IN THIS ISSUE

ASPE American Society of Plumbing Engineers™ BALTIMORE

MEETING FORMAT

6:00 - 6:30	Social
6:30 - 6:45	Announcements & Table Tops
6:45	Dinner Served
7:00 - 8:00	Presentation

DATE:	May 21, 2025
TIME:	6:00pm to 8:00pm
PLACE:	LITTLE HAVANA
TOPIC:	Backflow Prevention
SPEAKER:	Sean Perry

Register Today

ASPE '24 Chapter Award of Merit
2023 – 2024 Recipient

ASPE TechSymposium2025
September 24–28 // Orlando, FL

Local Chapters are not authorized to speak for the Society.
Newsletter questions? Please contact Nikita Patel

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- As a paid advertiser, you will have your advertisement in the newsletter for one full year (9 editions) and company logo displayed on the Chapter website.
- Ads for the year will begin in the September issue and run through the May issue.
- All ads must be paid in full prior to the advertisement being included in the newsletter.
- Advertiser must provide ads in high resolution PDF format. Logo must be provided in .jpeg format, 200px wide size
- Cost per advertisement is as follows:
  - Full Page $ 750.00
  - Half Page $ 500.00
- Please contact Nikita Patel or Chuck Swope
- Make checks payable to Baltimore Chapter of ASPE. Please contact the Chapter Treasurer with any questions.

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Chuck Swope, PE, CPD, LEED AP BD+C
Chapter President

This is the last newsletter of the season, so let's make it a good one! Don't worry, there is still plenty of action left in the season and plenty more emails to let you know about them! First things first (well, after our next technical meeting of course), our summer party will be held at Conrad's Ruth Villa, in beautiful Bowely's Quarters. As you know, this year marks our 50th Anniversary, and we're celebrating in a big way! We've officially chosen our venue—a place that truly represents both our chapter and our state. We will be hosting a classic Crab Feast, just as promised. Nothing captures the spirit of Baltimore quite like cracking crabs by the waterfront. With a pavilion and plenty of opportunities to relax and connect, it's the perfect setting to wrap up this milestone year. We may even throw in a raffle or two! If you're a big fan of the chapter, but not sure about the crabs, that's ok. There will be plenty of good food to go around. As Chief Swag Officer I will make sure there will be memorabilia on display and some goodies to take home as well. Our chapter is like a family, so please bring your loved ones with you!

In other news, the 2025 ASPE Technical Symposium is right around the corner. Get ready to make a splash during the 2.5-day deep dive into the latest in plumbing engineering! Hosted at the Rosen Centre Hotel in sunny Orlando, Florida, this event is a pipe dream (a good one, I promise) for plumbing engineers and designers of all experience levels looking to connect, learn, and flow with the best in the industry. You'll have the chance to tap into a variety of professional development sessions across multiple tracks, allowing you to custom-fit your learning journey. These sessions are designed to turn up the pressure on your skills with real-world examples and design techniques you can actually use. But wait, there's more! The product show will be overflowing with innovation from Thursday afternoon through Friday morning. Top manufacturers will be unclogging the mysteries of their newest products and showing you how to pipe them into your next big project. Alright, enough puns for now...

Lastly, I'm looking forward to representing our chapter at the President's Summit held in Montreal this year. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we gather as a region to share our successes and find ways to improve. These meetings have been a great influence on our meetings and events alike. I'm proud of what we have brought to the table and I hope to bring back some great ideas! If you, dear reader, have anything that you would like us to investigate, please let me know. You know where to find me. I've drained my pun-bank, but I'll be back for more.

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ASPE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Sign up today on the ASPE website at **baltimoreaspe.com**

Tickets – $10

All are welcome but priority will be given to Baltimore Chapter AYP members.

All ASPE Members 35 years and younger are considered ASPE Young Professionals.

K1 Speed
8251 Preston Ct,
Jessup, MD 20794

May 14th
5:30 – 8:00 PM

BALTIMORE ASPE AYP PRESENTS:

ENGINEERED FOR SPEED

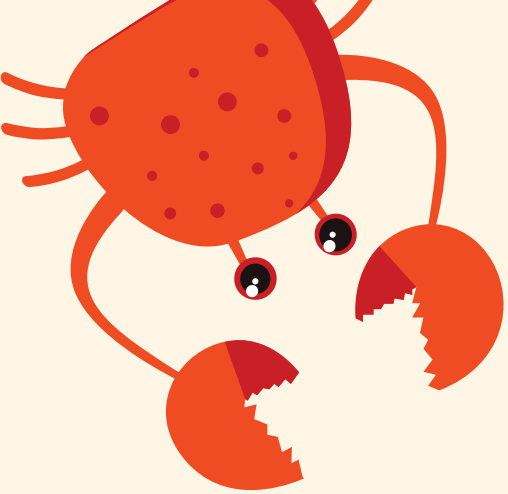
Join the Baltimore ASPE Chapter's Young Professionals for a night of fun while we feed our need for speed at K1 Speed Go Kart Track.

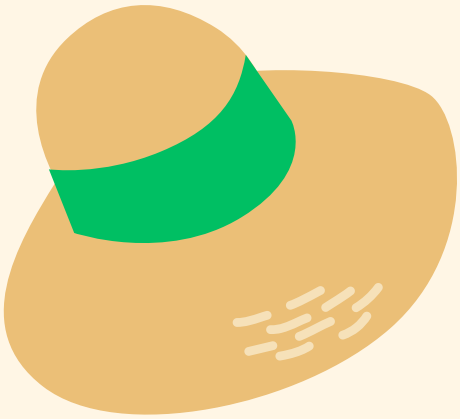
We'll have a 3-race Grand Prix (with medals!) and an opportunity to create connections that will last long after you've crossed the finish line.

Registration begins at 5:30PM with races starting at 6:00PM, and a catered networking hour to follow.

Reserve your spot today and get ready to accelerate your career!

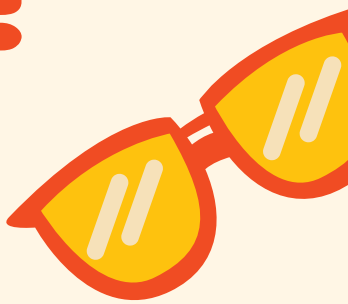
Registration is limited to the first 20 people who sign up.






Save the Date

CRAB FEAST!

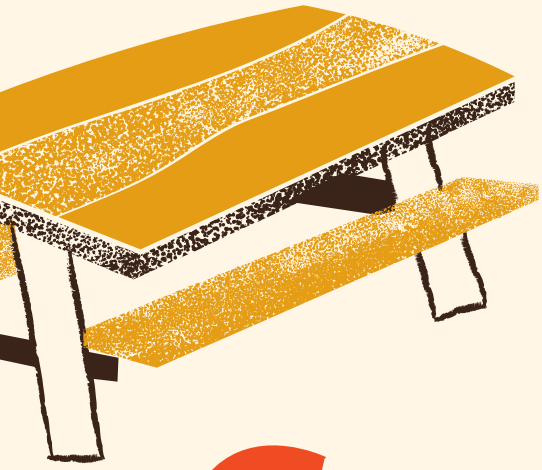
Please join us to celebrate
Baltimore ASPE Chapter's

50th Anniversary!

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025

Conrad's Ruth Villa
3301 Edwards Ln
Baltimore, MD 21220

Starts at 12:00PM

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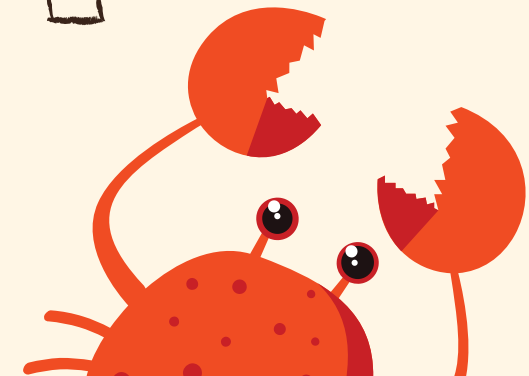
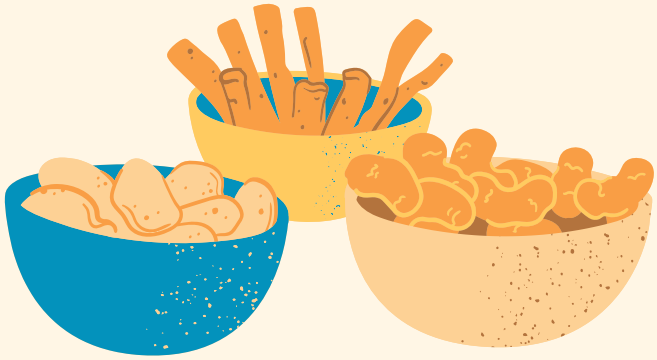

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ASPE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

ASPE American Society of Plumbing Engineers™ BALTIMORE

Julian Chiveral, PE LEED AP BD+C
Vice President- Technical

Big news – we've got another monthly meeting coming your way (Surprise!). Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 21st, as we return to the charming atmosphere of Little Havana in Baltimore. This month's technical presentation will delve into the essential topic of backflow prevention. Join us for an evening of networking, learning, and the best Cuban food in town.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who joined us in April. Joe Niedzielski's presentation, titled "Everything We Do Wrong", delivered a thought-provoking dive into QA/QC best practices for plumbing engineers. The candid discussion and practical insights made it a memorable session. Thank you, Joe, for your time and expertise! Plus, I finally learned how to spell his last name :). I'm sure Joe would love to help if you've got any specific questions for him; his email is joen@2rw.com.

This month, we shift our focus to the fundamentals of backflow prevention. Our speaker, Sean Perry, will guide us through the basic hydraulics, applications, and troubleshooting tips essential for understanding and implementing backflow prevention systems effectively. Sean brings an impressive 23 years of experience in the plumbing industry, serving as the National Sales Manager for BEECO, a division of MIFAB. His expertise spans backflow and pressure-reducing training, specification development, technical support, sales management, marketing, and international product management. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from one of the industry's best!

As we gear up to plan next year's technical presentations, we're eager to hear from you. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please submit your ideas by the end of June. The ASPE Board schedules our presenters for the upcoming year during the summer, and your input ensures we address the topics most valuable to our members. Whether you've got a topic in mind or a presentation to share, I'd love to hear from you!

We're excited to see you on May 21st at Little Havana for another enriching meeting. Until then, stay curious, stay engaged, and let's keep advancing the plumbing engineering profession together!

See you then!
Julian, VP-T

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SHADOWING A BOARD POSITION?

Each of these board positions is essential to our Baltimore ASPE Chapter. If you are interested in shadowing one of these positions, please reach out to Chuck Swope.

Vice President, Technical

- Organizes technical programs and educational sessions
- Recruits speakers and maintains a speaker database
- Issues CEUs for technical meetings

Vice President, Legislative

- Monitors and engages with plumbing codes and ordinances
- Liaises with local regulatory organizations
- Organizes legislative education events

Vice President, Membership

- Recruits and retains chapter members
- Plans social events and networking opportunities
- Maintains membership records and reports

Treasurer

- Manages chapter finances and budget
- Collects and disburses funds
- Submits financial reports to Society office

Administrative Secretary

- Maintains chapter records and files reports
- Assists with meeting documentation
- Ensures proper archival of chapter activities

Newsletter Editor

- Publishes the monthly chapter newsletter
- Coordinates content from chapter officers
- Generates revenue through advertisements

Corresponding Secretary

- Sends meeting and internal chapter communications
- Works with Vice President, Membership to update mailing lists
- Coordinates with newsletter and website manager

Website Manager

- Maintains and updates the chapter website
- Posts newsletters, event details, and announcements
- Ensures all links and resources are current

Affiliate Liaison

- Acts as a bridge between affiliates and the board
- Promotes chapter events and involvement
- Helps recruit speakers and industry professionals

Office-to-Residential Conversions from a Hot Water Design Standpoint

May 1, 2025 (Originally published in Plumbing Engineer, a PHCP Publication

The domestic hot water system requires a significant amount of careful planning in the early design stages.

The rise of hybrid and remote work arrangements has led to a decrease in the need for conventional office space and fewer Class A office buildings. As a result, property owners have adopted this trend by converting their underused or vacant office buildings into residential properties. Such conversions carry a unique set of plumbing design challenges, particularly with the design of the domestic hot water (DHW) system.

This article explores the overall plumbing design considerations and dives deeper into how we have approached DHW heating design in these office-to-residential conversions.

The Rise of Office-to-Residential Conversions

The COVID-19 pandemic brought significant changes to our way of life. While some of those changes were temporary, other changes are here to stay. Before the pandemic, most office workers were physically in their company's office Monday through Friday every week. With the onset of the pandemic, office workers were working fully remotely for an extended period.

While the pandemic is behind us, many companies have permanently adopted hybrid work schedules. This may involve sharing office desks or remote work arrangements; therefore, these companies are opting to downsize their office space or forgo having offices altogether. As a result, many office spaces have been left vacant or underused.

In New York City, we have seen an increasing trend of property owners converting vacant office spaces to in-demand residential units. While these conversions begin to address the worsening housing crisis, they also offer an overlooked benefit of reducing carbon and benefiting the environment. Arup has been retained by various clients to study the feasibility of converting several office buildings into residential units.

Plumbing and Fire Protection Challenges

Despite the challenges that face all disciplines, such as zoning regulations, existing floorplate layouts and increased residential loads, plumbing and fire protection engineers are also presented with unique challenges. Office buildings typically have centralized plumbing risers designed to serve restrooms and kitchenettes located in a core space that is standard across multiple floors. Residential buildings have multiple individual units across each floorplate. Each unit will include at least one bathroom, kitchen and potentially washing machines.

The first step in an office-to-residential conversion study is to examine the floorplate design and determine if the existing utilities are adequate. The total number of fixtures in the building needs to be tabulated and the total domestic (WSFU) and sanitary (DFU) fixture units need to be reviewed against the existing utilities.

In most cases, the existing utilities have been adequate, as in office buildings there are multiple fixtures within the restroom banks; in essence, those fixtures are being spread across the floorplate. As there will be many bathrooms on each floorplate, sanitary and vent risers will be added at each bathroom, and potentially domestic water risers as well.

It might be inferred that existing storm drainage risers should not need to change due to the conversion as the building footprint is not changing; however, the existing storm riser locations may need to be relocated. Even if the existing storm riser locations are not changing, the age and condition of the existing storm risers should be assessed, and the risers should be replaced if necessary.

Similarly, an office building's existing fire protection equipment is typically located in the cellar and on the upper service floor. The fire protection risers can be replaced, depending on their age and condition, especially since the sprinkler layout across each floorplate will likely be removed and replaced up to the riser floor control assembly, at a minimum.

Consideration should be taken in the hydraulically remote area and sizing criteria as there are various methods in calculating this based upon the applicable construction or retrofit design (NFPA 13R, NFPA 13 area/density or room design method, etc.).

The Domestic Hot Water Question

While increasing the quantity of the sanitary and vent system risers to meet the new floorplate layout may seem straightforward, one of the most critical design considerations is how to approach domestic cold water and hot water heating. The building's DHW loads will increase significantly, most notably to accommodate the need for showers, as well as for additional kitchen sinks, dishwashers and washing machines.

The building's existing water heaters are likely to be undersized to meet the new DHW demands and changes in hot water usage patterns.

The biggest question that should be asked is whether a centralized or a decentralized water heating strategy should be pursued. A centralized water heating strategy is where one or more large-capacity water heaters and storage tanks serve multiple floors in a single zone. A decentralized water heating strategy is where each unit is provided with its own residential water heater. Both strategies have advantages and disadvantages.

When reviewing the appropriate strategy, it is essential to understand several key parameters specified by the property owner, including their desire for maintenance and individual unit metering. Likewise, trade-offs between the two strategies need to be considered.

In highly dense areas, such as New York City, every square foot of a building is valuable. Many property owners want to minimize the square footage allocated to mechanical equipment rooms, where large-capacity water heaters for a centralized water heating strategy would be located. We have come across some property owners who prefer to install water heaters in every unit and leave the maintenance of each unit's water heater up to the individual tenants.

Local laws and codes should be studied early, as more jurisdictions require carbon emission reductions. Therefore, centralized water heating is not always a viable option, especially in areas where steam or natural gas are not readily available or are being phased out.

Some advantages of decentralized water heaters include reducing the number of domestic water risers to cold water piping only and reducing the amount of horizontal domestic water piping. Individual unit metering becomes less costly, as only half the number of water meters are required, i.e., one for each unit's domestic cold water supply only.

It should be noted that, regardless of the strategy selected, electric water heaters impose a significant electrical demand, especially during peak usage periods. This demand needs to be coordinated with the electrical engineer, who may need to implement load management strategies.

OPTION 2					
Building Analysis					
FLOOR	# of Studios	# of 1 Bedroom Units	# of 2 Bedroom Units	# 3 Bedroom Units	Zone
-1					
1					
2	17	4	2		1
3	17	4	2		1
4	17	4	2		1
5	17	4	2		1
6	17	4	2		1
7	17	4	2		1
8	17	4	2		1
9	17	4	2		1
10	17	4	2		1
11	12	5	2		2
12	12	5	2		2
13	10	2	2		2
14	10	2	2		2
15	10	2	2		2
16	4	4	2		2
17	4	4	2		2
18	1	2	2		3
19	1	2	2		3
20	1	2	2		3
21	1	2	2		3
22	1	2	2		3
23	1	2	2		3

OPTION 2			
INPUTS			
DESCRIPTIONS	Value	UNITS	Notes
Lowest depth below grade with units	0	FT	Enter Positive Value
Height of highest occupied floor above grade		FT	
Building length	201	FT	
Building width	110	FT	
Number of occupied floors		FT	
Distance from water pump to water heater	150	FT	
Zone 1 Zone Height	120	FT	
Zone 2 Zone Height	79	FT	
Zone 3 Zone Height	85	FT	
Zone 4 Zone Height		FT	
Zone 5 Zone Height		FT	
Zone 6 Zone Height		FT	
Zone 7 Zone Height		FT	
Zone 8 Zone Height		FT	
Zone 9 Zone Height		FT	
Zone 1 Average Zone Floorplate Length	201	FT	
Zone 2 Average Zone Floorplate Length	170	FT	
Zone 3 Average Zone Floorplate Length	110	FT	
Zone 4 Average Zone Floorplate Length		FT	
Zone 5 Average Zone Floorplate Length		FT	
Zone 6 Average Zone Floorplate Length		FT	
Zone 7 Average Zone Floorplate Length		FT	
Zone 8 Average Zone Floorplate Length		FT	
Zone 9 Average Zone Floorplate Length		FT	

A Quick Analysis Tool

Ultimately, the upfront capital costs of installing the DHW system are a primary driver in selecting the appropriate strategy.

As part of our examination of capital costs, we created an in-house analysis tool that compares the two domestic water heating strategies and provides total cost estimates of pipe and water heaters for each strategy. This tool gives the plumbing engineer vital information that can be shared with the owner to make an informed decision regarding the appropriate domestic water heating strategy.

To properly use this tool, the engineer begins by listing and verifying assumptions for the building. The engineer populates the number of fixtures in each unit and selects the appropriate hot water pipe size and hot water return pipe size. The tool calculates the adjusted hot water demand and storage required for each unit, as well as the hot water supply fixture units. The engineer is given an opportunity to modify these values if using different assumptions.

The engineer is now presented with two options for proceeding with this calculation, depending on the amount of available information. Option 1 allows for quicker analysis when the exact number of units per floor and the location of service floors are not known. Option 2 allows for a more thorough analysis when the exact number of units per floor and the location of the service floors are known.

For both options, the engineer enters information about the building, such as the building's height, length, width and number of floors. Additionally, when using Option 2, the engineer enters information with respect to the number of units on each floor as well as the height of each zone and the dimensions of each zone's floor plate.

Upon entering all information, the engineer presses the run button for the chosen option, and the calculator estimates the sizes of the hot water distribution and hot water return piping for the entire building. It also selects the appropriate large-capacity water heater for the centralized hot water strategy. The engineer is given an opportunity to select different types of large-capacity water heaters from a drop-down menu if desired.

The last sheet of the tool provides a side-by-side comparison of the decentralized and centralized hot water heating strategies for the selected option. There, the engineer can easily see information, such as the estimated number of water heaters needed and the estimated pipe lengths and sizes for each strategy.

For a more thorough analysis, the engineer can enter the cost of each water heater and the cost of copper piping, and the tool automatically provides a side-by-side comparison of the costs of each strategy, with a line-by-line breakdown of the costs.

The engineer now has all the key data that the owner is looking for when selecting the DHW heating strategy. If any changes are made to the design, such as the number of units per floor, the engineer can quickly adjust the assumptions and obtain revised comparisons in mere seconds, thereby avoiding the need to repeat lengthy calculations.

Option 2

DECENTRALIZED HEATING APPROACH			
DESCRIPTION		Units	Cost
# of 40-gallon WHs	302		$200,226.00
# of 60-gallon WHs	50		$ 70,700.00
# of 80-gallon WHs	-		$ -
Total Length of 0.75-inch Hot Water piping (copper type pipe L) per Studio	8,960	FT	$ 40,947.20
Total Length of 0.75-inch Hot Water piping (copper type pipe L) per 1 Bedroom	3,120	FT	$ 14,258.40
Total Length of 0.75-inch Hot Water piping (copper type pipe L) per 2 Bedroom	2,500	FT	$ 11,425.00
Total Hot of 0.75-inch Water Length piping (copper type pipe L) per 3 Bedroom	-	FT	$ -
Total Length of 0.5-inch Hot Water Return piping (copper type pipe L) per Studio	8,960	FT	$ 25,088.00
Total Length of 0.5-inch Hot Water Return piping (copper type pipe L) per 1 Bedroom	3,120	FT	$ 8,736.00
Total Length of 0.5-inch Hot Water Return piping (copper type pipe L) per 2 Bedroom	2,500	FT	$ 7,000.00
Total Length of 0.5-inch Hot Water Return piping (copper type pipe L) per 3 Bedroom	-	FT	$ -
Sum for Entire Building			$378,380.60

CENTRALIZED HEATING APPROACH			
DESCRIPTION		UNITS	Cost
Minimum # of EWHs (Refer to Sheet 'Centralized EWH Outputs' for a more detailed analysis.	7		$222,831.00
Length of 6-inch main Hot Water riser (copper type pipe L) in Zone 1	180	FT	$ 25,099.20
Length of 3-inch main Hot Water riser (copper type pipe L) in Zone 2	119	FT	$ 5,115.65
Length of 2.5-inch main Hot Water riser (copper type pipe L) in Zone 3	128	FT	$ 3,941.03
Length of 3-inch main Hot Water Return riser (copper type pipe L) in Zone 1	180	FT	$ 7,770.60
Length of 1.5-inch main Hot Water Return riser (copper type pipe L) in Zone 2	119	FT	$ 1,602.12
Length of 1.5-inch main Hot Water Return riser (copper type pipe L) in Zone 3	128	FT	$ 1,723.80
Length of 2-inch main Hot Water [floor] pipe (copper type pipe L) in Zone 1	4,070	FT	$ 86,085.79
Length of 2-inch main Hot Water [floor] pipe (copper type pipe L) in Zone 2	2,678	FT	$ 56,629.13
Length of 1.5-inch main Hot Water [floor] pipe (copper type pipe L) in Zone 3	2,228	FT	$ 30,115.80
Length of 1-inch main Hot Water Return [floor] pipe (copper type pipe L) in Zone 1	4,070	FT	$ 27,352.08
Length of 1-inch main Hot Water Return [floor] pipe (copper type pipe L) in Zone 2	2,678	FT	$ 17,992.80
Length of 0.75-inch main Hot Water Return [floor] pipe (copper type pipe L) in Zone 3	2,228	FT	$ 10,179.68
Total Length of 0.75-inch Hot Water pipe (copper type pipe L) per Studio	7,168	FT	$ 32,757.76
Total Length of 0.75-inch Hot Water pipe (copper type pipe L) per 1 Bedroom	2,496	FT	$ 11,406.72
Total Length of 0.75-inch Hot Water pipe (copper type pipe L) per 2 Bedroom	2,000	FT	$ 9,140.00
Total Length of 0.75-inch Hot Water pipe (copper type pipe L) per 3 Bedroom	-	FT	$ -
Total Length of 0.5-inch Hot Water Return pipe (copper type pipe L) per Studio	7,168	FT	$ 20,070.40
Total Length of 0.5-inch Hot Water Return pipe (copper type pipe L) per 1 Bedroom	2,496	FT	$ 6,988.80
Total Length of 0.5-inch Hot Water Return pipe (copper type pipe L) per 2 Bedroom	2,000	FT	$ 5,600.00
Total Length of 0.5-inch Hot Water Return pipe (copper type pipe L) per 3 Bedroom	-	FT	$ -
Sum for Entire Building			$582,402.34

Quick Example for a Quick Estimate
We used this tool to collect key data on a sample project in New York City, where we had complete floorplate layouts, and proceeded to use the tool to compare the centralized and decentralized water heating strategies.

- **Step 1:** We began by populating the number of fixtures per unit and providing estimates of pipe sizes and lengths per individual unit, editing the information in blue-colored cells as needed.
- **Step 2:** Since we had detailed floorplans and knew the number of units per floorplate, as well as the location of service zones, we proceeded with Option 2 and populated the information in the blue-colored cells as needed.
- **Step 3:** We pressed the button to auto-compute all key parameters for our systems.
- **Step 4:** We entered cost information for water heaters and piping and were able to see a detailed line-by-line breakdown of the decentralized and centralized water heating strategy.
- **Step 5:** We analyzed this information and returned it to the client with our recommendations based on material costs.

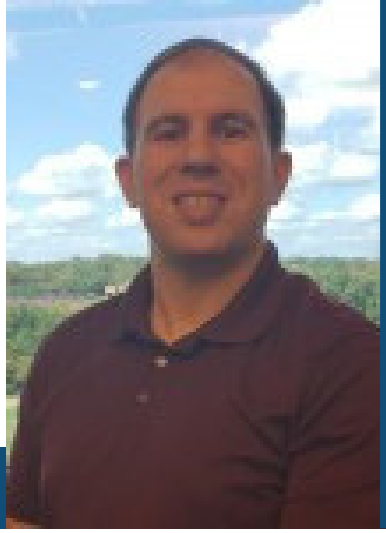
The move toward office-to-residential conversions is a solution to vacant office spaces due to the rise of hybrid work and remote work arrangements. While it is safe to say that the building's entire plumbing and fire protection systems will be affected by such a conversion, the DHW system requires a significant amount of careful planning in the early design stages.

The choice of a centralized or decentralized water heating strategy will significantly impact material costs, the space needed for water heaters and future maintenance considerations.
We have developed a tool to aid our plumbing engineers in quickly analyzing material cost estimates for each strategy. As the early design is subject to rapid fluctuations, this tool helps the plumbing engineer stay on top of the DHW heating strategy by minimizing the need for lengthy calculations with

We have developed a tool to aid our plumbing engineers in quickly analyzing material cost estimates for each strategy. As the early design is subject to rapid fluctuations, this tool helps the plumbing engineer stay on top of the DHW heating strategy by minimizing the need for lengthy calculations with every design change.

Robb A. Risani, PE, is an accomplished professional in the field of plumbing and fire protection engineering. As an associate principal at Arup's New York office, he leads the East Plumbing Discipline and serves as the America's Plumbing Skills leader within the organization. His leadership extends beyond his firm, as he is the President of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers' (ASPE) New York City Chapter and ASPE's Region 1 director.

Witold Dziekan is a talented plumbing and fire protection engineer in Arup's New York office and is a member of the ASPE New York City Chapter. His interests focus on creating innovative tools that empower engineers to design more robust systems while maintaining flexibility during significant design changes.



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Chris Imhof, PE, CPD
Vice President- Legislative

The 2025 Legislative Session Comes to an End!

The 2025 Legislative Session ended on April 7. On April 9, the Governor signed over 90 bills into law. It appears the Governor is set to sign more bills on April 22 and May 6, 13, and 20. For a list of bills signed by the Governor, you can visit, https://governor.maryland.gov/news/pages/bill-signings.aspx

Updates to last month's article,

House Bill 222 / Senate Bill 175 - Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems - Requirements and Prohibitions
This bill was signed into law on May 6. The original purpose of this bill was to prohibit the sale of non-arc resistant CSST and to require arc-resistant CSST to meet ICC-ES listing criteria 1027. The bill was amended and the requirement to meet the listing criteria was removed. The bill was also amended to require the Maryland Department of Labor, in collaboration with the State Fire Prevention Commission, the State Fire Marshal, and local inspectors to conduct a study and make recommendations regarding CSST and other fuel gas piping systems and report to certain committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

House Bill 145 / Senate Bill 96 - Environment - Water Bottle Filling Stations – Requirement
This bill has not been signed by the Governor. The purpose of the bill is to require that a water bottle filling station be installed in certain new construction projects or as part of certain renovations beginning on a certain date, subject to exemptions. The bill requires at least one water bottle filling station shall be installed in all new construction for each location where a drinking fountain is required. The bill also requires bottle filling stations if replacing a drinking fountain located in an area of a building undergoing a renovation, if the renovation includes replacing the drinking fountain. Finally, the bill requires a bottle filling station to be installed in any building undergoing a renovation, if the installation of a drinking fountain is required. There is an exception for commercial or industrial buildings where the only work is the replacement of a drinking fountain. There is also an exception for commercial or industrial buildings where the source of drinking water is other than a drinking fountain, such as a kitchen sink.

You can follow these bills at www.mgaleg.com**.**

From NPR: Trump administration drops work on stronger building codes for disasters
From article:
"NPR has learned that FEMA is dropping out of the latest effort to improve building codes, taking its name off recommendations that its experts have already developed and submitted, according to several people with knowledge of the changes."

"Studies show most building codes for floods and other hazards add 1 or 2% to the construction cost of a new home. Research also shows the benefits outweigh the initial investment. One FEMA study, looking at 18 million houses built since 2000, found that having modern building codes avoided $32 billion dollars in damage. After Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, researchers found that homes in Texas and Florida built with newer building codes had significantly less damage than older homes."

See link for full story: https://www.npr.org/2025/02/20/nx-s1-5303478/fema-trump-building-codes-floods-hurricane-disasters

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Nicole Murphy
VP Membership

Hello Baltimore Chapter!
Spring is in the air, and with it comes fresh energy and faces! We're thrilled to welcome our newest member:

- Benjamin Becker
- Roger Schultz
- Julie Van Simaeys

With 142 members and counting, our chapter continues to grow and thrive. ASPE membership offers incredible opportunities for professional development, industry networking, and access to valuable resources including our always-engaging monthly meetings.

If you're not yet a member, now is the perfect time to join and take advantage of everything ASPE has to offer. Already a member? Help us expand our community by inviting colleagues and peers to attend an event or explore membership themselves.

🔗 Learn more or join here: https://aspe.org/join

We hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming events:

- **May 14th**: AYP Indoor Go Kart Racing at K1 Speed
- **May 21st**: Chapter Meeting at Little Havana

Let's keep growing together!

Best regards,
Nicole Murphy, Harry Eklof & Associates
nmurphy@harryeklof.com • 443-926-6821
VP Membership

ASPE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

ASPE American Society of Plumbing Engineers™ BALTIMORE

Nikita Patel, PE
Education Chair

Hello Baltimore Chapter!
There are a few educational opportunities for you to take advantage of with registration open or coming up soon!

- ASPE will host their second MedGas Workshop of 2025 at Viega's training facility in Broomfield, Colorado. The class will be held from June 9-12.
  a. Keep in mind, ASPE's 32-hour MedGas Workshop is based on the parameters outlined in ASSE 6060: Medical Gas Systems Designer, a new professional qualification standard that sets forth the training requirements for designers who wish to earn the ASSE 6060 certification. Those who complete the workshop will receive a certificate of training and will have fulfilled the requirements to take the ASSE 6060 certification exam. (The ASSE 6060 certification exam is not included as part of this workshop.) To learn more, visit the ASPE Pipeline: https://aspe.org/pipeline/aspes-second-medgas-workshop-in-2025-will-be-held-june-9-12/

- The ASPE TechSymposium 2025 will be held in sunny Orlando, Florida this year from September 24-28 at the Rosen Centre Hotel. The AYP Leadership Academy will be held on September 25th, with the product show launching the weekend off at 4PM the same day. As an Education Committee member, I have the privilege of reviewing the presentations that you all get to see at the Tech Symposium. This year's slate of topics will be one for the books! To learn more, visit: https://aspe.org/2025-aspe-tech-symposium/

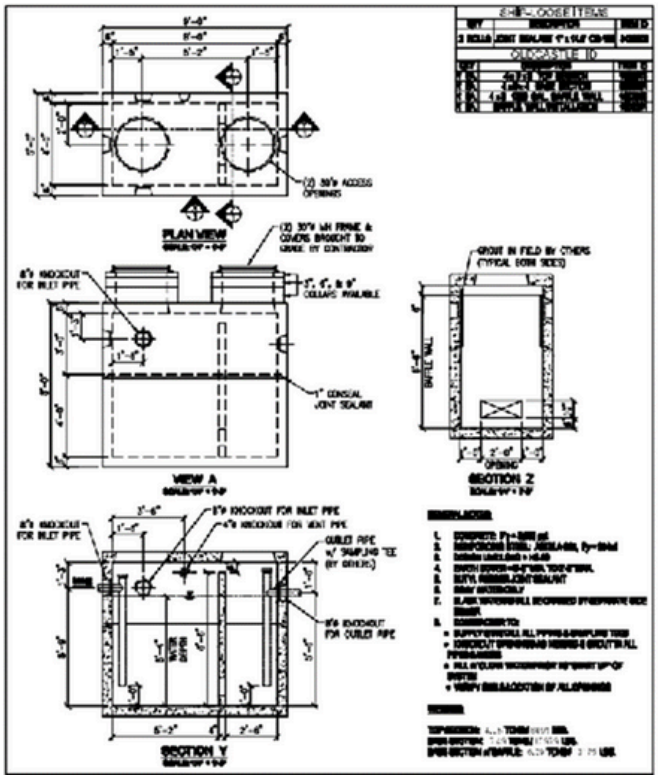
- Get your Green Plumbing Design Certificate ON-DEMAND: The Green Plumbing Design (GPD) certificate program, sponsored by the American Society of Plumbing Engineers and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, is for engineers and designers with advanced skills in sustainable plumbing system design and consulting. Available only for engineers and designers who hold either the Certified in Plumbing Design (CPD) certification or a Professional Engineer (PE) license, the GPD certificate denotes professionals with a high level of experience and training in sustainable practices. The GPD designation signifies professionals who are dedicated to ensuring the efficient use of our precious water resources via water-conserving plumbing system designs for commercial and residential applications. The course must be completed within 6 months.

ASPE American Society of Plumbing Engineers
BALTIMORE

David Bailey
Plumbing Plans Reviewer's Corner

Below is from last month's article and the questions were, "Does this model meet (or exceed) the current 2021 WSSC Water Plumbing and Fuel-Gas Code? Why?"

1250-Gallon Volume-Based Grease Interceptor | Total DFUs is reported to be 74 required for grease abatement.

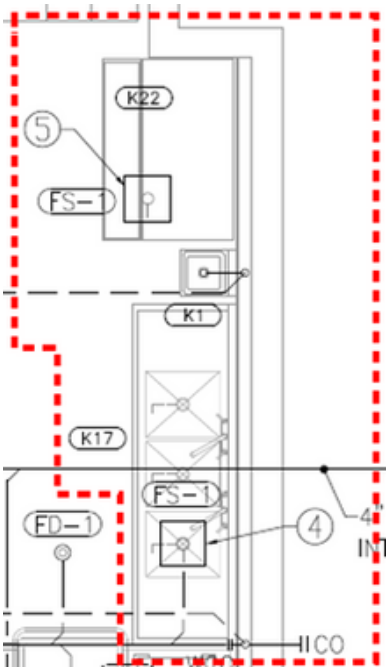


Answer: No, it does not, primarily because the Commission requires all VBGIs larger than 1000-gallon to be three chambers with an individual manhole per chamber. Secondarily, the inlet to the outlet piping shall be equipped with a reducer fitting for this unit, in this case a 6" x 4" reducer. DFUs are not an issue since up to 90 would be allowed for this size VBGI.

This month's review involves a project that whereby grease abatement is involved (again). As of the writing, I'm not seeing a Permit Application submission, so a formal review of the drawing set hasn't occurred I suspect. Yet, once a week, I'm responsible to view emails sent to the Plumbing Plans Review inbox and look at what I found. Please review the following screenshots and discover the issues that may require clarity. (Note, the floor sinks FS-1 have 3-inch drains.)

GREASE INTERCEPTOR SIZING

TAG	FUNCTION	TAILPIECE/DRAIN SIZE (INCHES)	FLOW RATE GPM	FACTORED PERCENT	TOTAL FLOW RATE GPM
K17	3 COMP. SINK	3/4"	12	100%	12
		3/4"	12	50%	6
		3/4"	12	50%	6
B7	MOP SINK	2"	20	100%	20
K14	DISHWASHER	3/4"	7	100%	7
K13	PRE RINSE SINK	3/4"	12	25%	3
TOTAL GPM FLOW					54



DRAWING NOTES

1. 1-1/2" INDIRECT DRAIN FROM SINK BASIN TO TERMINATE OVER FLOOR SINK WITH AIR GAP, PER 2021 IPC SECTION 802.3.1.
2. 2" INDIRECT DRAIN FROM DISHWASHER TO TERMINATE OVER FLOOR SINK WITH AIR GAP PERPER 2021 IPC SECTION 802.3.1.
3. 3/4" CONDENSATE DRAIN FROM WALK-IN COOLER INDOOR UNITS TO TERMINATE OVER FLOOR SINK WITH AIR GAP, PER 2021 IPC SECTION 802.3.1. FLOOR SINK TO HAVE A FLOOD RIM OF +1-1/4" AFF.
4. (3) 1-1/2" INDIRECT DRAINS FROM EACH SINK BASIN TO TERMINATE OVER FLOOR SINK WITH AIR GAP, PER 2021 IPC SECTION 802.3.1.
5. 1" INDIRECT DRAIN FROM ICE BIN & 3/4" INDIRECT DRAIN FROM ICE MAKER TO TERMINATE OVER FLOOR SINK WITH AIR GAP, PER 2021 IPC SECTION 802.3.1.

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If you are responsible for designing medical gas systems, read on to see why you should take this class!

Joe Elward
ASSE 6020, 6030, 6035, 6040, 6060
607-661-9178

Nikita Patel, PE
ASSE 6060
570-899-9090

01 **Growing Healthcare Industry**
The healthcare industry is growing rapidly and designing a facility that meets code requirements and owner preferences will be made easier after completion of this course.

02 **Code Requirements**
With the recent release of NFPA 99 2024, the ASSE 6060 is now one of the approved credentials for medical gas designers responsible for the sizing, selection, layout, and more for medical gas and vacuum systems.

03 **Engaging the Facility AHJ**
As Designers and Engineers, I'm sure you've been asked to make decisions for a project that are the responsibility of the owner. This course helps you navigate those conversations to avoid bearing that responsibility as the designer.

04 **Professional Growth**
With this credential, you can seamlessly transition into medical gas design with minimal support from supervisors, helping you become a true medical gas design expert

05 **Class + Credential**
Unlike other companies hosting this course, this class hosted by Sherman Engineering will include both the course led by Mark Allen, as well as the course exam, proctored by MGTC.

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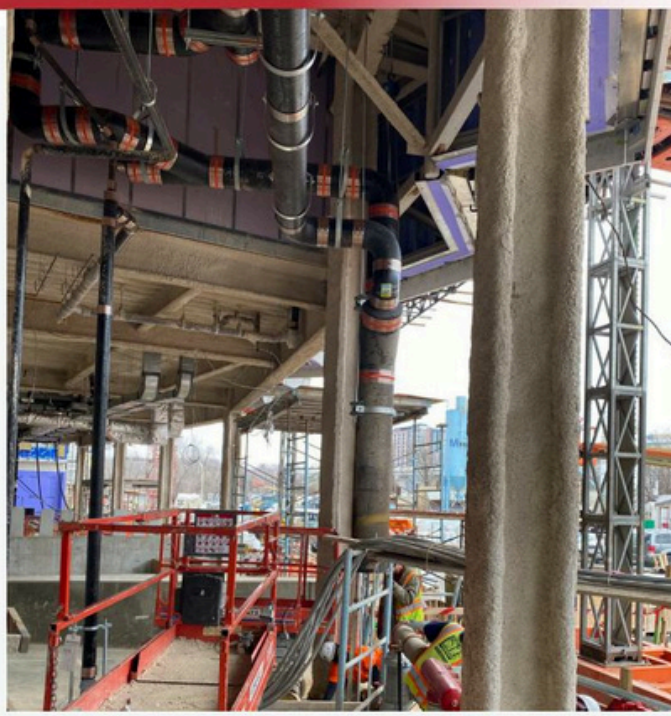

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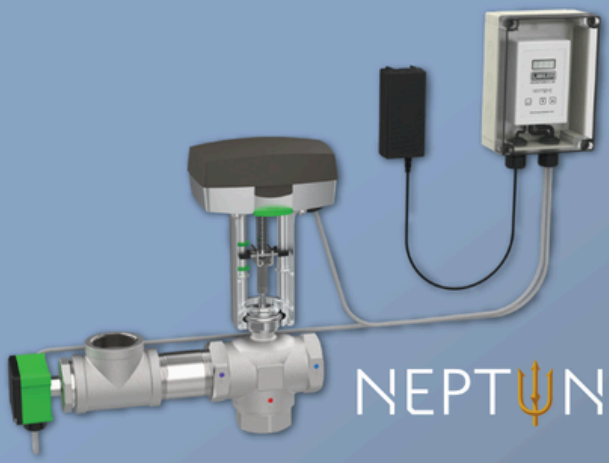

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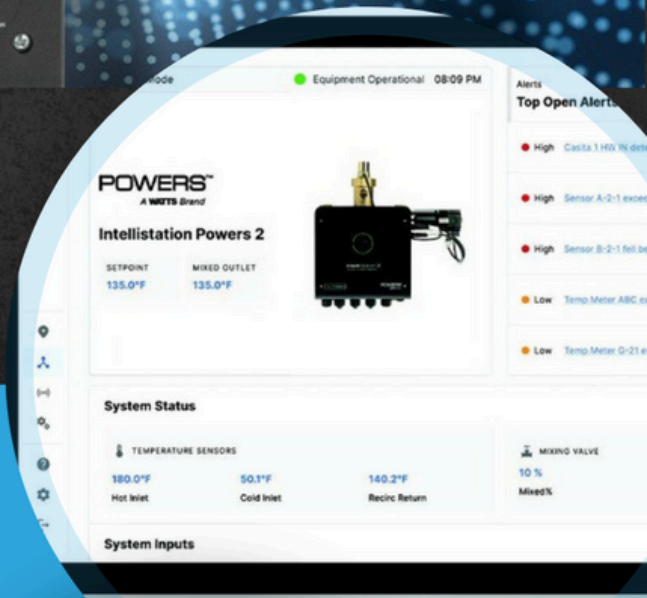

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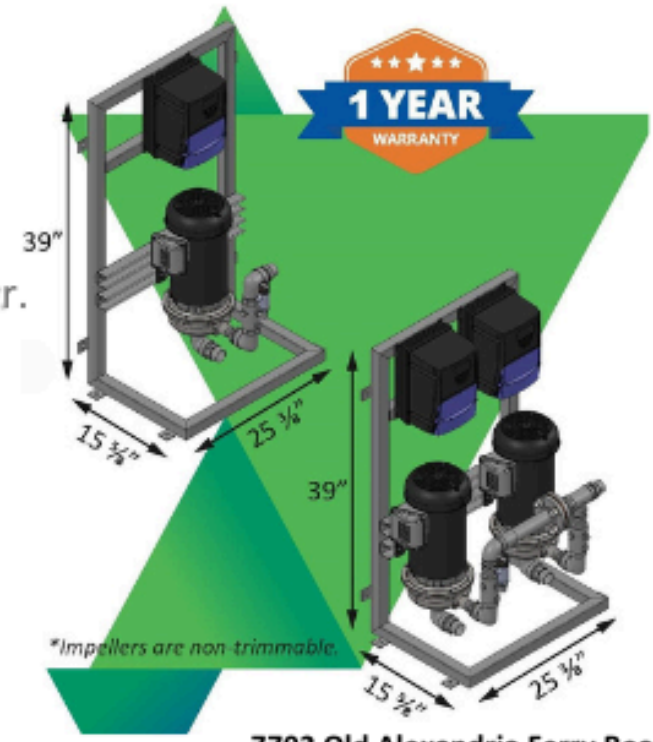

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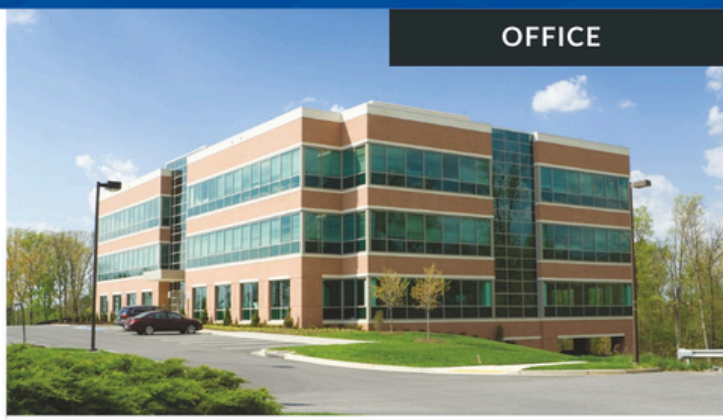

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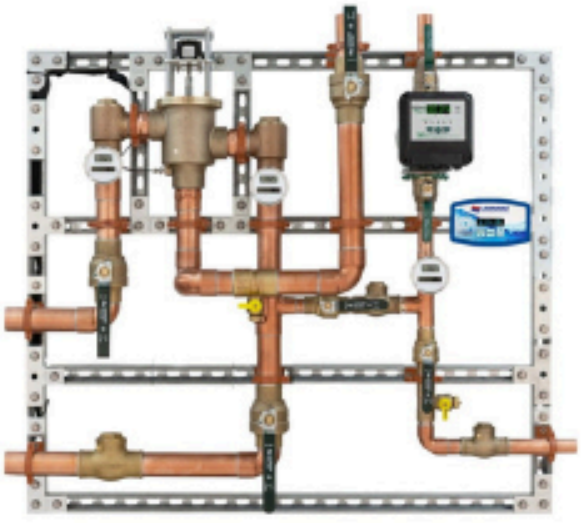

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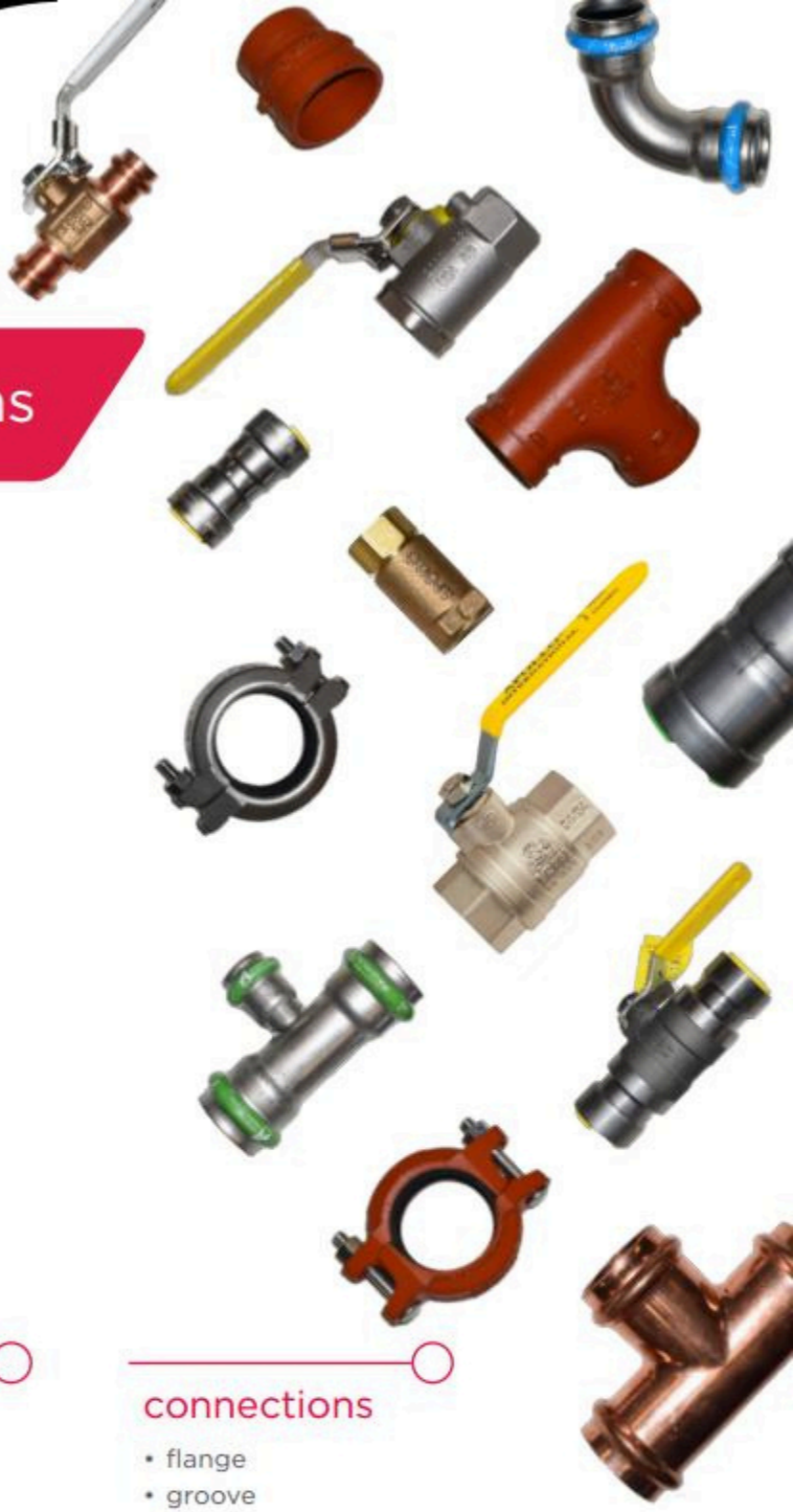

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Schedule of Events

SEPT 25	Tankless Water Heaters	Olive Grove, Linthicum
OCT 16	Elevator Codes and Standards	Little Havana, Locust Point
NOV 20	RO/DI Water Systems	Valley Inn, Timonium
DEC 18	Pros & Cons of Plastic Pipe	Valley Inn, Timonium
JAN 23	Industry Night with UA486	UA Local 486 Training Ctr Rosedale
FEB 26	Fire Suppression Specialties	Olive Grove, Linthicum
MAR 26	Heat Pump Water Heaters	Olive Grove, Linthicum
APR 23	Everything We Do Wrong	Little Havana, Locust Point
APR 25	Annual Golf Tournament	Timbers at Troy
MAY 21	Backflow Prevention	Little Havana, Locust Point
TBD	Annual Summer Party	Details to Follow

MONTHLY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Tabletop Presentations: $100 to provide a tabletop presentation of equipment or material relative to the plumbing profession. The tabletops will be set up from the beginning to the end of the monthly meeting and provides the opportunity to provide a brief (under 5 minutes) presentation. We ask that the affiliate register for tabletop presentations in non-consecutive months to allow other presenters the opportunity to support the chapter.

Social Sponsorship: $250 to provide a running slideshow presented on screen of logos, linecards, and a 8.5x11" sign at the bar. This slideshow will be provided during the social period. There will also be a special mention by the master of ceremonies during the opening and closing remarks. Slideshow must be submitted prior to the meeting for approval. PowerPoint, .jpg, or, .png formats are preferred.

Please make checks payable to the Baltimore Chapter of ASPE. Contact Kathy Dwyer or Chuck Swope if interested