

**SHEKELL**

# EDGE

WINTER 2015

KEEPING CUSTOMERS COMFORTABLE SINCE 1978

## A MESSAGE FROM KEVIN SHEKELL

*President, J.E. Shekell, Inc.*

Welcome to The Shekell Edge. I'm happy to have our newsletter up and running again – and to send holiday greetings to customers, friends and employees!

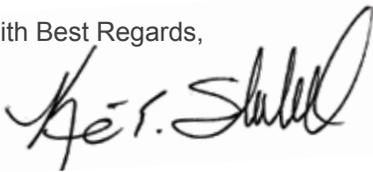
You've been hearing J.E. Shekell, Inc.'s tagline -- "The People Who Know" -- since 1978. We're proud to say this is a true statement – and that we're diligent about demonstrating it in our HVAC, plumbing and electrical work -- be it residential, commercial or industrial.

One thing I never want to hear you say is, "I didn't know Shekell could do that!" That's why the team is putting together a quarterly newsletter highlighting projects around the tri-state, custom system solutions we're designing and installing, and people who help us accomplish good things in Evansville and the tri-state.

The J.E. stands for Evansville native John E. Shekell, who founded his HVAC company in 1978. John built the business on two strict standards: quality work and complete customer satisfaction. It's good to say those standards remain – and that John is still a part of our operations.

The approaching New Year is a good time to thank customers, associates and fellow employees for the great experiences working with you. J.E. Shekell, Inc. wishes all a wonderful holiday season.

With Best Regards,



## AUTOMATED HVAC CONTROL CENTERS MORE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT & COMFORTABLE

The design and functionality of the HVAC / ventilation system in a commercial or industrial building affects efficiency, costs and comfort in that building for years to come.

HVAC and electrical professionals at J.E. Shekell, Inc. work closely with area businesses designing custom HVAC systems with automated control centers that optimize energy efficiency, air purity and comfort, season after season.

*(continued on Pg 2)*



### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

**PROJECT FOCUS**  
*Tropicana Evansville*

**ASK THE EXPERT**  
*How to Choose a Commercial Plumber*

**SHEKELL SAFETY**  
*Old Welborn Building*

**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT**  
*Rick Tindle*

**AND** *Automated HVAC Control Centers*

**THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW!**

**J.E.SHEKELL**  
**INC.**



## Project FOCUS

## TURNKEY SOLUTION:

One lane of Riverside Drive was shut down just a few hours while a 75-ton crane lifted off Tropicana Evansville's original, 50-ton HVAC roof unit (installed in 1996) near the Pavilion.

To take its place, the crane lowered an approximately 6,000-pound Trane rooftop unit, directed by J.E. Shekell, Inc. That was the first stage of a two-day turnkey updating project the Shekell team and Tropicana coordinated carefully.



### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Rick Tindle Reflects:  
35 Years at J.E. Shekell, Inc.**

As J.E. Shekell, Inc. re-launches this newsletter, we want to tell readers about our employees, who represent the heart of what we do and how we do it. And few have represented our team longer than Rick Tindle, a recent retiree who dedicated himself to the work of our company for 35 years.

An Evansville native and Mater Dei graduate, Rick was one of the first four employees John E. Shekell hired after founding the company in 1978. It was Rick's first job out of high school, and he soon became a specialist in residential, commercial and industrial HVAC repair and installation.

Those were the days when every guy on Shekell's small team – including John himself -- did it all, whatever it was. Days when the company could scarcely afford new tires for the work trucks, and when building the business was going to depend on top-notch work and complete customer satisfaction. Rick Tindle was with the original team who helped make that happen.

"We worked hard and really had to depend on each other to pitch in and pull all the ends together," Rick recalls. "And we built relationships with our customers by always being there for them and backing up our work." One of Rick's first big customers was Duke Energy, near Mt. Carmel, IL, where he could be found almost every day. (Duke is still a J.E. Shekell, Inc. customer.)

"It was a challenging career. And it was really something to see the company steadily grow year after year. We were even the first HVAC business in town to get air conditioned work trucks," he laughs. "I raised my three kids (Jake, Joe and Mary) while working for Shekell, and can look back on a lot of great years."

Retired in the summer of 2015, Rick now enjoys working around the house and spending time with family. Perhaps most precious is the time he's spending with his first grandchild – a little boy.

J.E. Shekell, Inc. thanks you, Rick, for the expertise, dedication and impeccable service you provided our customers for 35 years. We wish you much happiness in the years to come.

## ORIGINAL TROPICANA ROOFTOP UNIT

Work on disconnecting old ductwork proceeded, followed by installation of new ductwork constructed by Shekell sheet metal technicians. Shekell electricians and pipefitters worked together to finish other construction while the team managed safety compliance and personal safety requirements. No safety incidents were reported during the two-day project.

"The greatest challenges in this project were logistics and getting the system running as quickly as possible since it controlled 50 percent of the Pavilion's cooling," says J.E. Shekell President Kevin Shekell. "We had to shut down one lane of Riverside Drive during rush hour and shut down the Pavilion's drive-through and main entrance, which limited patrons' access to the facility. But with great planning, teamwork and execution we had the old unit removed and the new unit set in place in a matter of hours. After that, getting the new unit up and running within two days was a feat in itself. Our team did a great job."

**J.E. Shekell, Inc. serves commercial and industrial clients around the tri-state.** Our trained professionals specialize in HVAC design and control systems, plumbing & piping and electrical design-build projects.

**Contact J.E. Shekell, Inc. at 812-425-9131 about your specific needs and options for a customized, cost-effective solution.**



## HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT COMMERCIAL PLUMBING COMPANY

By Mike Borman, Plumbing / Piping Dept. Manager ~ J.E. Shekell, Inc.

A poor plumbing system affects the reliability and costs of a commercial building for years to come – including complications directly related to health and sanitation ratings. If left undetected and/or unresolved, plumbing problems can threaten the very structure of a building.

For plumbing design and piping in new commercial builds or replacement in an existing structure, the most important decision you will make is choosing the plumber.

### Go with a specialist.

Your search should start by talking only with companies that specialize in commercial plumbing. Remember that some companies who say they specialize in commercial plumbing may not actually have the specific experience needed.

### Here are the most important questions to ask plumbing companies before hiring:

**Do you specialize in commercial projects?** This is critical because commercial jobs have different code, permit, and inspection requirements. Your plumber needs sufficient knowledge and experience in all three to navigate and complete the job successfully.

**Are you licensed and bonded in this state?** This is something else you must be sure of. Ask for a bond number

and a state identification number. Then call your state and make sure the numbers are active, and that no charges or liens have been levied against that plumber's license.

**What is your schedule during our targeted project date?** Commercial projects can take weeks or longer. Make sure the plumber you're considering can commit its team to the time needed to complete your project within the target date.

**Ask for three to five commercial references.** In addition to checking references the plumber gives you, be sure to read online reviews, ask friends and colleagues, and check your local Better Business Bureau for any reported complaints. Beware of any plumber who won't give references or seems to avoid the topic altogether.

**Talk it through with professionals.** J.E. Shekell, Inc. specializes in commercial and industrial plumbing, from small projects to large new builds. We're happy to answer your questions or kick around any ideas you may have.

**Feel free to get in touch with Mike Borman at 812-492-8729 or mborman@shekell.com.**



## AUTOMATED HVAC CONTROL CENTERS MORE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT & COMFORTABLE

*(continued from Cover)*

### Ventilation Engineering is Key.

In addition to system automation and the actual components that heat, cool, filter and deliver air through an HVAC system, ventilation patterns are extremely important in utilizing the system's air circulation and air filtering capabilities most effectively.

Well-engineered ventilation patterns aid circulation and introduce fresh air while controlling the buildup of carbon dioxide (a byproduct of human respiration), carbon monoxide (from combustion sources) and miscellaneous toxic gases from building materials and indoor activities. Talk to our team if you have concerns about the air quality in your building.

### New Builds, New Systems, Updating & Maintenance

J.E. Shekell, Inc. provides full-service commercial HVAC design and installation, from new builds automated control centers to system updates and monthly maintenance. Talk with J. E. Shekell, Inc. about your needs.

# SHEKELL SAFETY

## REMOVING 90-TON HVAC ROOF UNIT: A STUDY IN PRE-PLANNING AND SAFETY

Only a section of Welborn Hospital's original structure – built in 1894 – remains in downtown Evansville. Surrounded by expansions and build-ons, this section, known today as the Old Welborn Building, houses Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare at the corner of Southeast 4th and Oak streets.

Recently the J.E. Shekell, Inc. team took on the job of removing an aged 90-ton HVAC unit from the roof of this building and replacing it with a new 90-ton unit. There was a lot of pre-planning to do before the job got under way.

A team made up of individuals from J.E. Shekell, Inc., Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, the County Health Department and others evaluated every aspect of the job site as well as the people the project would affect.

### Anticipating Every Possibility

They factored in the weight and condition of the old HVAC unit; the size of the crane needed to safely lower the old unit and lift up the new one; cleared spaces needed around the job site; and evacuated the building while the work was done. Achieving minimal downtime was also part of the master plan.

It would take a 300-ton crane with a 185-foot boom to remove the old roof-top unit and replace it with the new unit. Entire parking lots would be closed; a drop zone cleared and cordoned off in case of falling debris; and all employees, patients and visitors would be evacuated for safety during the roof-top operation.

The old HVAC unit couldn't be trusted to stay in one piece while being lifted, so J.E. Shekell, Inc. separated sections of the unit and secured them with rigging to insure nothing would fall away during removal. In addition, the Shekell team had to look closely at obstructions in the space above the work site -- such as power lines.

### The Pick Process Begins

Once all pre-planning was set in place, the pick process – meaning the removal of the old unit and placement of the new one – began. And this was a “blind pick.” For crane operators, conducting an operation that is above the operator's sight line is called a blind pick. To get it done, a signal person on the Old Welborn roof gave hand signals to the crane operator, such as “easy left” or “easy down.”

With Shekell's team work, the building was evacuated for just 40 minutes while the old HVAC unit was removed and the new one placed on the roof. Next came the rerouting of updated electrical wiring and piping, and installation of control panels for the new HVAC unit. All went well and it was a smooth start-up for Old Welborn Building's new comfort system.

### Maximum Safety / Minimum Disruption

From small jobs to major operations like the one described here, safety is always the number one priority to J.E. Shekell, Inc. That's how Shekell has sustained its outstanding safety record for decades. Minimizing inconvenience and downtime for customers is the other top priority in planning commercial projects. And the foundation of every job we do is – and always has been -- uncompromising service and getting the job done right.

J.E. Shekell, Inc. is thankful to be trusted with important commercial jobs in Evansville and around the tri-state. We invite you to contact us about your HVAC, electrical and plumbing needs.

