



FEATURED PROJECT

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - MOVING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FORWARD

Metro Mechanical's work includes decommissioning existing equipment, installing tankless water heaters & a VRF system.

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RAYMOND, MISSISSIPPI

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - MOVING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FORWARD

Founded in 1917, Hinds Community College (Hinds) is just past its 100th year. As Mississippi's largest community college and the fourth largest institution of higher learning, it boasts serving 25,000 students annually and offering almost 450 academic courses transferable to four-year universities. The stated vision of the college is "to create a competitive economy and compelling culture for Mississippi."

Since Metro Mechanical's founding in 1994, Hinds has been a mainstay on the list of our current projects. From new buildings to complete renovations to equipment replacements, we have worked with Hinds staff on virtually hundreds of jobs over our 28-year history. Our current book of work is no exception. Greaves Hall (pictured here) is undergoing a major HVAC renovation and will be ready for occupancy by late fall. Metro's work included de-commissioning the existing chiller, and demo of chilled water and hot water piping and boiler. A bank of tankless water heaters has been added for domestic hot water. A VRF system was installed for the 24 suites of dormitory rooms.

In addition to Greaves, Harris Patrick Hall is seeing HVAC renovations on the Raymond campus. As is common on many college campuses, food service options are changing. Metro is working with Aster Industries, a general contractor, to add a Chick-fil-A in the Raymond campus cafeteria. The Vicksburg campus is also in the process of HVAC upgrades for this location.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with Hinds on these and other past projects. Metro has hired many students who graduated from their technical trade programs. As a Hinds County based contractor, we are beneficiaries of the impact Hinds has made in the community.

Editor's Note: I was a resident of Greaves Hall during my time at Hinds in the 1970s and am proud to serve on the board of Hinds Community College Foundation.

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BROADMOOR BAPTIST CHURCH



MADISON ★ MISSISSIPPI

A growing segment of Metro Mechanical's sales continues to be the replacement market. Chillers, boilers, rooftop units, and computer room systems of all sizes and types are all part of the mix. Broadmoor Baptist Church recently added this 200-ton chiller for additional building load to their Madison campus. Metro handled this installation all in-house with piping, insulation, electrical, and crane service. We are proud to be your **one-stop shop** for service.

PARETTI MAZDA



COVINGTON ★ LOUISIANA

The Paretto brand continues to grow in the south Louisiana market with a new Mazda dealership in Covington. Voelkel McWilliams is the general contractor with Metro Mechanical providing HVAC for sales and service area. This 19,600 square-foot building has rooftop packaged units. The service area is also designed with a CO monitoring system. Paretto sells Jaguars, Land Rovers, and Mazdas with locations in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and now Covington. The dealership will open early fall.

MAGNOLIA SPEECH SCHOOL



MADISON ★ MISSISSIPPI

August 11 was the first official day of school on the new campus of Magnolia Speech School (MSS). This new school is the culmination of a vision to better serve children of the language and hearing challenged community. Founded in 1956, MSS has helped thousands of children for over six decades.

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Mississippi (ABC Mississippi) adopted MSS several years ago with fundraising events. With Metro Mechanical's long affiliation with ABC Mississippi, we became involved in the early stages as this school campus was in design. Our team completed the HVAC design and encouraged others in the contracting community to assist in reducing construction costs.

Metro's HVAC installation includes VRF heat recovery systems, dedicated outside air units, rooftop packaged AC units, and an EMS system. Brasfield and Gorrie was the general contractor for the new construction. Metro has a personal connection to MSS with a child of one of our Team Members currently attending the school.

GREAT AMERICAN RV

Great American RV Superstores is capitalizing on the American desire to get away from it all and enjoy the open road for vacation time. With 11 locations, its footprint continues to grow. Spartan Builders of Covington, LA, is the general contractor for three dealerships under construction. The Heflin, AL, location comprises 55,000 square feet for sales, service, and detailing of new RVs. The Tupelo, MS, location is almost complete and Jackson, TN, is in the design phase. Metro Mechanical is installing HVAC for all locations.

METRO MECHANICAL RECOGNIZED AS AN ABC NATIONAL TOP PERFORMER



The Associated Builders and Contractors nationally recognize contractors each year who have maintained the highest standards of safety, quality, and project excellence. To be a Top Performer, you must demonstrate world-class safety performance by achieving STEP Gold or higher. Metro Mechanical is listed as #122 out of 200 Top Performers based on hours worked. They were also listed as #21 of the Top HVAC Contractors in the same category. We congratulate our Metro team on keeping safety a job priority.



MY VIEW: THE STORY OF METRO - A LOOK BACK IN TIME

BY: RICK WHITE, VICE PRESIDENT

Almost 100 years ago, an American folktale titled "The Little Engine that Could" was written by Watty Piper. Several versions appeared in previous years, but Piper's story was the best known. It was a children's book used to teach the value of optimism and hard work. The theme was centered around a little engine given a seemingly impossible task but was willing to try and thus overcame the obstacle. As the little engine pulled the train up the hill, he kept repeating, "I think I can, I think I can".

January 1, 1994, was the launch date for Metro Mechanical. Like the little engine, we started with the premise of "we think we can, we think we can". With little resources but plenty of grit and determination, we began a journey loaded with twists and turns. Having worked as employees of various companies, we had a framework of knowledge and skill sets but didn't understand the immense weight of wearing the owner hat. By the end of 1994, we had produced a grand total of \$335,000 in sales and turned a small profit. To be brutally honest, neither Frank nor I took any salary for 1994, so profit was a relative term.

Frank has commented several times over the years that he could write a book on lessons learned. Some of those firmly cemented in our minds are from difficult times. Overwhelmingly, many lessons are from good outcomes working with valued clients, the help provided by a vendor who had no reason to trust a couple of upstarts or Metro team members who gave time away from family to make sure a project got completed for a deadline. As owners, we resolved to live by a code that has served the company well.

- ❶ Do what you say – live by what you commit
- ❷ Pay your bills and your taxes even when it is a strain
- ❸ If the wheels fall off, as they sometimes will, fix it!
...even if it costs you out of your own pocket.

We have been immensely blessed. I say with a humble heart that if anyone had told me 28 years ago that Metro would be where we are today, I would have laughed out loud. It seemed an impossible hill to climb. So many people are responsible for our growth and the development of our brand and reputation. I think of industry professionals who helped us along the way, bankers who trusted us to pay a mountain of debt, and the all-important clients who kept us busy with repeat business (90% of our projects are with the same group of customers). There is not enough space available in this brief article to thank all of those who have walked this road with us.

Metro Mechanical and Metro Building Services began a new chapter as we partnered with Fidelity Building Services Group on July 1, 2021. Just one year in, we are reaching new milestones of growth, introducing a controls division into our portfolio of services, and have doubled our HVAC service platform. These are exciting times for the Metro family.

As new chapters unfold for the Metro Story, another chapter is ending. I am exiting as the Editor of The Metro Message with this edition. It has been one of the best aspects of my career. People management, collections work, and accounting can at times be challenging. Writing our newsletter has been pure fun. It is a bit of a personal diary of the story of Metro. My attempt has been to remain positive, never dwell on difficult circumstances, or give ink to economic headwinds. Thanks to all who have encouraged me with comments over the years. The Metro story continues...

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SCOTT SHIFLETT



We congratulate Scott Shiflett on his retirement from Metro Mechanical. Scott joined the Metro team in 1994 and is the longest-serving Team Member (other than founding family members). His story is especially noteworthy because he moved his family to Mississippi from Alabama where he had grown up and lived his entire life. Coming to work for Metro was much more of a risk in 1994 as we had little work and limited ability to promise a steady paycheck.

Scott (a pipefitter by trade) began in the field doing a variety of installation tasks. As the company grew, he managed the refrigeration and start-up crews, and served as Safety Officer, completing his career as Superintendent of the Piping Division. Scott is highly respected around the industry as extremely knowledgeable in his trade. Scott Woods, a local mechanical engineer commented on his retirement saying, "I have called Scott for his expertise and advice more times than he has called me. His practical knowledge of systems has made me appear to be a better engineer than I deserve".

We all wish Scott and Janice many happy retirement days as he transitions to this new phase of life. Congratulations on finishing the race of a great career. **You will be missed!**

SAFETY CORNER: SAFETY HAS NO LIMITS

As Metro Mechanical approaches the end of our third decade of business, we are fortunate to have suffered mostly minor workplace injuries. Personnel records show we have logged 1 million man-hours cumulatively over the past four years - about 250,000 hours annually. Focus on safety has played an increasingly important role through the years. Today, new Team Members are introduced to Metro safety standards from day one and this training continues with all staff on an ongoing basis. There is no limit or point you reach where you can say, "I have all the knowledge I need".

Fidelity Building Services Group has a "Culture of Safety" mantra and our partners have helped us spearhead a program where safety training is constantly tracked and documented. It is a tool used in onboarding new hires, assuring everyone starts with knowledge and training to be aware of workplace risks. Our company motto is "Safety is NO Accident".

UPCOMING PROJECTS 2022

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY
Hammond, Louisiana
with Metro Mechanical as the Prime Contractor

SMITH COUNTY SCHOOLS
Raleigh, Taylorsville, and Mize, Mississippi
with Metro Mechanical as the Prime Contractor

NORTHLAKE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Covington, Louisiana
with Kent Design Build, Inc.

DOC CHAPEL
Pearl, Mississippi
with Paul Jackson and Sons, Inc.

A CLOSING NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

For many years, I have included scripture verses that are meaningful to me in the Metro Message publications. Work is more than just a place to go... it is a calling and has a purpose beyond earning a buck. The following is one of my favorite "work-related" verses.

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
Colossians 3:23-24 NIV*



ABOUT US

Headquartered in Central Mississippi, Metro Mechanical has a regional focus on commercial mechanical services. With offices in Mississippi and Louisiana, we have over 2,000 successful projects including education, government, commercial, retail, healthcare, churches, and institutional facilities.

Metro Mechanical takes a very personal approach with hands-on attention to detail with every project. From planning to fabrication, installation to service after the sale, we are there every step of the way to help you get the most value for your investment

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