

# Pinney Plumbing and Heating Dedicated to Region's Health

By Justine Murphy

There's more to plumbing than just fixing leaky pipes under the kitchen or bathroom sink. A lot more.

"People don't know, or maybe don't realize, the significance of what we do until they have a problem," said Adrian Pinney, who has owned and operated Pinney Plumbing and Heating for more than 43 years. His son, Ethan Pinney, a licensed plumber and estimator for the company, added: "Most [people] also don't realize the set of skills needed to do this work. There is a lot to it; more than just fixing leaky pipes. We're helping folks have their dream bathroom, their dream kitchen. We basically help make their home more efficient."

The Swanzey-based business offers a variety of plumbing services as well as water treatment and conditioning (softeners, filters and testing), refrigeration, and services that improve indoor air quality (which helps alleviate allergies, mold and dust). In addition, they specialize in heating and air conditioning systems, geothermal and solar energy options (economical and eco-friendly heat, water and air conditioning alternatives), water heaters, repairs and replacements for existing systems and more.

Through all of this work, Pinney Plumbing essentially protects people and the community from contaminated water and other issues. According to Ethan, protecting the water supply is among their top priorities. For example, people filling their swimming pools could cause a problem, given that chemicals could potentially impact the water



supply. Factories and other such businesses pose potential hazards as well. He added, too, that it's been challenging as far as visiting people's second or vacation homes in the Monadnock region. When the pandemic hit, lots of people around New England were fleeing their own towns and states to come to here, and it was unknown if they were infected or carriers of the virus.

"We just have to be very careful," Ethan said. "We can't allow any contamination back into the water. And we have to take all precautions to keep ourselves safe while also doing our jobs."

Training for the plumbing, heating and air conditioning trade is a sometimes grueling process, but Adrian and Ethan agree it's well worth it. It can be a difficult discipline that requires more technology, math and science knowledge than most people may realize. The industry is different than it was 30 years ago, Adrian noted — schools have different relationships with businesses, and students can essentially enter into a training program (Keene Community Education offers such training) and apprenticeships immediately after graduating from high school. Years ago, he said, many students began preparing for such a career by taking shop classes — "This makes a difference now for businesses and students."

Pinney is as a family-oriented operation, with Adrian's wife, Norma Jean, handling the books and other administrative duties.

"She's been here all along," Adrian said, noting that the couple's two other children have worked for the business at different points but ultimately decided to take different career paths. "It's great to be surrounded by family and do this great work we're able to do for the region."

There is great reward in the plumbing and heating industry, according to Ethan, who has been with the business for the past 18 years.

"I just fell in love with what I do," he said. "It's a great profession with room to grow."

Adrian and Ethan also recognize the Pinney staff for their dedication to the profession and the Monadnock region.

"We have real heroes here," Ethan said. "They've never backed down from the challenge, even with the dangers of COVID."

From the onset of the pandemic, the company has taken every precaution when it comes to welcoming people into their offices and going to homes and businesses. Following COVID testing, no employees have tested positive.

THE KEENE SENTINEL *Local Matters.*



**THIS WEEK'S LINEUP FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 12<sup>th</sup>**

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10:30: THE FIELDHOUSE AT HOMESTEAD MILLS

11:30: SHADOW EMPORIUM

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