Do We Look Tired?

“I’m leaving Vermont when I retire. I’ll put my snow shovel in the car and drive south until I find people who don’t know what it is!” Overheard during a recent Facilities Services lunch break; a sentiment likely shared by most of our snow removal crew. We have experienced more “snow events” this winter than the past two winters combined. A “snow event” is defined as any weather event producing precipitation (snow, sleet, freezing rain) that our staff is required to clean up.

This winter has been among the top 10 snowiest winters of all time for Vermont, with February 2008 winning the distinction of the snowiest February in Vermont history. And winter is not over yet… March typically averages more snow than February! So, if you see a Facilities staff member looking worn out and discouraged, please show your appreciation. Give them a smile and a word of encouragement. They have done more than their fair share of shoveling, plowing, sanding, and ice chipping this year.

Effort to Reduce Midd's Draw on Power Grid

Facilities Services will be working with ISO New England and EnerNOC, Inc. on a "demand response" program to reduce our electrical power demand on the New England power grid when called for during times of peak demand. Demand response programs compensate large electricity users for reducing consumption when market prices are high or demand is high and system reliability is at risk.

ISO New England is an independent, not-for-profit corporation responsible for the day-to-day reliable operation of New England's bulk power generation system. EnerNOC, Inc. is a leading demand response and energy management solutions provider for commercial, institutional, and industrial customers, as well as electric power grid operators and utilities.

Middlebury College has committed to reducing our demand on the grid by 350kw of power when EnerNOC calls during peak demands. This reduction will be accomplished by using our own generating systems. Facilities Services may also call upon the campus community to take steps to reduce usage at these times. Field work is currently in progress throughout our campus to establish electrical system monitoring, and back-up generator system operating plans as related to this program. We anticipate our first "trial" 350kw electrical load shedding operation to be completed by June. Pending a successful trial our demand response program will be in place from that point forward.
Strange but True

We have been called upon to handle many unusual situations over the years: extinguish spontaneously combusting mulch, herd an obstinate cow from a tenant’s driveway, retrieve a favorite walking stick from a storm drain for a diva, and remove a pirate flag from the top of our tallest building. The list goes on. These are the things that add variety to our work and often bring us in contact with members of our community who we might not have otherwise met. Case in point: General Custer.

Last month Customer Service Coordinator Jenn Pottinger received a call from a suite in Gifford. The caller was in a panic. The situation was desperate and time was of the essence. Jenn quickly radioed for help. Plumber Myron Selleck was enroute to the Service Building for his lunch break, but changed course to answer the call.

As he stepped off the elevator in Gifford, Myron was flagged down by Custodian Linda Langeway who rushed him to the scene. “I give all the credit to Linda. If she hadn’t told the girls not to run the water, the little guy would have been a goner.”

While our office staff debated all possible outcomes of this emergency, Myron set to work, armed with a pair of pliers and a trusty red custodial bucket filled with water. He carefully removed the sink drain and gently poured the contents into the bucket. And there he was – General Custer, the little blue beta fish. Myron scooped up the General in a cup. “He looked pretty limp and was kind of floating on his side. Then I tapped the cup a few times. He flipped his tail and revived.”

A communal suite pet, the General’s name came from the residents’ tradition of naming fish after political figures. Unlike his human counterpart, our General Custer had attempted a hasty retreat as suitemate Tamara Maye was cleaning his bowl in the sink. “He definitely almost had his last stand at the time of the incident. If it wasn't for Facilities, our poor little fish would not have survived. We are greatly appreciative!”

As a member of the Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department, Myron is no stranger to rescue efforts. “It’s nice to have happy endings,” he says. Yes, it is.

NNECE-Who?

20 folks from our department are attending a NNECERAPPA conference at St. Michael’s College in Burlington March 20th and 21st. Middlebury College is a longstanding member of the Northern New England Chapter Eastern Region Association of Physical Plant Administrators. The organization provides networking and educational opportunities for Physical Plant (Facilities) administrators and staff.

Projects:

Axinn Center – Final painting and clean-up is in progress. Testing and commissioning of mechanical systems is on-going, and Facilities Services staff is attending training sessions on
the operation of these systems. Most furnishings have been ordered, with remaining orders to be placed this week. Remaining landscaping will begin as soon as weather permits.

Arrangements are being made for project architects CBT, to meet with the student organization “Architecture Table,” a group of students with an interest in architecture.

Biomass – Actual construction began this week. By the end of April we will see the building “footprint” defined by concrete footings and steel framing. Steam and oil piping will also be progressing.

Bread Loaf Campus – Electrical upgrades in various locations around campus.

Center for the Arts – Replacement of steam line in front lawn will begin during the week of April 21st. This will be a three week project.

282 Chipman Park – Interior painting in progress and floor refinishing is scheduled for April.

College Library – Electricians will be re-lamping high overhead lights during spring break, with the aid of a personnel lift.

Fletcher House – Spring break carpet replacement for 1st floor dining room and hallway, if material arrives on time.

Gifford Annex Basement – Sinks, counters, and moldings to be put in place this month, as well as electrical requirements for a projection system. New furniture has been ordered for the lounge and study room.

Johnson – Spring break lighting upgrades in 2nd floor studios.

McCardell Bicentennial Hall – Electricians will be re-lamping high overhead lights during spring break, with the aid of a personnel lift.

Munford – Foundation repairs and associated work will be complete by May 1st.

Proctor – Renovation and replacement of the Proctor Terrace began March 10th and will continue through early June. The terrace has become severely deteriorated and has been a source of leaking into the Lower Proctor book rush and dining storage area for some time. The scope of the work will include excavation and waterproofing of the walls, removal of
the concrete topping slab and stone parapet walls, removal and replacement of the waterproofing membrane, and installation of a new concrete deck. The stone parapet walls, which do not meet current building code, will be replaced with benches and railings. Also, the grading of the site sidewalk will be raised, so that stairs will not be necessary to access the terrace.

During this work, the main public access in and out of Proctor will be through the lower level entrance by the Book Store. Fencing and signage will be installed inside and outside the building to accommodate these short-term traffic changes.

**Memorial Field House** – Spring break repairs to a crack in the epoxy floor in locker room “U.”

**Ross Dining** – Spring break repairs to epoxy floor in kitchen, and floor refinishing in dining hall. The new seating also arrives! These will be the same light-weight, comfortable chairs as Atwater Dining Hall.

**Sheep Farm Storage** – Lighting is currently being installed, with storage rack systems soon to follow. We hope to move our inventories to this space prior to May.

**Voter** – The upgrade of the fire suppression system is complete but for miscellaneous carpentry work.

---

**Green Bits:**

**Solar Panels at Hillcrest** - The south facing roof on the west wing of Hillcrest will be fitted with solar panels. The roofing work will start in late March or early April, with the panels being installed in April. In the area that is specific to the panels, the original 90 year old slate roof will be removed and replaced with a standing seam metal roof. The panels will then be installed, along with instrumentation to measure their effectiveness. The current design is to have 40 solar panels that will supply roughly 10 to 12 percent of the annual electricity needs for the building. This installation will be a factor in the pending LEED application for the building.

**LIS “Green Team” Pitches In at the MRF** - On March 6th, members of the self-proclaimed LIS Green Team gamely ventured forth to tour the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and actually “suit up” to volunteer for a few hours of sorting. The team: Brian Foley, Arabella Holzapfel, Linda Knutson, Barbara Merz, Carol Peddie, Jeff Rehbach, Joanne Stewart, and Elin Waagen (who wasn’t able to come along, but was there in spirit). They sorted paper, containers, and several “party bags.” Party bags bear no resemblance to the little favors your mom handed out at childhood birthday parties. These are the remnants of student parties, and they are not for the faint of heart (or stomach)!

The idea emerged from several thoughts in the mind of Carol Peddie, Associate Dean of Library and Information Services. Carol suspected that LIS might be one of the MRF’s biggest waste generating customers, and sought to better understand the impact of their operations. “LIS has a close relationship with Facilities, and we often don’t know what our colleagues do.” She also pondered ways in which the campus community might become better educated in recycling practices. Carol noticed coworkers replacing the caps on recyclable beverage containers “thinking they were doing the right thing.” The Green Team hopes that their effort might serve as an education for the campus community to further promote Middlebury’s environmental efforts. Volunteering at the MRF helped them appreciate the value of pre-sorting their waste and the cumulative effect that can have when it reaches the MRF.
Tips from the Green Team:
--Carol Peddie

- NO LIDS – Empty and remove the caps and lids from bottles before you recycle. The plastic lids are not recyclable and have to be manually removed. It is much faster to sort through a bag of CLEAN bottles and cans that already have the lids removed. Carpal tunnel syndrome has been a problem for sorters constantly removing bottle caps.

- PACKING PEANUTS are a hot commodity! You can bag or box (mark the box) peanuts and put them in the recycling area of your building. There will be a separate recycling bin for peanuts at the main library soon.

- BREAK DOWN CARDBOARD – Flatten the large boxes, or bag up small boxes – but be sure to bag them separately. Don’t mix paper and Styrofoam packing material with the cardboard as this all has to be separated.

- SORT – Take the time to read the labels and separate your recyclables from your trash. Everything you “throw away” gets handled again at the MRF. A bag of “mostly paper” is much easier and much more pleasant to separate when it does not have week-old food remnants or half filled coffee cups mixed in.

- REUSE ITEMS – Did you know you can find usable items at the MRF for your office or home? Check out http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/recycle/Reuse.htm

- LOCATION, LOCATION – Where are the recycling bins in your building? Are they easily located and accessible? The MRF staff wants feedback, so if things can be improved, please let them know.

- EDUCATE – What you do in the office makes a big difference at the MRF. Use what you know and educate others, especially our students. Many areas of campus with high student traffic produce the harder to sort “mixed bags” at the MRF.

- APPRECIATE – What we do and how we do it affects others. Get to know your colleagues and their work processes, and appreciate what they do. Sometimes a small change on one end has a cascading effect!

The staff of the Health Center has also toured the MRF. Interested in touring or volunteering? Contact Supervisor of Waste Management Missy Beckwith at 443-5267.

“You learn a lot about the people on campus by sorting their trash,” says Missy. Amen!
Cheryl LeBlanc of the Controller’s Office won the coveted Book Store gift certificate for February. Many were quick to recognize that May is the month when the MRF logs the highest volume of waste annually. Cheryl, having a direct line to our office, was first to respond.

Question: Who is the diva referenced on page 2 of the newsletter?

*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