Facilities Services Newsletter
December 2008

Economic Downturn
As the College scales back on expenditures a number of non-essential projects have been shelved for the time being, leaving Facilities Services with a lighter than usual project load. With fewer projects on our plates we are focusing on our general maintenance backlog, and engaging in in-depth examinations of our own operations. From the trade shops to the management level, many groups within our department are compiling ideas and recommendations for reducing our budget. Any operational changes affecting the campus at large will be announced in the new year.

Projects:

Biomass/Service Building – Lighting was added to the parking area last week, and some minor asphalt repairs will be completed in the spring. Construction of the physical facility is essentially complete, so Landscape and Custodial Services have returned to their new offices in the Service Building. Our first load of wood chips arrived December first. Chiptec® technicians are in the process of testing and calibrating the biomass system.

Approximately 20,000 tons of wood chips will replace 1,000,000 of the 2,000,000 gallons of #6 fuel oil the College uses to make steam that provides heat, hot water and, in some buildings, air conditioning. Please contact Project Manager Tom McGinn tmcginn@middlebury.edu if you would like to learn more about this innovative addition to the College's Central Heating, Cooling, and Power Plant.

Centeno – Some decayed wood is being replaced on the front porch.

Hadley/Milliken/Kelly/Lang – Installation of wireless network access has been a work in progress, but was suspended during final exams to avoid disruption to residents. Installation resumes after finals, with connectivity expected for the entire building complex by the end of January.

Johnson – Room 207 is being modified for use as the art history studio to accommodate increasing enrollment. Room 206, the former art history studio, will become a classroom.
**Kirk Alumni Center** – Occupants of the two main floor offices were temporarily relocated while an odor issue was investigated and addressed. The probable source was identified as dampness in the club storage room of the Golf Course Pro Shop below. Carpet has been removed from the club storage room, and the walls and floor have been painted with a water resistant paint. Carpet has been replaced in the main floor offices and lobby, and ventilation ductwork is being cleaned.

**McCullough** – Renovations are nearing completion. The social space floor has been installed, the stage floor has been leveled and painted, and the telescopic seating system is being installed. Theatrical lighting and acoustical packages are also being installed. Stairwell and elevator access from the stage to the Green Room are complete. In the lower level areas, painting is complete and flooring installation has begun. Accessibility improvements to the public rest rooms on the 2nd floor are in progress, as is the installation of the glass wall and new entrance to the Juice Bar. Pending receipt of a Certificate of Occupancy from the State, the mail room is scheduled to move into McCullough the weekend of January 9th -12th.

**Munroe** – Three offices on the first floor will be combined into one room to create an archeology lab for the Sociology/Anthropology Department. Evidence uncovered during demolition indicates that these offices were once part of a larger room in the not too distant past. We can only speculate as to why the previous civilization chose to partition this area. The lab will be ready for spring term.

**Proctor Hall** – Exterior work progresses on the southeast entrance and the loading dock on Hillcrest Road, and work continues in the servery and dining room. Demolition of WRMC’s space has begun so that renovations can be accomplished during the radio station’s shut-down period.

The portion of the new book store formerly occupied by the Brainerd Commons offices is scheduled to be completed by mid-January so that the Book Store can be open for business while the original store area is renovated. The Book Store will also occupy the future student program space during this time. February book rush will be held in Redfield Proctor.

**The Rohatyn Center for International Affairs (RCFIA) at Robert A. Jones House** – The Rohatyn Center Conference Room will be off line for the duration of J-Term for a classroom upgrade including a much needed enhancement of media capability. RCFIA frequently hosts lectures and symposia that are broadcast worldwide. Existing media equipment and other conditions in the room result in inferior quality video recordings and an unstable technology platform for teaching.

The work associated with this upgrade requires opening walls and floors. The resulting need for cosmetic repairs also affords the opportunity to update the décor with new carpet and paint. These cosmetic changes will be extended into the main hallway, stairwell, and lobby for esthetic continuity in the public spaces.

Upgrades will include:
- Video conferencing capability
- Improved multi-media and sound systems
- Confidence monitor (so presenters can also view projected information in front of themselves, without turning to view screens behind)
• Improved lighting and spot lighting
• Backdrop behind presenters to improve visual quality of recordings and provide opportunity to create a distinct Middlebury “look” with our graphic identity.

As an internationally oriented resource and research center, the RCFIA supports the College's goal of advancing global understanding. Often the gateway to the College for visitors, this facility can make an important, lasting impression. In addition to being due for a scheduled classroom upgrade, work on the Rohatyn Center Conference Room was approved as an investment that directly supports the Strategic Plan to secure Middlebury’s position as the first truly global liberal arts college.

Twilight – A “blue light” security light and emergency phone is being installed near Twilight Hall.

Green Bits:

**The Economics of Recycling**
As the entire campus looks for ways to reduce spending, Facilities Services has been fielding questions about the economics of our recycling program. One of the casualties of the economic downturn has been a decline in the recycling markets; however we still realize revenue from this program. Middlebury's “in house” recycling program continues to prove its value in the following ways:

1. It's the right thing to do!
2. Most of what the College recycles is mandatory in Addison County. The rest we do because it is the environmentally responsible thing to do.
3. For every ton of recycling we divert, we save $122.50 (2009 rate) in “tipping” fees at the landfill. So far in 2008, we have diverted 1,578,738 lbs or 789.4 tons through compost and recycling. That's nearly $100,000 of cost avoidance.
4. The College gets paid market value for its recycling rather than paying out tipping fees to dispose of it. Last year, while the market was good, the College received $54,984.37(FY 08) from selling recycling commodities such as paper, plastic, scrap metal, and returnables.
5. The cost of collection is a wash really. If we were not collecting waste to recycle, we would be collecting to landfill. We put our money where it’s going to make a difference.
6. The College sorts and bales most recyclables at our own Recycling Center. By doing this, we are able to ship more material per trailer (40,000 lb per trailer), therefore making fewer trailer trips than unprocessed, loosely packed trailers would require. This equates to less carbon and less over the road time for our drivers.
7. We believe the experience our student workers have when working for Midd Recycling is one they will carry with them well beyond their years at Middlebury. Graduates have called Waste Management Supervisor Missy Beckwith seeking advice on starting recycling and composting programs elsewhere.
8. Recommendation #68 of Middlebury’s Strategic Plan: “Strengthen our environmental leadership and reputation.” In September Middlebury was named by the Sustainable Endowments Institute (SEI) of Cambridge, Mass. as one of the top 15 schools in North America selected as an “Overall College Sustainability Leader.” One of the nine categories contributing to our “A” grade on SEI’s Sustainability Report Card is “food and recycling.” In addition, we are contacted every year by numerous high schools, colleges, and universities from around the world to discuss recycling and composting, wanting to learn from Middlebury's example. That kind of recognition – priceless!

For a current list of what we recycle: [http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/recycle/topics/recyclables.htm](http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/recycle/topics/recyclables.htm)
**Fluorescent Lights**
Please remember! Fluorescent bulbs, including compact fluorescents (CFLs), contain mercury and can **not** be disposed of in our trash. There are CFL collection sites at the following campus locations:
- Stewart Hall – the Brainerd Commons office
- Hillcrest – Room 109 (Jack Byrne’s office)
- Battell Hall – Wonnacott & Cook Commons offices
- Allen Hall – Atwater Commons office
- Ross Dining Hall – Ross Commons office
- Service Building – stock room
- The Recycling Center

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**Trivia*:**
John Nordmeyer of the Admissions office is our latest recipient of a $5.00 gift certificate to the College Store, by virtue of being our **only** respondent to the last trivia question! How many lineal feet of drain line were installed around the Memorial Field House to improve storm drainage? Roughly 1200 feet of pipe was used in this project.

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**Wood chips pour off the back of a truck into the Biomass storage bin.**

Trivia question: How many tons of wood chips were on that first tractor trailer load?

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR! FROM FACILITIES SERVICES**

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*Trivia contest winners receive a $5.00 gift certificate to the College Store. Facilities Services staff members are ineligible to participate in the trivia contest.

Questions about the information provided, and trivia submissions may be directed to hoyenski@middlebury.edu.

Read past issues of the Facilities Services newsletter at: [http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/fs/about/newsletters.htm](http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/fs/about/newsletters.htm)