



# The Mulvaney Pipeline



## A Belated Holiday Pipeline Edition

We apologize for the delay in getting our holiday edition out to you. Our staff of writers, editors, printers and mailers are just as venerable to auto accidents as are we all. We experienced just such an accident. Thankfully the occupants came through OK with just bumps, bruises and contusions. The vehicle however did not fair so well. It passed away into that great wrecking yard in the sky.

The holidays are a dangerous time on the roads. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), more auto accidents occur during the year end holiday season than at any other time of the year. Thousands of people across the US will be impacted by auto accidents.



Although the official Christmas tree tradition at Rockefeller Center began in 1933 (the year the 30 Rockefeller Plaza opened), the unofficial tradition began during the Depression-era construction of Rockefeller Center, when workers decorated a smaller 20 foot balsam fir tree with "strings of cranberries, garlands of paper, and even a few tin cans" on Christmas Eve 1931. Some accounts have the tree decorated with the tin foil ends of



blasting caps. There was no Rockefeller Center Christmas tree in 1932.

The decorated Christmas tree remains lit at Rockefeller Center until the week after New Year's Day, when it is removed and recycled for a variety of uses. In 2007, the tree went "green," employing LED lights. After being taken down, the tree was used to furnish lumber for Habitat for Humanity house construction.

The tallest Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center was a 100 feet Norway spruce from Connecticut, erected on November 11, 1999.

## A Christmas tradition Lives On

Recent trees and their origin city and state

Year	Original Location	Tree Type	Height
2011	Mifflinville, PA	Norway spruce	74 ft
2010	Mahopac, NY	Norway spruce	74 ft
2009	Easton, CT	Norway spruce	76 ft
2008	Hamilton, NJ	Norway spruce	72 ft
2007	Shelton, CT	Norway spruce	84 ft
2006	Ridgefield, CT	Norway spruce	88 ft
2005	Wayne, NJ	Norway spruce	74 ft
2004	Suffern, NY	Norway spruce	71 ft
2003	Manchester, CT	Norway spruce	79 ft
2002	Bloomsbury, NJ	Norway spruce	76 ft
2000	Buchanan, NY	Norway spruce	80 ft
1999	Killingworth, CT	Norway spruce	100 ft
1986	Nanuet, NY	Norway spruce	68 ft
1957	Brighton, VT	White spruce	67 ft



## PEX - Plumbing made easy, or just another fad

PEX is a cross-linked polyethylene, commonly abbreviated PEX or XLPE. It is formed into tubing, and is used predominantly in hydronic radiant heating systems, domestic water piping and insulation for high voltage electrical cables. It is also used for natural gas and offshore oil applications, chemical transportation, and transportation of sewage and slurries. Recently, it has become a viable alternative to polyvinyl chloride (PVC), chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) or copper tubing for use as residential water pipes. PEX tubing ranges in size from imperial sizes of 1/4-inch to 4-inch, but 1/2-inch, 3/4-inch, and 1-inch are by far the most widely used.

First used in heating applications, PEX has become a simple material for domestic water systems in residential or commercial applications. Once PEX was thought to leach out dangerous chemicals into drinking water thereby rendering it unsuitable for potable water. PEX has since been given a clean bill of health and is now used in all sorts of applications.

The PEX tubing comes in blue for cold water and red for hot water use. It cuts easily and special crimp fittings are simple to use. No more torches, copper or problem installations. There is even a special aluminum lined PEX tubing colored white, used to limit oxygen leaching and down stream corrosion.

Given all the benefits of PEX piping systems, one would think this miracle material would quickly displace other materials more difficult to install. There are two drawbacks to plumbing with PEX.

Exposure to sunlight or UV rays can cause rapid breakdown of PEX. The other drawback is the cost of the special brass crimp fittings which is considerable. What it comes down to is PEX has become a great material for suitable environment, but not all.



### HAPPY NEW YEAR THOUGHTS

- Now there are more overweight people in America than average-weight people. So overweight people are now average... which means, you have met your New Year's resolution. Jay Leno
- Good resolutions are simply checks that people draw on a bank where they have no account. Oscar Wilde

### What the Heck is it?

If you can name the item pictured, you may

### WIN A MULVANEY MECHANICAL

### Leather Jacket

Just like this one



If you e-mail your entry, you must write "NEWSLETTER CONTEST" in the subject line to avoid our SPAM filter. Please mail to [janette@mulvaneyinc.com](mailto:janette@mulvaneyinc.com)



If multiple correct answers are received, a winner will be selected at random.

### The answer to last quarter's quiz is:

This is an early example of a two man sledge hammer used in heavy manufacturing applications. This was utilized when only a 30 pound hammer would do the job!

Correct answers were received from Douglas Graham from S/L/A/M Collaborative Robert Eber from CB Richard Ellis Brokerage Svcs. Our thanks go out to all who participated.



## STRANGE NEW YEAR'S EVE CUSTOMS OBSERVED AROUND THE GLOBE

**FINLAND** - It's a longtime Finnish tradition to predict the coming year by casting molten tin into a container of water, and then interpreting the shape the metal takes after hardening. A heart or ring shape means a wedding in the New Year; a ship forecasts travel; and a pig shape signifies plenty of food.

**SPAIN** - At midnight on New Year's Eve, it's customary in Spain to quickly eat 12 grapes, one at each stroke of the clock. Each grape supposedly signifies good luck for one month of the coming year.

**PANAMA** - Effigies of well-known people—called *muñecos*—are traditionally burned in New Year's bonfires in Panama to ward off evil spirit during the coming year.

**SCOTLAND** - During the New Year's Eve celebration of Hogmanay, "first-footing" is practiced all over Scotland. The custom dictates that the first person to cross the threshold of a home in the New Year should carry a gift for luck (whiskey is the most common).

**PHILIPPINES** - Round shapes (representing coins) are thought to symbolize prosperity for the coming year in the Philippines; many Filipino families display heaps of round fruits on the dining table for New Year's Eve.

**BELARUS** - During the traditional celebration of Kaliady, unmarried women play games to predict who will be wed in the New Year. In one game, a pile of corn is placed before each woman, and a rooster is let go; whichever pile the rooster approaches first reveals who will be the first to marry.

**DENMARK** - Many Danes ring in the New Year by standing on chairs and then jumping off them together at midnight. Leaping into January is supposed to banish bad spirits and bring good luck.

**ESTONIA** - Estonians followed a custom of trying to eat seven times on New Year's Day, to ensure abundant food in the coming year. If a man ate seven times, he was supposed to have the strength of seven men the following year.

**CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA** - it's considered lucky to wear special underwear on New Year's Eve; in cities like Sao Paulo and La Paz, market vendors start displaying brightly colored underpants a few days before the holiday. The most popular colors are red and yellow: red is supposed to bring love in the coming year, and yellow is supposed to bring money.

**UNITED STATES** - Thousands of people crowd into a small city square (Times Square) for hours enduring bitter cold and wide spread drunkenness to watch a lighted ball drop down a pole during the last minute of the year. Doing this results in possible frost bite, a raging hangover and probable loss of memory on new year's day... Good fun huh! Go figure.

## WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

Jan 18 - 20 <sup>th</sup>	2012 AHR Expo and Conference	Chicago, IL
Jan 23 - 27 <sup>th</sup>	2012 World of Concrete	Las Vegas, NV
Feb 1 - 5 <sup>th</sup>	International Power Boat Show	Atlantic City, NJ
Mar 9 - 11 <sup>th</sup>	Maine Log & Timber Frame Show	Augusta, ME
May 2 - 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2011 Buildings NY	New York, NY
May 13 - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Renewable Energy Congress & Show	Denver, CO
Jun 19 - 22 <sup>nd</sup>	A&WMA Conference & Expo	San Antonio, TX
Jul 9 - 13 <sup>th</sup>	InterSolar North America Conf & Expo	San Francisco, CA
Nov 13 - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Greenbuild International Conf & Expo	San Francisco, CA

**HAPPY 2012**



**Mulvaney**  
MECHANICAL, INC.

MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

4 Christopher Columbus Avenue  
Danbury, Connecticut 06810  
203-797-8005 - 845-278-8813  
FAX 203-794-1786

E-mail [mulvaney@mulvaneyinc.com](mailto:mulvaney@mulvaneyinc.com)

