



Facilities Services Newsletter

April 2010



“How To” Revisited

Mid Mag’s recent *How To* feature, while undeniably informative and entertaining, made one critical omission which we are about to rectify...

How to make Winter Carnival snow sculptures – when there’s no snow on the ground.

1. Identify a supply source:
 - A. Snow dance? Apparently this wasn’t covered in the Winter Term ballroom dancing class.
 - B. Snow Bowl / Bread Loaf? Not enough to spare this year.
 - C. The all-weather athletic field! Snow plowed off the field earlier this season was plentiful enough to survive in mounds.
 2. Deploy our intrepid backhoe operator, Roger Bagley, to load said snow into a dump truck.
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3. Round up one or more drivers* to truck the snow to the central campus quad and... dump it.
 4. Assemble one snow form: Four (4’ x 8’) custom made panels held together with 2 heavy-duty ratchet straps to create a large box.
 5. Have one grounds worker (preferably someone who can tolerate being cold *and* wet - thank you, Dave Oberle) and a hose on hand to dampen the snow as needed. This helps it stick together.
 6. Once more, Roger warms up the backhoe and begins filling the form with snow. Slowly.
 7. After every 4-5 bucket loads, insert 2 grounds workers with tamping tools to pack it down; ideally, guys with a sense of humor and no history of claustrophobia. No, not Dave O. he’s already cold and damp. But he’s tall, so put him on a ladder beside the box to act as spotter. Someone ought to keep an eye on the guys in the box. You can draw your own conclusions. This year’s lucky in-box candidates: Steve Santor & John Quelch. They either fit the previously mentioned criteria or were overdue for their turn at doing something weird. We have lots of those jobs, so we try to be fair. (Note: Step 7 has been compared to stomping grapes in a wine vat.)
 8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 until the form is full.
 9. Remove ratchet straps and form panels to reveal one very large, firm cube of snow.
 10. Repeat steps 2 through 9 until desired number of snow cubes adorn the quad.
 11. Now add students with a competitive spirit and a dash of creativity!

Sometimes, to spite all our hard work, Mother Nature dumps on us just before the carnival! But that’s a good thing.

**A nod to dump truck drivers Dave Berthiaume, Jamie Case, Dave Groshans, and Paul Gurney.*

PlantMyPhone Campus Challenge – Win \$1000!



Manager of Waste Management Missy Beckwith has entered Middlebury in PlantMyPhone's Campus Challenge, competing with Johns Hopkins, Tufts, Tulane, and others. [PlantMyPhone](#) sells recycled materials from old cell phones to fund tree planting in tropical zones where trees have proven most effective in mitigating climate change.

Ten recycling displays will be distributed around campus (locations to be announced). Each display contains postage paid envelopes, making it EASY for you to unload your spent cell phone without sending it to the landfill. Why bother? Cell phones contain toxic materials, many of which are on the EPA's list of "persistent bioaccumulative toxins." If incinerated these substances can pollute the air; in landfills they can leach into groundwater. The EPA estimates **over 100 million** cell phones go out of use every year. Keeping them out of the waste stream sounds like a good idea. And if that isn't incentive enough, for sending in your old phone, PlantMyPhone will enter you in a random drawing to win \$1000!

The PlantMyPhone program is open to the entire campus community, faculty and staff included. Follow our progress, how many phones we collect, how many trees we plant, and how we stack up to other competing schools in the [Campus Challenge](#).

A Holiday Like No Other

April 27th through May 3rd is National Plumbing Industry Week! Yes, really. Nooooo, it's not an April Fool's joke. The United States House of Representatives passed a resolution in 2008 to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association (PHCC) and the role the plumbing industry plays in "protecting the health and safety of the nation." And by the way, the PHCC is *the* oldest trade association in the construction industry. Still don't believe it? Check out this You Tube video on [House Resolution #1082](#).



So bust out your plungers and get ready to celebrate NPI Week! Or at the very least, say "Hi" to one of our plumbers or HVAC technicians and let 'em know how much you appreciate modern sewage and heating systems, and oh, yeah – running water.

Landscape Services Crew Wins Award

Our own Middlebury College landscape services team won the 2009 Grand Honor Award for "Landscape and Garden Commercial Maintenance" in the Green Works/Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association's annual competition. To see the project summary and photos submitted to Green Works visit Tim Parson's 2/11/10 [blog posting](#). Congrats Landscape Services!

P.S. - If you're not a regular reader of Tim's blog *The Middlebury Landscape* (dare you admit it?) you don't know what you're missing...

Fashion Statement?

You may have noticed our flashy new vests. Have no fear. Day-Glo garb is *not* the latest spring trend. To comply with standards set by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration and American National Standards Institute, anyone working in or near a roadway needs to wear a high visibility safety vest. That's OK with us if it reduces the risk of getting run over. And we do look *mahvelous!*

Projects:

Annual Exterior Inspections – Nothing says “spring” like checking our buildings for wood rot, peeling paint, sagging gutters, and missing shingles.

Gifford – Installation of a carbon monoxide detection system and upgrades to the fire alarm system are finished.

Hadley/Milliken/Kelly/Lang – Carpet was replaced in the 3rd floor hallway of Lang, and outside the Kaleidoscope offices in Milliken over the break. Bathroom vanities are being repaired or replaced as needed. Installation of a carbon monoxide detection system and upgrade of the fire alarm system has begun. This work will continue for approximately five months.

Wired Glass Replacement – Wire mesh glass is being replaced with fire rated safety glass in hallway and exit doors campus wide. This work has been completed in the athletic complex, and Gifford, Hepburn, and Battell dorms. Replacements will continue in other dorms (TBD).

Town Bridge – Bridge work resumes on April 5th, and work begins on “Academy Street,” the new connector road between Weybridge Street and South Main Street. This work will include new sewer connections to Twilight Hall and The Mill. It is likely that Franklin Street will be closed to thru-traffic during this work. Traffic notices from the Town will be shared as they are received.

Warner – A small flat roof on the west side was replaced last week.

Green Bits

LED Lighting Saves Energy

Students Oliver Weisser '12 and Win (Dexter) Yu '12 approached Engineering and Energy Manager George McPhail with the suggestion of working towards changing campus lighting to LED technology. As a starting point, Oliver and Dexter evaluated the impact of replacing the halogen bulbs in the fixtures above the Ross Dining serving lines, replacing thirty 50 watt halogen lamps with 9 watt LED lamps. The initial investment of \$890 will realize a simple payback within 1.1 years. The estimated savings over the lifespan of these thirty LEDs is \$10,300 in energy, material, and labor costs. The halogen bulb lasts approximately 300 days versus the LED's 5,000 day span (based on 10 hours daily usage).

Why don't we convert *all* campus lighting to LED? LED as a light source is relatively new technology, therefore still expensive. An all-at-once conversion of that magnitude would represent an enormous expense. There are also disadvantages in temperature and voltage sensitivity, and lighting quality. Current LED technology would not be suitable for all applications. As the technology progresses and purchase price improves we will integrate LED lighting where feasible.

Meanwhile, we are taking advantage of Efficiency Vermont's lighting rebate program to also replace a number of wall mounted exterior lights with LED “wall pack” fixtures. Efficiency Vermont's generous rebate program will cover the cost of these fixtures.

The Value of Unrecovered Recyclables – Throwing \$ Away

At a February conference of the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR), panelist Jerry Powell of *Resource Recycling Magazine* presented the following national figures on the value of non-recycled (disposed) material:

- **Paper:** Recycling rate of 57% results in \$3.1 billion worth of material disposed annually
- **Aluminum cans:** Recycling rate of 55% results in \$1.3 billion worth of material disposed annually
- **Plastic bottles:** Recycling rate of 27% for HDPE, 29% for PET results in \$1.6 billion worth of material disposed annually
- **Steel cans:** Recycling rate of 65% results in \$0.4 billion worth of material disposed annually
- **Glass bottles:** Recycling rate of 28% results in \$0.21 billion worth of material disposed annually

For more information on recycling's impact on the economy [download the presentation](#) materials from APR's February 4 web seminar, "Recycling and the Economy."



Facilities staffers Rick Rheaume, Dave Berthiaume, Jim Friend, Kevin Norton, Kirk Sabourin, and Dan Celik lookin' sharp in their new high visibility vests!

Questions about content may be directed to hoyenski@middlebury.edu.

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