

FACILITIES CONNECTION

ISSUE: 7
NOV/DEC 2023

NEWSLETTER



Transportation
Services is gearing
up for the winter
season

Asylum Lake
Preserve stormwater
treatment project

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IS GEARING UP FOR THE WINTER SEASON

Transportation Services has already started gearing up for the upcoming winter season. While most don't like to think about snow this early in the season, you all know that in Facilities, we like to stay ahead of the game. Planning early ensures that all our equipment is in top shape and ready to roll when the snow flies. From testing the plows to making sure all the blades are sharpened, our transportation mechanics make sure all the plow equipment is ready for our Landscape staff to start clearing snow and ice. Thanks for making sure we can be committed to keeping the roads clear and safe for everyone.



SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



CONGRATUALTIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO WMU!

Pamela Zawacke, Custodial Services, 25 years

Scott Keeler, Maintenance Services, 25 years

Steve Macomber, Maintenance Services, 25 years

Leta Thurman, Custodial Services, 25 years

Laura Moss, Landscape Services, 15 years

Melissa Hodgson, Landscape Services, 15 years

Brandi DeAnda, Landscape Services, 10 years

ENGINEERING STUDENTS VISIT THE POWER PLANT

A group of engineering students visited the Power Plant last month to learn all about the inner workings of the facility and its equipment. We cherish these visits as it gives us an opportunity to connect with our students and share knowledge that will help them in preparing for their careers!



NEW EMPLOYEES

Casey Bushouse, Maintenance Services

Nick Laske, Maintenance Services

Marjorie Slack, Custodial Services

Shaun Robinson, Custodial Services

Joe Klimek, Custodial Services

Kaitland Semones, Custodial Services

Nick Gerth, Maintenance Services

Genelyn Coffey, Custodial Services

Jeff Benton, Maintenance Services

Zach Richardson, Engineering Services

Fran Rodriguez, Custodial Services

Bill Johnson, Custodial Services

Sarah Major, Custodial Services

Megan Curtis, Custodial Services

Keith Kendall, Maintenance Services

Dana Jones, Custodial Services

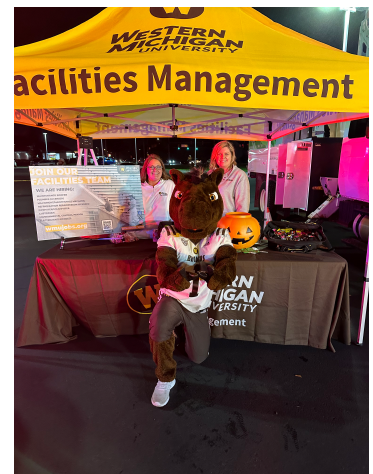
ASYLUM LAKE PRESERVE STORMWATER TREATMENT PROJECT

The Asylum Lake Policy and Management Council in collaboration with Western Michigan University is hard at work on a stormwater treatment project at Asylum Lake Preserve. Once finished, the system getting installed will treat urban runoff, improve the lake quality and help protect the preserve. We are very excited to complete this project soon and can't wait to see the positive impacts it will have on our community! Read more about the project at WMU News, <https://wmich.edu/news/2023/09/72823>.



FM AT TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT

We had an absolute blast at the DeNooyer Chevrolet Trunk or Treat event on October 26! We joined in with WMU DPS to hand out candy to lots of kids in the community. A huge shout-out to all who joined in and stopped by to say hello - the incredible costumes truly lit up our night!



Our AVP, Chad Stirrett, is sharing open office hours every Thursday for 1.5 hours beginning December 7, 2023. To schedule your 30 minute meeting, please contact Tara DeHaven at 269-387-8556 or tara.dehaven@wmich.edu

LANDSCAPE TO START APPLYING BRINE SOLUTION ON CAMPUS

With winter on the horizon, we'd like to clarify a common question you might have. If you notice our Landscape Services employees applying a substance on the sidewalks, you may wonder, "What is it?"

Well, it's a brine solution—a proactive measure for anti-icing effects. This solution plays a crucial role in preventing the formation of bonded snow and ice on the sidewalk surfaces. In simple terms, it helps create safer walking areas across our campus. Additionally, this approach eases the snow and ice removal process during significant storms or flash freeze events.

But the benefits don't stop there. It also reduces airborne salt particles and speeds up the return to normal sidewalk conditions when temperatures rise. Importantly, the solution is safe for contact and poses no harm to those walking on campus. We're committed to ensuring your safety and convenience during the upcoming winter season!

FM ESSENTIAL NEEDS FOOD/ PERSONAL ITEM DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who donated during our Essential Needs food and personal item drive in November. With your help, we were able to donate 87.5 pounds of food and personal items!



FM AT THE BENEFITS-WELLNESS EXPO

Thanks to everyone who stopped by to see our booth at the 2023 Benefits-Wellness Expo! We had a lot of fun sharing about our department and having people play our Toilet Toss game. Buster even stopped by to join in the fun for a bit!



NOTE FROM THE AVP

Hello Facilities Management Team,

I hope that everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving. I would like to give my sincere appreciation for those who worked supporting events over the holiday weekend. It's been a fast three months here at Western, and I appreciate everybody's willingness to share their story and welcome me to the organization. I have had an opportunity to meet with many staff members and crews over the course of the past three months. It was great to have a conversation with all of the maintenance shops and landscaping crews. I have now started to schedule meet and greets to get out and meet the custodial crews and I am looking forward to the conversations.

As we all know, Michigan really has only two seasons - construction season, and winter. This is my first year cycle here at Western, and it's been impressive to see the conversion from the warm season to the winter season, as the buildings get converted to winter operations and the crews prep the vehicles for snow removal. We have already had our first snow event, and after driving an hour on icy roads, it was great to get to campus and see how much better the conditions were when I arrived. Great work! As we move into winter, please remember to be safe - getting to work is important but getting to work and home safely is most important. Give yourself plenty of time and drive safe.

We have a couple of upcoming Holiday appreciation events coming up. On December 14th, there is Christmas Cheer with the President, and on December 21st, we have the Business and Finance Holiday appreciation lunch. I would like to encourage everybody to take the opportunity to step away from your daily work and participate in these events. I would also like to give a big shout out to Alonda Hamilton and David Prellwitz for being selected as fall semester candidates for the Make a Difference Award. Congratulations!

Have a great Holiday season everybody! Keep up the great work, and thank you for all that you do.

Chad Stirrett
Associate Vice President

MAKE A DIFFERENCE SEMIANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS, FALL 2023

Congratulations to Alonda Hamilton, one of our custodians, and David Prellwitz, one of our gardeners, for being selected to receive the fall 2023 semiannual Make a Difference Award! They both received their award at a celebration on Monday, December 4. We are so proud of you both and very thankful to have you on our team!



EMPLOYEE THANK YOU'S

Dan Maley is an excellent carpenter and is so easy to work with. He's a "can do" type of person and a great FM representative. I'm glad he has followed us from the Bernhard Center to the Student Center!

- Paul Terzino, Student Center

I just wanted to give a "shout out" and props to the two glaziers (Mike Davenport and Gerry Gobeil) that came over today to replace two panes of glass in the greenhouse roof. It is really appreciated. Speaking from experience working on a greenhouse room is both difficult and dangerous. Please let them know how thankful I am for their effort.

- Chris Jackson, Finch Greenhouse

(Joe Truppa) was a great guy, have no complaints and he repaired our problem (with our blinds) quickly.

- Reid, resident at Eldridge Hall

Joe (Baxter) was here while I was at class, however he did a good job replacing the handle (on my microwave), and everything is clean and how it was left. Joe left a kind note and locked the door on the way out. Overall a great job done.

- Joseph, resident at Arcadia Flats

Bruce (Kirkendall) was efficient, friendly and thorough. Excellent customer service and workmanship.

- Paul Terzino, Student Center

To all of you and the entire WMU community that graciously contributed your time (to bring the Gary Sinise Foundation training to the Bernhard Center), thank you. The event exceeded our highest expectation. I am unable to articulate how rare the opportunity to host the foundation. The usual curriculum was thrown out and rewritten to fit Bernhard's massive footprint. WMU and Kalamazoo offered an experience to sixty firefighters representing seven states that I doubt can be replicated anywhere.

- Jay, City of Kalamazoo

You might know that we survey patients every year and one of the questions asked is to rate your "Satisfaction with the cleanliness and general appearance of the facility". The survey is benchmarked against 38 other similar college health centers in the U.S. Again this year, the measure at Sindecuse Health Center beat the benchmark average. 98.4% of respondents rate their satisfaction with the cleanliness of the building as satisfied or very satisfied. This is a tribute to the care taken by the WMU AFSCME custodial staff assigned to an aging building with heavy foot traffic and sometimes challenging cleaning "situations." On behalf of the leadership team at Sindecuse Health Center please share our gratitude with Judy, Kirsten, Bri and Sam. We truly appreciate their efforts!

- Joe VanDerBos, Sindecuse Health Center

You guys are like ninjas, lol. Thank you (Jimmy Nearchou) for fixing the problem (with my outlet) so quickly. It was like no one had ever been there, except that the outlet is working again.

- Ava, resident at Harvey Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 15 - Fall semester ends

Dec 16 - Fall commencement

Dec 20 - New employee tour 2 p.m.

Dec 22- Start of holiday recess period

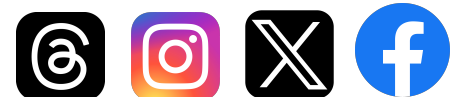
Jan 8- Spring semester classes begin

LINKS OF INTEREST

wmich.edu/wmutoday

wmich.edu/wellness

wmich.edu/news/2023/09/72823



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If you are interested in submitting information for the next Facilities Connection newsletter, please contact Laura Kirkendall at laura.l.kirkendall@wmich.edu.