

# PIPELINE

It's What's Inside That Counts

## JW MARRIOTT MINNEAPOLIS MALL OF AMERICA

The JW Marriott is a new, 15-story hotel attached to the Mall of America as part of its recent luxury expansion. The 15-story hotel has guest rooms on floors three to fifteen. The first floor houses its lobby, restaurant and bar, back of house offices, and administrative areas. The hotel's second floor contains state-of-the-art meeting spaces, an indoor pool and fitness area, housekeeping stations and additional administrative space. The third floor has a large banquet kitchen that serves the ballroom, which has capacity for up to 1,700 people. High-end finishes were the focus of this project as the JW Marriott brand is best-in-class.

### The Equipment

Floors one through three are conditioned by rooftop units that lead to FPVAVs and VAVs. There are a total of 35 FPVAVs and 25 VAVs which provide a lot of individual temperature control for the hotel. The restaurant's seating area is conditioned by horizontal heat pumps using the core water loop from the hotel tower. The core water and heating water loops utilized PEX-a piping for distribution.

### The Guestrooms

There are a total of 342 guestrooms in the hotel. Each of these guestrooms are conditioned by vertical heat pumps giving the guest complete control of the temperature for their individual room. Make-up air serves each guestroom, giving the rooms proper air changes for proper guest comfort. The thermostats in each room are linked to the JW Marriott's Proprietary Property Management System. This system maintains temperature and controls room lighting, based upon room occupancy, to maximize energy savings. Each bathroom is equipped with a tub and a separate shower making it a high quality room experience.

### The Numbers

In its entirety, the JW Marriott's mechanical systems include:

- 382 heat pumps
- 35 FPVAVs
- 25 VAVs
- 2,500 gallons of hot water storage for guestrooms
- Over 1,400 plumbing fixtures.
- Roughly 125,000 pounds of sheet metal
- 32,000 feet of domestic water piping
- 20,000 feet of waste and vent pipe

### Our People

The success of this project is attributed to MMC's team leads: Plumbing Foreman Jason McKitterick, Pipefitting Foreman Jesse Riewe and Sheet Metal Foreman Dale Anderson. These people worked together with Assistant Project Manager Tom DeRoma and Project Manager Bob Wolf to provide solutions to an aggressive schedule, harsh winter conditions and a complex construction site.



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## MARK'S MESSAGE

One of the more unique aspects of being a contractor is having both office and field employees. At MMC, we strive for a family style culture which can be a challenge at times with a team that is spread out across various job sites and two different offices. Over the course of the past year, we've been working on new, creative ways to build engagement, communication, and unity across our entire team.



One of the more significant changes we've made is creating a role dedicated to internal communications and employee engagement. This position has allowed for more consistent correspondence to the team via communications such as a monthly internal newsletter. It has also given our employees across both the office and the field a point of contact for questions, requests, and suggestions.

We've also increased the number of opportunities for employees to engage with one another. This included creating a private, MMC employee Facebook group, adding a SharePoint website with a discussion board, and increasing the number of company-wide events that bring both office and field employees together.

We have some of the industry's top talent out on our sites and within our walls. It is our goal and our vision to integrate our field and office employees together so they can better share their knowledge, get to know one another, and see firsthand the part their fellow teammates have in making MMC a success. As we move further into 2016, we will continue to implement new initiatives and utilize technology creatively to do just that.

Mark Anderson

## FITBIT PROGRAM

We started our MMC Fitbit Program the first week of January to help our employees get active with a little friendly competition! Employees across both the office and field have been sporting their new Fitbit trackers proudly as they compete against one another for the most steps.

We will be hosting company-wide Fitbit challenges throughout the year to encourage ongoing activity and exercise among the MMC Team!



## ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

In what has become an annual tradition at MMC, we held our Chili Cook-off in late January. Fourteen employees battled for the trophy and the bragging rights. This year's winner was Plumber Shop Foreman Tasha Lawrence. Accounting Manager Sara Vukich came in 2nd place with her white chicken chili and Service Coordinator Shawn Berger came in 3rd with her traditional style chili.



## MMC BLOG

MMC now has a blog! We recently launched the blog which covers a wide variety of topics related to the construction industry. The blog can be found on our website at <http://www.metromech.com/blog/>.



**OUR PURPOSE**

To Impact Lives  
 Provide and Service Mechanical  
 Systems at the Best Value  
 Grow our People  
 Build Relationships  
 Leave a Legacy of Excellence

**OUR VISION**

Committed to Excellence  
 Culture of Community  
 Integrity Guides our Actions  
 Lead by Example

**FUN FACTS**

Please join us in welcoming Training Manager Jim Lee to the MMC team!

Please join us in welcoming Assistant Project Manager Curtis Augustin to the MMC team!

Please join us in welcoming Assistant Project Manager Elliot Newton to the MMC team!

Congratulations to Don Ahlschlager on his recent promotion as Service Project Manager in the Fargo area.

Congratulations to Project Manager Chris Dent on his recent marriage! Chris and Nikki were married on February 20th at Masonic Temple in Eau Claire, WI. Honeymoon to follow in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

MMC participated in the Adopt-A-Family Program this year by sponsoring two families in need during the holiday season.

**MMC'S HOLIDAY PARTY**

For this year's holiday party, MMC's fab shop was transformed into a Las Vegas casino! MMC employees and their significant others were invited to join in a night of casino games, signature cocktails, and late night White Castle sliders! Casino chips were cashed in for raffle tickets and 10 lucky employees hit the jackpot! Top prizes included Champions Club Twins tickets, a \$500 donation to a charity of the employee's choosing, and two airline tickets worth \$500 each.



**THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 RETIREES FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE!**

Kevin Swanson—4 years, Wes Hickman—10 years, Therese Flicek—14 years, John Larson—15 years, Larry Stuve—15 years, Marlin Guttormson—18 years, Steve Yaritz—18 years, Ron Curtis—19 years, Richard Ward—22 years, and Gregg Smith—35 years



Pictured from left to right: Mark Anderson, Kevin Swenson, Wes Hickman, Larry Stuve, Steve Yaritz, Ron Curtis, Richard Ward, and Chad Nelson.

## PROJECT PRIDE | FLYOVER AMERICA AT MALL OF AMERICA

MMC has teamed up with Mortenson Construction for a new amusement ride for Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America called FlyOver America. FlyOver America is a flight simulation ride which will take you on an 8 ½ minute adventure throughout some of the greatest landmarks and regions in United States. The attraction will be a fully immersive experience including wind, mist and even scents while soaring across America.

MMC is completing the plumbing, mechanical and fire protection for the FlyOver America project. The project started in June of 2015 and is estimated to complete in March of 2016. Our MMC team includes Project Manager Dennis Solberg, Assistant Project Manager Tyler Strachota, Sheet Metal Foreman Dean Olson and Plumbing Foreman Jim Dahling.

The demolition of the existing space took considerable coordination. The supply air from adjacent spaces (Hard Rock Café and Peeps) were supplied from the super column within the existing structure. MMC needed to provide temporary air to Hard Rock Café and Peeps while the old structure was being demoed. On the plumbing side, existing waste underground needed to be located and rerouted for the new FlyOver theater's foundation.

After install started, MMC worked with the owner on VE items to reduce the total contract amount by 10%. As the project went underway, safety during the duct and plumbing install was a key factor due to the ride's structural steel and 50 foot high ceilings. We worked closely with Mortenson Construction to safely coordinate the install of our pipe and tin using proper scaffolding and lifts.

FlyOver America is scheduled to open in Spring of 2016 at Mall of America making it the first US location. FlyOver America will make its riders feel like they are truly flying!



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### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**MIKE TOWLE**  
Assistant Project Manager

**When did you start working for MMC?**  
June of 2014.

**Where did you grow up?** Lakeville, MN

**What is the one, single food that you would never give up?** Steak.

**What is your favorite movie?**  
Tough call but Happy Gilmore takes it.

**What is your favorite TV show?**  
House of Cards.

**What is your favorite place to eat lunch?**  
Burrito Loco in Dinkytown.

**What is your favorite day out of the year?** April 1st—everyone loves a good prank.

**What do you like to do when you're not working?** I fish all year-round and hunt in the fall.

**If you were not doing this, you'd be?**  
A pilot.

**Something most people don't know about you?** I took a course in college where we studied abroad for a month in Iceland, Denmark, and Norway.