

# FACILITIES CONNECTION

ISSUE: 8  
JAN/FEB 2024

NEWSLETTER



Seita Scholars  
Holiday Dinner  
Sponsored by  
AFSCME

Revel & Roll:  
Employee  
Appreciation  
Event





# SEITA SCHOLARS HOLIDAY DINNER SPONSORED BY AFSCME

It was another successful year for the AFSCME Local 1668 tradition of hosting a holiday dinner for the Seita Scholar students at the Gilmore House. On December 18, AFSCME employees cooked and served dinner to a group of about 30 individuals. All the students and their coaches were extremely grateful for the generosity and kindness shown to them during the event.

As an extra surprise, the students got a visit from Santa and his elf after dinner! Santa was able to bring each student a gift bag with the help of the donations provided by FM staff. Each gift bag contained a blanket, water bottle, some snacks and a hot wheels car, as many of the students asked Santa for a new car the previous year. The magic of the holidays could be felt in the room that evening!





# BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS BY WESTERN VIEW APARTMENTS

Bus stop improvements by Western View Apartments were recently completed. The enhancements aimed to boost the safety and visibility at the crosswalk intersection near the clubhouse. A total of five light poles were added along with a new cement pad to the right of the bus stop. Check it out when you're in the area!



## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



**CONGRATUALTIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO WMU!**

Jani Hart, Maintenance Services, 10 years

Travis Hutchens, Maintenance Services, 10 years

Mike McClish, Maintenance Services, 10 years

Kim LaViolette, Landscape Services, 25 years

Denise Dooley, Landscape Services, 30 years

John Rook, Maintenance Services, 35 years

Cherie Neumann, Maintenance Services, 35 years

## RETIREMENTS

Darlene Zackery, Custodial Services, 36 years at WMU

Earl Conner, Custodial Services, 27 years at WMU

Mary Konecki, Custodial Services, 21 years at WMU



# REVEL & ROLL

## EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION EVENT

What a fun time it was to get away from our day-to-day roles and enjoy some time together! From bowling, to axe throwing, to billiards, to sharing a meal, it was so great to connect with everyone. Thank you to the planning committee who put together such an amazing event. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves and we can't wait for the next time we can come together as a team!





# NOTE FROM THE AVP

Hello Facilities Management Team,

I hope that everybody had a great time at the Facilities Management appreciation event at Revel and Roll last week. Special thanks to the Events Committee for all of the work they put in to coordinating the event. Remember to give us your feedback, we could use it to plan for future events. We have now had our first big winter snow storm. Special thanks to the grounds staff for coming in over the MLK day weekend and keeping the campus clear and as safe as possible. I received a special thanks from the athletics staff for all of your effort. I believe the term they used was “the grounds staff was awesome” over the weekend supporting the Athletic events. In order to continue to support our engagement initiatives, I have started to hold office hours. If you have something you would like to discuss, ideas of how we can do things better, or you would just like to talk, I am available. They will be scheduled the last Wednesday of each month. Just contact Tara DeHaven to schedule. Thanks for keeping WMU running, everybody! Stay warm and stay safe.

Chad Stirrett  
Associate Vice President

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Ed Ashwell, Construction Services	Sherry Smothers, Custodial Services
Jonathan Meinke, Custodial Services	Peyton Patesel, Custodial Services
Cain Dever, Landscape Services	Kyle Beck, Landscape Services
Jon Sacha, Landscape Services	Johnny Thompson, Maintenance Services

## NEW PROJECTS ON CAMPUS

- Office for Sustainability - Roof Replacement
- Gilmore Theatre Complex - Toilet Partition Replacement (Rms 1050, 1060 & 2014)
- Pedestrian Crossing on Ring Rd S by Miller Parking Structure - Design for improvements
- Sangren Mall - Expansion from Sangren Fountain to intersection at Ellsworth Hall
- Dalton Center - Center for Advancing Arts Research, renovation of multi-media room (1st floor)
- Campus Master Plan - Campus master planning for 2025 and beyond
- New Valley Residence Hall - Demolition and replacement of Valley III



# EMPLOYEE THANK YOU'S

Thank you (Rob Gresham) for completeing the work order (for dmaged and loose tile) so quickly.

- Jake Woods, Environmental Health and Safety

Thank you (Glen Brigham and Nick Laske) for checking on the issue with the lights in Waldo Library.

- Dion VanAtter, Maintenance Services

(Bruce Kirkendall) quickly fixed (the closet door) and was very kind and friendly. Thank you!

- Breanna, Resident at Western View Apts.

Plumbers (Brad Gowin and Ethan Stamp) came promptly, and we are grateful they were able to fix the issue (with a leak) quickly.

- Chad Lenczycki, Dining Services

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mark Heineman and Bryan Sutton for your dedicated efforts over Winter Recess. Your commitment to addressing issues during this time has been invaluable and always prevents more costly repairs. Year after year, the investment in overtime proves its worth, and your willingness to step in during the recess is genuinely appreciated. Thank you for your outstanding contributions.

- Marcy Lynn, Maintenance Services

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 1 - Spirit Day

Mar 4-8 - Spring Break

Mar 7 - Formal Headshots, Sangren Hall 4550, 9 a.m. to noon & 12:30 to 5:50 p.m.

Mar 8 - Spring Break Closure Day

## AVP OPEN OFFICE HOURS

Our AVP, Chad Stirrett, is sharing open office hours from 1-4 p.m. on the last Wednesday of every month. Other meeting times can also be made available on request. To schedule a meeting, please contact Tara DeHaven at 269-387-8556 or tara.dehaven@wmich.edu.

## LINKS OF INTEREST

[wmich.edu/wmutoday](http://wmich.edu/wmutoday)

[wmich.edu/wellness](http://wmich.edu/wellness)

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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](mailto:laura.l.kirkendall@wmich.edu).