

Volume 20, Issue 11, November, 2023

## The Tool Box

Serving the Electrical, HVAC & Plumbing Industries Since 1912

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### Cutting-Edge AI Solutions for Organizations of All Sizes

In an era where artificial intelligence is the backbone of modern business, OpenAI introduces a quantum leap forward—ChatGPT Enterprise. Designed not just for corporate behemoths but also for agile, small to medium-sized companies, this AI chatbot is a revolutionary blend of robust privacy measures, intricate data analytics, and high-octane performance. If you're still on the fence about diving into the AI revolution, this is one moment you won't want to miss.

### **Built for Success, Designed for Security**

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### **Paving the Road to Tomorrow**

OpenAI has an ambitious roadmap, including plans for a ChatGPT Business model tailored explicitly for smaller teams and specialized tools for data analysts, marketers, and customer support personnel. As the business world anticipates the next big thing in AI, ChatGPT Enterprise already stands as a monument to OpenAI's commitment to innovation, privacy, and client-focused solutions.

### **Empowering Small to Medium-Sized Businesses**

But what about smaller players in the business world? ChatGPT Enterprise has you covered. Whether it's customer service, marketing, or content creation, this Al powerhouse is designed to streamline operations and enhance efficiency across the board. Imagine a chatbot capable of 24/7 customer support or a virtual assistant that can generate blog posts and identify SEO-friendly keywords. ChatGPT Enterprise is not just an AI tool; it's your next team member, helping you navigate challenges and seize opportunities.

### **Areas of Impact for SMBs**

- 1. Customer Service: Real-time, 24/7 support without exhausting your human resources.
- Marketing and Sales: An Al-driven personalized approach for high-volume leads.

- 7. Employee Onboarding: Make first impressions count with comprehensive onboarding materials.
- 8. Job Description Creation: Save time and attract the right talent.
- 9. Multilingual Support: Expand your reach by communicating in multiple languages
- 10. Scalability and Cost-Effectiveness: Handle growing customer interactions without additional manpower.

11.

### Your Next Steps in the Al Journey

ChatGPT Enterprise serves as both an anchor and a compass in a rapidly evolving landscape, offering stability and direction. As businesses look to leverage the full potential of AI, the questions are no longer 'if' but 'how' and 'when.'

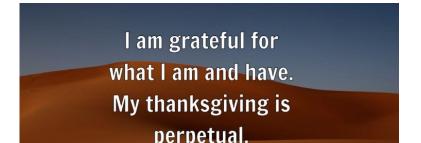
Are you curious about the future of AI in the business world and how to position yourself strategically? Whether you're a large enterprise or a small business, don't hesitate to reach out for collaboration, consultation, and engagement opportunities with experts in the field. The future is knocking—will you answer?



Chuck Gallagher LLC | 3620 Pelham Road, Ste 305, Greenville, SC 29615

### Inspirational Quotes:





Your family owned and operated plumber for over 60 years Serving the Pee Dee Area Residential | Commercial | Emergencies

933 S Santiago Drive, Florence SC

City Plumbing Company is a third-generation family owned and operated commercial and residential plumbing service provider founded in 1956 by Richard Miller, Sr. in Florence, South Carolina. Currently operated by his son, Richard Miller, Jr. and his grandson, Scott Miller, the company is proud of their reputation they have built in the community for being fair, professional, and exacting in their standards. Richard Jr. has served as a three-time past President of the MCASC and loves seeing the organization continue to serve the next generation of contractors.

City Plumbing Company serves the Florence area for residential services and the Pee Dee for commercial operations. As the community has given so much to our family over the years, we enjoy giving back by donating service to local non-profits, working with community schools in their goals to provide resources and opportunities for students, and assisting those seeking licensure in obtaining hours and training to help them build careers.

### **Associate Member**



Need construction help? Contact CCS, one of the leading construction staffing agencies serving North Carolina, South Carolina and beyond. Access skilled tradespeople ready to complete your projects on time and on the dime. Rest assured that every worker we hire has been screened, interviewed and thoroughly vetted. And you will always deal with the same recruiting team – no matter where your project is. Explain your needs just once and you're done.

CCS services can help you:

Convert fixed labor costs to variable

Eliminate administrative headaches

Meet critical deadlines and project milestones

Get quick and easy access to quality manpower – even in remote areas

Increase job cost-efficiency

CCS Construction Staffing, one of the premier construction temp agencies, has provided reliable, qualified manpower to the construction trades since 2008. We are committed to serving the needs of our clients and candidates with more flexibility, more attention to detail, and quicker turnaround than any other firm. Our mission is to help you finish your projects on time, on the dime.

What we offer our clients:

One CCS rep no matter where the project is located Safety-conscious workers

### **Material Handling and Storage – Safety for Palletized Materials**

[Reference: 1910.176 / 192.250]

Proper storage of materials on pallets is crucial to prevent accidents, injuries, and property damage in the workplace. Here are several safety tips for safely storing materials on pallets:

Inspect Pallets: Before loading a pallet, inspect it for damage such as broken boards or protruding nails. Damaged pallets should be repaired before use, or taken out of service.

- Select the Right Pallet: Choose pallets that are appropriate for the size and weight of the materials they will be holding.
- Stack Materials Evenly: Distribute the weight of the materials evenly across the pallet to maintain stability and prevent tipping.
- Interlock Bagged Materials: Bagged materials should be stacked by stepping back the layers and cross-keying the bags at least every 10 bags high to prevent sliding, falling or collapse.
- Avoid Overhang: Do not allow materials to overhang the edges of the pallet, as this can create an unbalanced load and increase the risk of falling objects.
- Secure Materials: Use appropriate methods to secure materials to the pallet, such as shrink wrap, strapping, or banding to prevent shifting or falling during storage or transport.
- Flat and Level Surface: Place pallets on a flat and level surface to ensure stability and prevent tipping or sliding.
- Aisle Clearances: Maintain clear aisles and passageways around pallets for easy access and safe material handling.
- Keep Doorways Clear: Never block doorways with pallets or other stored materials, even temporarily. Emergency exits must always remain free of obstructions.
- Weight Limitation: Do not exceed the weight capacity of storage shelfs or platforms. These are typically labeled with their weight capacity, and this limit should never be exceeded.
- Maintain Adequate Overhead Clearance: The minimum vertical clearance between sprinklers and material stored below shall be 18 inches minimum, to prevent the stored material from interfering with the spray of water from a sprinkler head during a fire.

By following these safety tips, employers and workers can minimize the risks associated with storing and transporting materials on pallets promote workplace safety, and prevent accidents

| Randall Owens    | 11/1  | Walkup Electrical Construction, LLC  |                |
|------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Lee Richardson   | 11/1  | Atlantic Electric Company            |                |
| Cathy Richardson | 11/3  | Atlantic Electric Company            | Wife of Joe    |
| Lewis Caswell    | 11/5  | Honorary Life Member                 |                |
| Kristi Soderlund | 11/8  | Elliott Davis, LLC                   | Wife of Todd   |
| Jonathan Watts   | 11/8  | WinSupply of Lexington               |                |
| Karen Linden     | 11/15 | Central Controls, Inc.               | Wife of Albert |
| Albert Linden    | 11/23 | Central Controls, Inc.               |                |
| Randy Jones      | 11/25 | Ocean 72, LLC                        |                |
| Brenda Gibbs     | 11/27 | Bear Mechanical Services, LLC        | Widow of Fred  |
| Michael Hunter   | 11/28 | Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.           |                |
| Sandra DeAntonio | 11/29 | Wife of Honorary Life Member Raymond |                |

We would like to announce your Birthday too! If you would like to be listed, please call 803-772-7834.

### **Anniversaries**

| Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Heyward, Jr. | 11/19 | W. B. Guimarin & Company, Inc.     | Caitlin |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Phillip O'Quinn      | 11/7  | Triad Mechanical Contractors, Inc. | Erica   |

### Condolences

Gerald Edwards & Family on the loss of his brother,

Derald Edwards

October 12, 2023

Tommy Walkup & Family on the loss of his mother,



Pee Dee Area Meeting (10/12/2023)

















Coastal Area Meeting (10/24/2023)













| NOV<br>3 - 5   | Vintage automobile shows and races - benefits Driving Young America  | Hilton Head                    | Festival   |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|------------|
| NOV<br>3 - 4   | Pelion Peanut Party 2-day event with lots of peanuts, live music, crafts, parade, car show, festival food, amusement rides   | Columbia<br>Pelion             | Festival   |
| NOV<br>3       | Holiday Open House with Wine and Beer Walk Sip and stroll! Delight in Downtown Newberry's festive wine and beer walk, a merry journey of holiday flavors                               | Newberry                       | Holiday    |
| NOV<br>4       | <u>Charleston Scottish Games</u> Heavy athletic, pipe band, and highland dancing competitions plus Scottish country dancing, border collie demonstrations                              | Charleston<br>North Charleston | Festival   |
| NOV<br>4       | Fall Festival and Holiday Market KidZone, face painting, artisans and vendors, concessions - benefits Greenville Classical Academy   | Greenville<br>Simpsonville     | Festival   |
| NOV<br>4       | SC Pecan Music and Food Festival "Run and Bike Like A Nut" races, kids' fun zone, vendors, arts and crafts, classic car show, amusement rides  | Florence                       | Festival   |
| NOV<br>4       | Harvest Fest Bluegrass music, festival foods, craft market, games, hayrides, pumpkin decorating  | Charleston<br>Johns Island     | Festival   |
| NOV<br>4       | Guy Osborne Memorial Pawleys Island Turtle Strut 5K and 8K races will take place on an extremely flat course - in support of The Family Justice Center                                 | Georgetown<br>Pawleys Island   | Sports     |
| NOV<br>9 - 12  | The Wall That Heals See the mobile replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice                          | Spartanburg                    | Historical |
| NOV<br>9 - 11  | Heritage Days Celebration at Penn Center 3-day event includes a parade, art, crafts, food, live entertainment  | Beaufort<br>St Helena Island   | Festival   |
| NOV<br>9 - 12  | Dickens Christmas Show & Festival A national award-winning event - set up as a Victorian Holiday Marketplace where you'll find something for everyone on your holiday shopping list!   | Myrtle Beach                   | Holiday    |
| NOV<br>10 - 30 |  | Charleston<br>James Island     | Holiday    |
| NOV<br>10 - 11 | Hilton Head Oyster Festival  2-day event includes lots of oysters plus other foods, entertainment, kids' activities, local artisan - benefits Hilton Head                              | Hilton Head                    | Festival   |
| NOV<br>11 - 12 | Mythical & Medieval Fest Renaissance themed festival with a fairy forest, medieval combat, princesses, artisan's village, fire show and live music - benefits Caleb's Dragonfly Dreams | Myrtle Beach                   | Festival   |
| NOV<br>25 - 26 | Brookgreen Gardens' Nights of a Thousand Candles Over 2,700 hand-lit candles, sparking lights, food, live performances and music  ** Learn more about Brookgreen Gardens*              | Georgetown<br>Murrells Inlet   | Holiday    |

# we can help you fit the right group plan for your business



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### **Try Allstate Benefits**

Enjoy the cost savings of level-funding, without taking on added risk, with Allstate Benefits. Our program gives your employees access to broad, national networks — like the Aetna® Signature Administrators PPO Network and the Cigna PPO Network — while providing quality health benefits to all of your group's members.

### Why a level-funded program?

- ✓ **Customizable plan designs** making it easy for you to find the right fit for your group.
- ✓ Receive money back in years when claims are lower than expected.
- An experienced team is always ready to provide expertise before, during, and after you've chosen your plan.
- √ Teladoc® and Vitality® wellness programs are included for being a member.

### Save up to 30%\* with Allstate Benefits

\* Savings example is for an employer group in Alabama with 3 eligible employees.

The Allstate Benefits Self-Funded Program provides tools for employers owning small to mid-sized businesses to establish a self-funded health benefit plan for their employees. The benefit plan is established by the employer and is not an insurance product. For employers in the Allstate Benefits Self-Funded Program, stop-loss insurance is underwritten by: Integon National Insurance Company in CT, NY and VT; Integon Indemnity Corporation in FL; and National Health Insurance Company in all other states where offered. National Health Insurance Company, Integon National Insurance Company, and Integon Indemnity Corporation are rated "A+" (Superior) by A.M. Best.

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### Top 10 Fall Facts

It's finally time to pull those sweaters out of hibernation (unless you live on the equator) and watch the leaves morph into various shades of yellow and orange. Fall can be a gorgeous time of year but do you know the history behind it? Fear not friends, we've compiled some fun fall facts to celebrate the day. Enjoy!

**Fact #1:** Americans typically refer to this time of year as "fall," while the British use the word "autumn." Both terms date back to the 16th century but before that it was called "harvest.

**Fact #2:** Fall was called "harvest" because of the "harvest moon" that occurs when the full moon is closest to the autumn equinox. Before man-made lighting, this moonlight was essential to a prosperous harvest.

**Fact #3:** Weight gain around this time of year may not only be due to comforting fall foods like pumpkin pie and cider, researchers have found that lack of vitamin D reduces fat breakdown and triggers fat storage.

**Fact #4:** According to <u>The Weather Channel</u>, pumpkins are the most craved food during the fall. Although, if you've left the house anytime recently, this may not come as a surprise to you.

**Fact #5:** The yellow and orange colors you see actually always exist in leaves but they are overpowered by the abundance of green from chlorophyll. The amount of chlorophyll starts to decrease as the sun weakens and the days grow shorter.

**Fact #6:** Red and purple leaves are only that color because of the presence of sugars and sap that are trapped within the leaves. These sugars provide plants with the energy they need to survive.

**Fact #7**: Many birds will prepare for their winter migration during the fall. The distance they can travel is impressive; the Arctic Tern travels 11,000 miles each way for it's annual migration. That's no small feat.

**Fact #8:** Evergreen trees such as pines, cedars, and spruces stay green because their leaves (needles) are covered with thick wax and they contain materials that prevent freezing when it gets cold.

**Fact #9:** Men and women experience high levels of testosterone during the fall. This makes sense because more babies are conceived during the fall and winter. The cause is unknown but it could be due to lack of sunlight or even go back to ancient mating rituals.

Fact #10: We can't forget Halloween! Halloween takes place in the fall and comes from ancient Celtic tradi-

### Area Meetings & Upcoming Events

#### **Piedmont Area**

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:00 pm (Date changed due to Thanksgiving holiday)

Hosted by: Johnson Controls, Inc.

Location: Grand Bohemian Lodge, 44 E. Camperdown Way, Greenville, SC

Speaker: TBA Program: TBA

### **Midlands Area**

Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Hosted By: Gateway Supply, 116 Whiteford Way, Lexington, SC

Program: TBA Speaker: TBA



### Pee Dee Area

Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Hosted by: City Plumbing Company

Location: Roger's BBQ, 2004 W. 2nd Loop Rd., Florence, SC

Program: TBA Speaker: TBA

Pick a Winner for Education—Winner of Drawing was Mark Matz

### **Coastal Area**

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 5:30 pm Hosted by: Reece Plumbing (formerly Murray Supply), 2509 Clements Ferry Rd., Charleston, SC

Speaker: Sarah L. Windham, CPA, CCIFP, Partner, Forvis

**Program: Tax Updates for Contractors** 





P.O. Box 384, 29202 120 Cromer Road

Lexington, SC 29073 **Phone:** (803) 772-7834 **Fax:** (803) 731-0390

E-mall: mflowers@mcasc.com www.mcasc.com

Serving mechanical contractors in South Carolina since 1912.

#### **Executive Board & Staff**

Karen Linden President

Dale Prosser Vice-President

Steven Hayes

Treasurer

Jim Hearn Secretary

Varity Poston
Associate President

Mona Flowers

Managing Director

### highlighted in the next issue of

### "The Tool Box"

Associate Member



**Mechanical Member** 



#### **Update Your Outlook**

Let us know if we need to update your Outlook or if you know someone who does!

### **MCASC Vision Statement**

The Mechanical Contractors Association of South Carolina (MCASC) will be the leading construction association in South Carolina for specialty contractors and suppliers in the electrical, mechanical (HVAC), and plumbing fields by serving its membership, the industry, and the Community in a vibrant and harmonious fashion.

### **MCASC Mission Statement**

The Mechanical Contractors Association of South Carolina (MCASC) will provide its membership with:

- current business/technical information and support
- a proactive political/legislative agenda
- a joint industry collaboration to improve relative business practices
- an ongoing effort to offer training opportunities for both professional and craft personnel
- educational scholarships for deserving students