry- Standpipes, In-sink Garbage Disposals, Lavatories (Common Wash Basins), Sinks (Residential and Non-Residential), Stall Showers, Toilets (Water Closets), Urinals, Washing Machines, and Sump Pumps.

A PAA amending the PW-1B should be filed for all other work including, but not limited to, gas, sprinkler and standpipe work. The permitted approved plans should be kept current and accurate.

We understand that amendments to the approved plans may not be practical on short notices such as to correct an inspectors comments, so in lieu of a PAA to change the plans prior to your **inspections**, the DOB Plumbing Inspector or Spot Check Audit Inspector will accept from the PE or RA one of the following three options of intent to change the plans:

- A letter describing the intended changes.
- A sketch of the work showing the intended changes.
- A bubble drawing on the approved plans showing the intended changes.

All three options must have the seal and signature of the PE or RA of record. This will allow the LMP or LFSC to do the inspections of the work not shown on the original plans and without waiting for the Plan Examining PAA procedure. The plans **must** be amended prior to the Plumbing, Sprinkler, or Standpipe work type sign off.

**Note:** *The Plans and or schedule B should be amended at the completion of the work and before the work type sign-off. Not after each inspection or inspectors comments.*

## PW-1B CLARIFICATION FACT SHEET (SEE PAGE 6 FOR DOB NOTICE)

At a recent Master Plumbers Council membership meeting, this noticed caused a great deal of questions. In an effort to further clarify, please see bullet points below.

- Items in the first paragraph (limited to the specific fixtures listed) do NOT require the Schedule B to be amended at any point. Should the architect wish to correct these items from the ones initially filed, they can do so at the end of the job, but it is not necessary.
- Gas, sprinkler, standpipe, water or sanitary items must be amended through a PAA.
- If any items differ from the plans to the actual job and you have an inspection, you need to have one of the three alternates available at the time of your inspection from the PE or RA of record. All three options must be signed and sealed by the PE or RA of record.
  - A letter describing the intended changes.
  - A sketch of the work showing the intended changes.
  - A bubble drawing on the approved plans showing the intended changes.
- Plans must be amended prior to sign-off for plumbing, sprinkler or standpipe.

### MISC. UPDATE:

Please be advised that we have received several reports of plumbing trucks being stolen in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Once stolen, it appears contents of truck are emptied and trucks are found a day or two later in the same general vicinity.

# Jenny Flores Expediting

- **Permit Filing & Expediting with the DOB/ DEP**

- **Architectural/Engineering Services,  
RPZ Filings, Boiler Filings,  
Schedule B's Amended, Old jobs Re-instated**

- **Work Permits, LAA's, OP-98's, Sign-offs**

- **Certified Asbestos Investigators**

- **Servicing All Five Boroughs**

**WWW.JENNYFLORES.COM**

**INFO@JENNYFLORES.COM**

84-14 Pitkin Avenue, Ozone Park, NY 11417

Tel: 718-641-6299 Fax: 718-641-4626

GENERAL DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:  
The information provided in this newsletter is to be used only to educate businesses and the general public on plumbing and related construction issues that may affect their daily business or personal lives.  
All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors only and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the MPC/CNY, its officers, Board of Directors, the MPC/CNY newsletter or its editors. The MPC/CNY does not guarantee the accuracy or the correctness of advertising articles or references to information sources herein, nor does the MPC/CNY intend to endorse, rate, or otherwise officially comment on products available. Therefore, the readers are cautioned to rely on information contained herein at their own risk.  
All information that is available to you through this newsletter is provided "as is" without warranty or condition of any kind, either express or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.  
The MPC/CNY cannot and will not assume responsibility for the consequences of errors contained in the articles or misapplication of any information provided.  
MPC/CNY expressly disclaims any liability for any special, incidental, or consequential damages, including without limitation, lost revenues, or lost profits, resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained in this newsletter.

Master Plumbers Council  
of the City of New York  
104-09 Metropolitan Avenue  
Forest Hills, NY 11375  
(718) 793-6300



THE VOICE OF THE LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER

# Gregory T. Chillino

*Attorney at Law*

**FORMER DIRECTOR OF PROSECUTIONS AND INVESTIGATIVE  
ATTORNEY FOR NYC DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS'  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND DISCIPLINE**

SPECIALIZING IN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS,  
LICENSING MATTERS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

315 MADISON AVENUE  
SUITE 901  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

646.415.7951  
646.415.7727 FAX