

PIPELINE

PIPING SYSTEMS INC.

PROCESS PIPING • PLUMBING • HVACR • BOILERS • FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS • ELECTRICAL • SPRINKLER INSPECTIONS

Spring 2020

Cranberries, Anyone?

This past November, we received an emergency call from our client, Decas Cranberry Products, Inc. in Carver, Massachusetts. We were told that the plant was inoperable because their steam boiler was shut down and in need of immediate repairs.

We arrived on-site to assess the situation and developed a game plan to run a steam line across the roof to enable the client to use a temporary boiler. Measurements were taken and our welders fabricated the entire project in our shop ready for delivery. A crane pick by Lamb Crane and Rigging was arranged for delivery on a Monday morning. Of course, it rained that day! By 6:00 PM, the temporary boiler was connected and generating steam.

One of the challenges we overcame on this project included the tight time frame. We were able to get our crews mobilized immediately and were able to work the hours required to restore

Decas' production. Our crews worked in the rain the entire day of the installation with no complaint. Safety gear, including rain jackets, were worn and changed multiple times during the day to stay somewhat dry. Rope grabs and harnesses prevented slips and trips during installation. Due to our great relationship with CWB Builders in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, they were able to supply us with special clips that were required to support the piping on the roof.

The following week, we had a surprise visit from Michael McManama, the CEO of Decas Cranberries, Inc., pictured left. He presented us with vintage cranberry bog crates and cranberry-themed goodies. On behalf of Decas, he expressed his thanks for the effort we put in to get them back up and running. He presented a letter stating the following:

Dear Ms. Lally,

On behalf of Decas Cranberry Products, I want to thank the PSI team for their responsiveness and support to return us to production. From our call last Tuesday, your team expedited the fabrication, installation, and insulation in less than a week so we could resume operations, meeting our customers' requirements in this, our busiest time of the year.

Jason Taylor, PSI's Vice President of Operations and his team deserve special recognition. Jason developed a better solution, allowing the piping to be fabricated over the weekend. Your pipefitters worked in rain and wind, safely completing the installation and connection in less than a day.

We also appreciate your company's ability to coordinate so effectively with the boiler supplier, crane company, and Decas. It's a good feeling to know we can count on our local companies.

*Sincerely,
Michael McManama, President and CEO*

Decas Cranberry Products, Inc. is a privately-held family business with deep ties to the community, building their business over the last eight decades. Piping Systems, Inc. has partnered with Decas, serving their piping needs since 2001.



Decas Cranberry Products, Inc. CEO Michael McManama presented PSI's Vice President of Operations Jason Taylor with cranberry-themed goodies after our team was able to get their production facility up and running following an unexpected shut-down.



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Volcanoes On Venus?

The surface of Venus is pretty inhospitable, but that hasn't stopped scientists and research probes from exploring the planet. According to the *Sci-News* website, one recent discovery is that Venus may have active volcanoes.

The European Space Agency's Venus Express probe has tracked infrared radiation in three regions on the planet that was different from radiation coming from surrounding areas. The findings appeared to indicate that some lava flows on the surface were relatively fresh—less than 2.5 million years old and maybe less than 250,000 years old. In space time, that's young!

Scientists recreated the atmosphere of Venus in a laboratory to observe how Venusian minerals react and evolve over time. The experiment's results suggest that a mineral in the basaltic crust of Venus reacts quickly with the atmosphere, meaning that lava flows might take just a few years to occur—and that Venus may have active volcanoes today.

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



Genetic Tweaks Make Earthworms Live Longer

We can't make people immortal—yet—but scientists have discovered some genetic tweaks that can extend the lives of earthworms by 500%, according to the *Science Alert* website.

The earthworms in the study live only two or three weeks, making them good candidates for experiments involving genetic and metabolic processes that they share with humans. Scientists have already discovered that changing the worms' insulin signaling pathway can increase their lifespan 100%. Similarly, alterations to a pathway called TOR (target of rapamycin) results in a 30% extension.

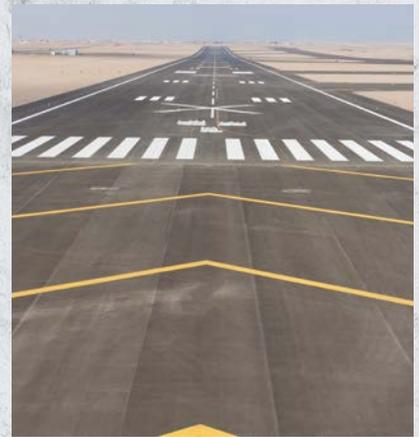
A new study has found that genetically shifting both pathways appears to cause an effect four to five times higher than the single genetic procedure—a synergistic approach that pulls a combination of networks together for the long term.

It's unclear whether the research will ever result in expanded human lifespans, as humans live longer than a few weeks, making experimentation more difficult (and ethically problematic). For now, scientists will have to rely on shorter-lived species like worms, fruit flies, and mice—although in the last year scientists were able to extend the life of mice and reduce their chances of cancer by working with their telomeres.

Calm Your Fears About Airline Travel

Flying may be the safest way to travel, but getting on an airplane still makes many people nervous. If you're one of them, remember these basic tips for ensuring a calm, safe flight:

- **Fly nonstop when possible.** Crashes and accidents are rare, but they're most likely to occur during takeoffs and landings. Look for nonstop flights but, remember that direct flights aren't necessarily nonstop, even though you may not change planes.
- **Keep your seatbelt fastened.** Yeah, you know this already, but it's still important advice. Sudden turbulence can cause an injury, even when you're sitting in your seat, so make sure you're buckled in.
- **Know your exits.** If you have to evacuate quickly (and evacuations, along with the deployment of emergency oxygen, are the most common emergency situations you're likely to encounter, although most of the time they're preventative measures), you don't want to waste time. Knowing the location of the nearest exit is an excellent precaution.
- **Keep your children safe.** When traveling with a baby or toddler, a child restraint system like a car seat is a must. Check the labels to make sure it's certified for use on aircraft. Measure the width of your car seat before boarding: If it's 16 inches or less, it should fit into any airline seat.
- **Don't obsess over finding the safest seat.** Though you may want to be closest to the emergency exit, the fact is that no one seat is safer than any other on an airplane. For example, in some emergencies passengers are better off remaining in their seats—wherever they are—than trying to scramble off the plane.



"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

—Oscar Wilde

Take The First Steps Towards Retirement Planning

Saving for retirement doesn't have to be complicated, but you should pay attention to it no matter how young or old you are. *USA Today* recommends one important habit: Perform a financial checkup at least once a year.

First, consider your goals. Where and when are you planning to retire? What do you hope to do in retirement—travel, take up hobbies, spend more time with your family, or more? What other income will you have? What's the state of your health? Run your estimates through a retirement calculator—there are lots online—to determine whether you're on the right track and what adjustments you have to make.

What if you're behind on what you need? Don't panic. Look at how much you have and how much you can expect to save in the time before retirement, and then reset your goals. You might have to cut back on travel or move to a less expensive community, but with enough planning, you'll be able to take positive steps toward your retirement future.

"Your future is created by what you do today, not tomorrow."

— Unknown

Three Tips From a True Success

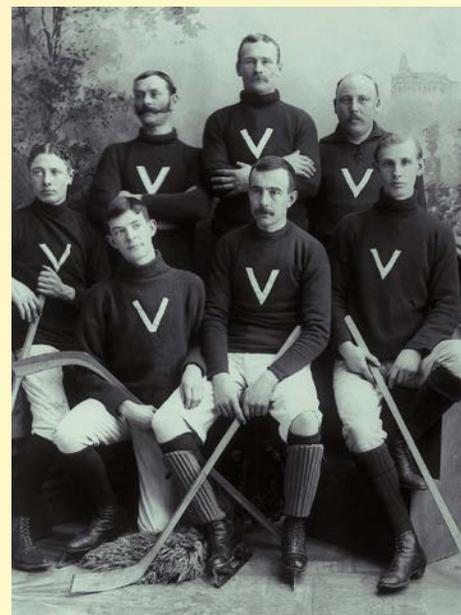
As Warren Buffett's right-hand man and a vice chairman of Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, billionaire Charlie Munger has had the kind of career and financial success most people only dream of. Here's his advice for attaining future success:

- **"Don't sell anything you wouldn't buy yourself."** Be true to your values. Pick a career not for how much money you can make, but for doing something you believe in and are willing to dedicate your life to.
- **"Don't work for anyone you don't respect and admire."** Be careful about who you choose to work with and for. Seek out people you can look up to and learn from them.
- **"Work only for people you enjoy."** Your boss and co-workers can be a source of stress—or strength. Find an employer whose culture attracts like-minded people who share your values and your commitment to success.

The Key to Having a Productive Workday

There is an antidote for all of you who dread Mondays or the start of any other workday—reattachment. New research suggests that the act of reattaching oneself to work every morning plays a crucial role in our motivation and engagement, much the same way detaching from work in the evenings leads to more work/life balance. To reattach to work, start by simply reflecting on a few key areas of your professional life:

- **Significance.** The work you do has meaning, and so does the position you hold in your organization. Know this and believe it. Then remind yourself of the reasons why and how the work you do is valuable. Write them down if you must. Allow these positive thoughts to set the tone for the next eight hours.
- **Network.** Who are your mentors, cheerleaders, advocates, and peers? These are the people you turn to for guidance and support in challenging times. Recall a situation when one of these people came through for you and how fortunate you are to have them on your side. Is there someone you might be overlooking? Always remember that you're not in this alone.
- **Daily goals.** Determine what your main focus should be this day and visualize yourself accomplishing it. Don't see yourself overwhelmed by this project, but rather poised and engaged and completing the day's objectives successfully. Use your imagination as a precursor to the future and make it a reality.



Brain Teasers

- 1) Who was the first president to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C.?
a) Thomas Jefferson
b) John Adams
c) James Madison
d) Abraham Lincoln
- 2) After the *Mona Lisa* was stolen from the Louvre in 1911, which famous artist was considered a suspect?
a) Georgia O'Keeffe
b) Edgar Degas
c) Pablo Picasso
d) John Singer Sargent
- 3) Which one of the following was NOT one of the original six NHL teams?
a) New York Rangers
b) Pittsburgh Penguins
c) Boston Bruins
d) Detroit Red Wings
- 4) According to the United Nations, how many countries are in Africa?
a) 48
b) 54
c) 32
d) 26
- 5) These birds are excellent parents and can find their way back to their nest from up to 1,300 miles away.
a) Starlings
b) Robins
c) Blue Jays
d) Pigeons

Answers: 1) a; 2) c; 3) b; 4) b; 5) d

—Mental Floss

A Fire Emergency Isn't the Time to Put Your Systems to the Test

It isn't uncommon for a fire suppression or protection system to be installed in a commercial or industrial building and then forgotten. The general thought is that the system was installed by professionals and tested, and if it is not in use, it should still be in top working condition in the event of a fire.

While there are safety and operational tests recommended by the manufacturers of fire protection systems, they are often ignored or scheduled, but then never completed. This may seem like a time- and cost-saving decision, but if the system is ever required in the event of a fire, poor water pressure, clogged valves or nozzles, or other types of problems that impact the performance of the fire suppression systems, can be a very high cost to pay.

Hire a Professional Service

One of the easiest ways to handle those recommended fire system tests is to hire professionals to come in and test the

system. Hiring an outside inspection service frees up your internal maintenance teams and ensures that the scheduled maintenance and testing is actually completed.

It also provides the inspection and testing documentation that is essential should there be a fire and an insurance claim is submitted. In some cases, older systems may have significant problems with corrosion, valves that are no longer operating in the required pressure ranges, or any other similar types of problems. Replacing or repairing these issues on an annual basis helps to save the cost of a repair or replacement later on.

Compliance with NFPA Codes

Staying in compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes for maintaining, inspecting, and testing all installed fire suppression systems is another reason to stay on top of regular scheduling.

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Fire Emergency... *continued from above*

Each building and fire suppression system type has differences in the specifics that allow for code compliance. These can also change over time, sometimes with major changes required. Having a regular inspection and testing ensures that your system is up to the latest code requirements. Keeping within this compliance is essential in the event of a fire to demonstrate the building was maintained to the required standards.

If there are any signs of damage to the fire suppression system, calling in an inspection team to test the systems is also a top preventative measure. Lines can be damaged by being hit or knocked by equipment, exposure to corrosive materials or moisture, or by being crushed or damaged during other types of repairs or operation.

Leaks under nozzles or in areas where valves are found in the system are another indication that a test is required to make sure

the system is fully operational if a fire should ever start in the building. Need help with your fire system testing or maintenance? Contact us at 508.644.2221.

