Facilities Services Newsletter
February 2007

Facilities Services Heroes!

On January 16, 2007, Facilities Services employees averted disaster by identifying an impending electrical failure in the Central Heating Plant. Their actions avoided a plant shutdown during below zero weather. In recognition of their efforts, they were awarded Facilities Services “You Saved the Day” awards; what we here in Facilities like to call a great big “atta-boy!”

Pictured from left to right: electrician Dan Stearns, Supervisor of Maintenance Electricians Dean Ouellette, and Central Heating Plant operators Ray Marcotullio and Dave Gratton.

Blue Lights Get the Green Light

A $50,000 annual budget line-item has been earmarked for Facilities Services to provide outdoor lighting, “blue lights,” and emergency phones. “This formalizes our ability to support improvements to our security infrastructure by dedicating budget dollars that allow us to plan for them,” says Susan Personette, Associate Vice President of Facilities. How the money is spent will be determined each year after “The Walk in the Dark.”

What is The Walk in the Dark? It is an informal “night walk” of the campus to view pathway lighting, evaluate emergency phone locations, and assess areas of concern. It is attended by a representative from Facilities Services, the Director of Public Safety, and interested students. This year’s Walk in the Dark was held on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m., with Susan Personette, Director of Public Safety Lisa Boudah, and Sarah Moberg ’07. Their route focused on areas identified by students in meetings held in the fall with Lisa Boudah. These areas included Ridgeline, Adirondack View, walkways from FIC to Battell and Ross, the pathway from Atwater Dining to the Atwater Commons house, the front quad walkway from Route 30 to the College Library (traveled by students who park at the CFA), and the main quad between McCullough and Voter. The night walkers also visited Atwater and Ross Dining Hall restrooms to consider the installation of emergency phones, as these facilities are one floor below the main halls and somewhat more isolated.
Public Safety and Facilities Services will work together to evaluate the findings of the night walk, prioritize needs, and identify the best placement of blue lights and security phones for this budget year. Strategic pruning of vegetation can improve lighting in some areas without the need for additional installations. In all cases, the decision to increase lighting is weighed with the potential impact on light pollution of the night sky. When an installation is approved, Facilities Services is careful to select fixtures designed to direct lighting downward. This year’s list of approved installations will be published in an upcoming edition of the Facilities Newsletter.

**Modified Compost Truck Ready to Hit the Streets**

Mechanics extraordinaire Bill Ringey and Reg Menard have just completed modification of a new roll-off box container for our 2005 Freightliner truck. The truck is used primarily for picking up food waste from campus dining facilities and transporting it to our compost facility. With the proper attachments it also has the versatility to swap truck bodies for use as a flatbed or box van should the need arise.

Bill and Reg seized the opportunity to address the shortcomings of our old box container, and set to work designing something to better fit our needs. They built the box lid and “dumper,” changing from a manual winch to a hydraulic mechanism expected to speed dumping time. The tailgate was modified to be water tight, and the door latch was changed to allow drivers to stand further from the opening, thus avoiding the splatter hazard.

The mechanics estimate nearly 2 weeks worth of labor have been devoted to this project. Bill was quick to point out that this time does not include “the sleep I lost thinking about design at 4:00 a.m.” The end result is a more user friendly piece of equipment that will be much appreciated by our drivers. Bravo, Bill and Reg!

**TRIVIA**

Compost Trivia: The College began food waste composting in March of 1993. Our 14th anniversary is just around the corner! Since that time, how many pounds of food waste have we hauled to our compost facility?

The holidays may be a distant memory, and the lights have come off the Norway Spruce on central campus, but yes, we do have a December trivia winner: Thomas Saylor Muhlhausen ’10 of Cook Commons.

Mr. Muhlhausen was just passing by on his way to the Grille when the number 440 popped into his head. There are 460 lights on the tree, says electrician Jack Dapsis. He ought to know - he puts them up.

How *did* Thomas come so close to the correct number? Perhaps this physics major hopeful has a sixth sense for matter and energy…
**Proctor Renovation Delayed**

The College Board of Trustees decided at its December meeting to postpone a proposed renovation of Proctor Dining Hall. The intent of the $10 million project was to extend the life of the building by 10 years. The project will be reviewed by the trustees a year from now, when long term Commons needs have been identified, and the Campus Master Plan has been finalized. Details on this decision were published in the January 26th issue of Midd Points and can be found on the Human Resources web site: [http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/hr/](http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/hr/).

**Projects:**

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**Axinn Center** – Structural steel for the east wing is being erected, but exterior concrete work has been brought to a halt by the cold weather. Workers continue to work within the west wing, building interior office partitions and roughing in electric, sprinkler, and mechanical systems. Application of the stone façade on the tented west wing will begin in soon.

The connection of the east wing to the existing Shepley wing has been problematic, with the discovery of structural issues that have since been resolved. As with many renovation and addition projects, the greatest challenge occurs where the old and new meet.

Many spaces within the original 1900 Starr Library structure, with the exception of the Reading Room and the Abernethy Room, have been dramatically transformed. The old stack area, former loading dock, staff services area, and in particular, the former home of the College's Special Collections and Archives, are no longer recognizable.

To see recent photos of this project, visit the Planning, Design, and Construction section of our web site: [http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/fs/](http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/fs/).
**Biomass** – Town approval was received after project plans were presented to the Town of Middlebury Planning Commission. An ACT 250 permit application is being prepared as design work enters the development stage; and the Controller’s office is negotiating a contract with a prospective supplier of wood chips. Meanwhile, Facilities Services is working toward identifying homes for our custodial services, landscaping, locksmith, and glass shop operations. These folks will be displaced, at least temporarily, by construction. The project is scheduled to begin in mid-July of this year, for an October 2008 completion.

**Bread Loaf** – Work on the Homer Noble Farmhouse foundation replacement is nearly finished. The Birch House is next in line to be lifted for foundation replacement.

**Campus Master Plan** – The Master Plan is moving toward completion. The final presentation is expected for review by the Master Planning Committee, President, and Board of Trustees in May. Master planning consultants Michael Dennis and Associates will then spend the summer formalizing documentation of the plan, anticipated for final Board review in the fall.

Video of the November 30, 2005 master planning open forum can be seen on our web site [http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/fs/](http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/fs/) under “Planning, Design & Construction.” Another all-campus forum on the progress of this massive undertaking is the works for March.

**Hillcrest** – The project continues on schedule with interior sheetrock, taping, and priming complete in the original building, and beginning within the addition. In February, the window installation and exterior trim will be completed, as will the roofing. Interior trim and doors will also be installed this month. The elevator, finish carpentry, and flooring will be installed in March, with finish paint, carpet, and commissioning slated for April. Exterior site work will resume in April, weather dependent. Painting of the exterior of the building is scheduled for May.

**Facilities Green Bits:**

**Ozone Laundry System Considered**
Assistant Director for Custodial Services Linda Ross and MEP Manager Alden Harwood have joined forces to find a greener way to do laundry at the Athletic Facilities – with ozone. They are negotiating with the Daniels Equipment Company to schedule installation of water meters in the laundry, to compare water usage between the existing and proposed systems. “It is important that we compare apples to apples,” says Linda Ross. “We are in hopes of having the meters installed when we are at full bore, and we hope to have the ozone trial system installed to see how it does with our athletic uniforms.” The ozone system will be installed on a trial basis after we have gathered a month of meter readings on our current system. Then it can be determined if the benefits of an ozone system justify an investment in the equipment.

What are the benefits of the ozone system? An ozone generator is installed to work with existing laundry systems by infusing ozone into the wash water. Ozone is an extremely efficient sanitizing and disinfecting agent, reported to produce whiter, cleaner, softer linen. The savings gained with an ozone system come from eliminating the need for heated water (it is a cold water system),
reduced overall water usage, reduced chemical usage (by at least 20%), a ten minute decrease in drying time per load, and extended linen life.

**Recycling/Reuse Tips:**
All too often we find inter-office envelopes, hanging file folders, and other office supplies in our waste stream. These items should be directed for reuse.

Inter-office envelopes are typically in high demand and are made to be reused many times. We frequently find them in the recycling after only one or two uses. If you have an overabundance of inter-office envelopes, please send them to the student mail room in McCullough. (Label the bundle as “empty” so they are not redistributed as mail!)

Hanging file folders and other office supplies turn up in recycling bins in good to new condition. Please gather any unwanted office supplies and arrange a special pick up with Recycling (x3087).

For more on our recycling program: [http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/recycle/](http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/recycle/)

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

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