

THE SEED SOWER

OU Facilities Management Quarterly Newsletter



Message from the AVP

OUFM Team Members,

As always, I want to begin my comments with a word of appreciation to everyone who contributes to the success of OU Facilities Management. The work you all perform is crucial to the mission and success of the University.

We had a successful summer maintenance season in 2023. The projects and engineering division led several projects such as the MUCH needed replacement of Cate Center Drive. The utility division completed several capital projects including utility relocations in advance of the Jenkins Avenue widening project. The maintenance division replaced sidewalks and repaired the parking lot at the Lloyd Noble Center among other projects. Landscape services planted the mums and custodial services prepared campus buildings for the fall semester. These are just a few select examples of your efforts!

As we transition into the fall, we will continue to prioritize providing exceptional customer service to our university community. As such, I have set a new work order completion goal of fewer than 40 days by December 21, 2023, when OU closes for winter break. Decreasing the number of days it takes to complete a corrective work order directly benefits our community and positions us to be a best-in-class facilities department. I look forward to each shop's progress toward this goal.

Our annual Fall Festival is right around the corner and I hope to see everyone at the event!

*Be Safe,
Matthew C. Rom
Associate Vice President for Facilities Management*

UPCOMING DATES

FALL FESTIVAL

October 6th

QUARTERLY AWARDS NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

October 6th

OU HOMECOMING

October 16th - 21st

OU BENEFITS ENROLLMENT

October 16th - November 3rd

THANKSGIVING VACATION

November 22nd-26th

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

December 11th-15th

WINTER BREAK

December 22nd - January 1st

RETIREMENTS

David Mangus - January 2024

Have an idea for the next quarterly newsletter? Email Facilities@ou.edu with your idea!

FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Garrett



On August 22nd, Garrett turned into a real-life bird whisperer. Notified by caring students about an injured bird, Garrett led it to safety. But Garrett's kindness didn't stop there! He reached out to WildCare Oklahoma, a local wildlife sanctuary, who x-rayed the bird and discovered a broken wing. Thanks to Garrett's swift action, the bird is now in their expert care, receiving the treatment it needs for a full recovery before it is released back into the wild.

NEW HIRES

FACILITY SERVICES

Tyler Farris | Aug 7
Jacqueline Garcia | Aug 7
Michael Abernathy | Sept 11
Ethan Salsman | Sept 11

LANDSCAPING/GROUNDS

Ian Chilson | Aug 14
Christopher Howell | Aug 14

UTILITIES

Josh Grigg | Sept 25

MAINTENANCE

John Prater | Jul 3
Noel Mata | Jul 3
Anthony Elder | Aug 14
Rodney Strickland | Aug 28
Mikal Behm | Aug 28
Jeffrey Lawson | Sept 11
Ricky Buettner | Sept 11
Maurice Flowers | Sept 11
Jacob Steele | Sept 25
Kenneth Barton | Sept 25
Camron Kaulaity | Sept 25

WELCOME



MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

1 YEAR

Raymond Jones | Oct 9
Kirby Riley | Oct 9
Lee Tannehill | Oct 9
Nancy Andrews | Oct 10
Geena Brownell | Oct 17
JonPaul Cox | Oct 17
Damien McBride | Oct 17
Iris Hermosillo | Oct 17
Brooke Rhoton | Oct 24
James Mathes | Oct 31
Logan Tougas | Oct 31
Spencer Keely | Nov 1
Rachel May | Nov 5
Sandra Megaha | Nov 7
Teresa Deaton | Nov 13
Tsewang Ghale | Nov 14
Ryan Middleton | Oct 14
Michael Mower | Nov 21
Dearl Nickell | Nov 21
Stuart Simpson | Nov 29
Manny Calcado | Dec 5
Brandon Doty | Dec 5
Charles Hamilton | Dec 5
Travis Rubrecht | Dec 5
Shaughn Sackett | Dec 5
Jace Stout | Dec 5
Robert White | Dec 5
Ethan Wisener | Dec 5
Josh Cavalier | Dec 5
Ethan Lawson | Dec 5

5 YEARS

William Henry | Oct 15
Arturo Ramos | Oct 28
Eddie Nichols | Dec 9

10 YEARS

Dan Alinger | Nov 4
William Cooper | Dec 2

15 YEARS

Glenn Roberts | Oct 25

20 YEARS

Alex Loftus | Oct 4

25 YEARS

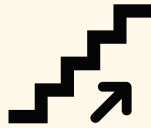
Melanie Daniel | Oct 24

30 YEARS

Jason Jones | Oct 2

FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

UTILITIES STEP COMPLETIONS



Jason Alvarado

Step 1 - Maintenance
Maintenance Mechanic

William Hall

Step 2 - Operator
Operator

Shelby Rubrecht

Step 4 - Maintenance
Maintenance Mechanic

Ryan Middleton

Step 5 - Maintenance
Instrumentation Technician

PROMOTIONS

Congrats to the following team
members on recent promotions!

JEFF BLAIR
Utility Foreman

CALEB BLAKLEY
Line Locator

KENNETH BARTON
Concrete Finisher

IAN CHILSON
Tree Surgeon

STEVEN EVANS
Gardener

KUDOS KORNER

Patricia Retting and Malissa Harbison

...we have the BEST housekeeping staff here in Ellison Hall!! They are they sweetest ladies, they are so thorough, hardworking and they do a wonderful job! We really appreciate them and I know they are also in Dale Hall Tower. 😊

Gordian Team

A BIG thank you to all of those who helped with hosting Gordian while they were on campus this fall. All of you were important in the efforts to make the Gordian Visit successful.

Area Maintenance - Curtis Davis, Dearl Nickell, Kyle Brunsmann
Electric Shop - Joshua Hardy, Brendan Cox, Jon Harper
Plumbing Shop - Justin Stephens
Planning & Engineering - Chris Van Buskirk
Maintenance Services Director - Glen Gordon

QUARTER 3 AWARD WINNERS

Q3

CUSTODIAL DAVID MILLER



DAVID MILLER IS A CUSTODIAN FOR CUSTODIAL. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 3 YEARS.

“*David is extremely reliable and a high-quality employee. He takes on additional duties, keeps his supervisor informed, and his area is consistently cleaned a very high quality.*”

FACILITY SERVICES DAMIAN FRANCO

Q3



DAMIAN FRANCO IS A SHIPPING AND RECEIVING TECH FOR FACILITY SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 6 MONTHS.

“*Damian puts customer service first and has been a fantastic addition to the Material Management team this year. Damian has a positive attitude, pays close attention to safety, and is always willing to help with anything needed.*”

Q3

UTILITIES RYAN MIDDLETON



RYAN MIDDLETON IS AN INSTRUMENTATION TECHNICIAN FOR UTILITIES SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 9 MONTHS.

“*Ryan has taken on an above and beyond workload within the Utility Plant Maintenance group. He is always thinking outside the box and how to improve equipment performance. Ryan's focus on proper equipment to ensure preventive and predictive maintenance can be completed correctly, directly contributes to FM's core values of innovation and sustainability.*”

CUSTODIAL- LEAD MIGUEL MORALES

Q3



MIGUEL MORALES IS A LEAD CUSTODIAN FOR CUSTODIAL. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 14 YEARS.

“*Miguel is a great help in leading the team and does with a big smile on his face. His knowledge of the building locations of both main and north campus is a tremendous asset to the team. Miguel leads by example and is always willing to help all.*”

FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

SAFETY PROGRAM

Congratulations to our team members who have successfully completed the safety program!



UTILITIES
CRAIG CARLEY



UTILITIES
GERICK SMYTH

FM Team Members who are actively participating in the Safety Program:

BLAINE WINN
CHARLIE KELLER
CHRIS GEORGE
DAMIAN FRANCO
DAN ALINGER
GAVIN FOREMAN
GEENA BROWNELL
JEFF HOLZBERLEIN
JIM LAMBERT
JOE STOVALL
JOSH CARR

STUART SIMPSON
BRANDON DOTY
KENNY TRAMELL
PATRICK DOWNS
RYAN BRACAMONTE
JEFF HUNT
DEDE BRANNON
DARREN BEAN
TYLER FARRIS
LOGAN BYERS

save the date



Pictured: Bessie James' photo of the Iowa Princess performing the Hoop Dance at the Jacobson House in May 2023.

Bessie from Landscaping has been a photographer for 25 years. Bessie captures Kiowa cultural events such as the Kiowa Black Leggings and the Kiowa Gourd Clan, as well as nature, and optical illusions. Her photos have been featured in the Sooner Magazine.

SUMMER PROJECTS

Mums Preparation

The Landscape - Gardening team has been hard at work all summer preparing the South Oval for OU's traditional mum season. Thank you Gardening Shop for all of your hard work making campus beautiful!



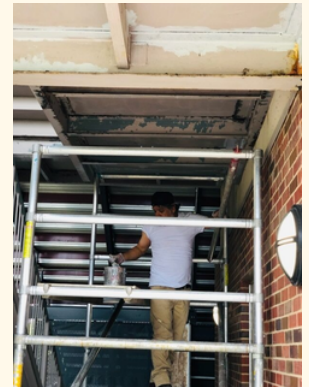
Burton Hall Electrical Room

The Planning & Engineering and Electric teams worked together to update the electrical system in Burton Hall. Thank you for all of the hard work updating this building!



Soccer Stadium Stairs

The Paint Shop repainted the stairs at the OU Soccer Stadium to enhance the fan and athlete experience. Thank you Paint Shop for your dedication!



SUMMER PROJECTS

Jenkins-Brooks Sidewalk Repairs

The sidewalk at the Jenkins-Brooks intersection was repaired this summer to enhance functionality for public users. Thank you to the Roads Shop for all of their hard work!



Water Bottle Station Installations

8 Water Bottle fill stations / water fountains were installed in the Bizzell Library to help promote sustainability and give students/employees a place to refill their water bottles. Thank you Planning & Engineering and Maintenance Services for supporting OU's dedication to sustainability!



Physical Sciences Electrical Upgrade

Electrical work was performed at PHSC to move the building off an outdated 2.4 kV feeder and onto the campus 12.5 kV electrical distribution system. This upgrade removed old and failing 2.4 kV components. A new transformer was installed for PHSC and the building is now able to be fed from multiple loops allowing for electrical redundancy and system lineup flexibility. Thank you Utilities team!



SAFETY UPDATES



SAFETY UPDATES

This Year In Review

It has been just about one year since I started tracking safety concerns for Facilities Management. Safety concerns include official Safety Observations and Near Misses, as well other “Hey, would you check this out?” concerns brought to my attention by team members. Through August 2023 we have had the following reported:

Type	Number Reported	Number Closed
Observation	57	49
Concern	23	19
Near Miss	8	7
Total	88	75

You may notice that the number closed does not match the number reported. The open ones are still in the process of being corrected.

While many of the reported concerns were low risk and easily corrected by the submitter or by various FM teams, some of the concerns could have resulted in serious injuries if they had not been reported and corrected.

While many of the reported concerns were low risk and easily corrected by the submitter or by various FM teams, some of the concerns could have resulted in serious injuries if they had not been reported and corrected.

For example, a near miss was reported when an old pipe threader was difficult to turn off with one hand. A team member's glove caught in the threader and they had difficulty turning the threader off. The threader was decommissioned and new one purchased that allows the user to easily stop the thread cutter.



Another example is damaged stairs at one of the buildings. The concrete on the stairs was deteriorating and had the potential to fail under a person's weight. The stairs are currently roped off and repairs are scheduled.



Reporting of safety concerns is greatly appreciated. I commend all of you that reported them to me over the past year. It takes everyone's diligence to identify previously unidentified risks and I thank you. We have nearly 800 eyeballs in Facilities Management and we need every single one of them on the lookout for safety challenges. Please let me know if you see any.

-Jeff Mlekush

HR UPDATES

HR UPDATES



Providing professional development and training opportunities to all levels of the organization is part of Facilities Management's strategic plan (Pillar 1 – Strategy 3 – Tactic 2). To support this tactic, I have been surveying department supervisors and managers for their suggestions for developmental and training topics they would like to see offered within their department. Recently I tasked Advisory Council representatives from each shop to survey their team members as well for your input on what you would like to see offered. Some of the suggested topics included effective communication, conflict resolution, time management, and managing change. Many of these topics are available through OU's Human Resources Learning & Development team through online workshops. My goal is to offer these topics in-person in Facilities Management's training room located at 705 E. Lindsay. If you have suggestions for training topics or ideas, please email me jshinabery@ou.edu, I'd love to hear your feedback!

Not sure who your shop's Advisory Council Designee representative is? Below is a list of the current representatives:

Facility Services: Melinda Clark, Patrick Higdon, Shelli Cossio, Dan Alinger, Carmen Detar, Charlie Keller, Jace Stout; **Maintenance:** Jimmie Shockley, Justin Stephens, Jason Gerhard, Damian McBride, Aaron Brown, Manny Calcado, Chris Jones, Johnathan Harper, Tim Winkelman; **Utilities:** Michael Bergan, Jeff Blair, Gary Campbell, Dewey Privett; **Landscape:** Caleb Blakely, Chester Warner, Bessie James, Tammie Mitchell, Leland Cox, Stephen Osburn, Noah Stewart

Budgeting Workshop with OU MidFrist Bank:

Facilities Management is partnering with OU MidFirst Bank's MoneyCoach Program to offer a personal budgeting workshop. The holidays are just around the corner and creating a budget is one of the first steps to prepare financially! MoneyCoach, Sarah Willmet-Whiteman, will be hosting a Budgeting 101 workshop on Tuesday, November 14, from 9:00 AM- 10:00 AM at the 705 E. Lindsay training room. If you'd like to attend, make sure to coordinate with your supervisor and sign up through the sign-in sheet located in your shop.

Open Enrollment Reminder:

Open Enrollment is October 16- November 3.

Attend a Benefits Fairs:

Norman South Campus, Stephenson Research

Tuesday, October 10, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Norman Main Campus, Union Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Thursday, October 12, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Please help ensuring your physical mailing address is correct by November 3 in PeopleSoft.

Going Digital: Cigna is transitioning from physical ID cards to digital ID cards on January 1, 2024. As a result, they will not be sending out any physical ID cards to anyone who makes a change to their plan effective January 1, 2024.

Did you know?

This year the final Bedlam football match will take place between OU and OSU. This will be the 118th match between the two universities.

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