



WASHINGTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Facilities Services Newsletter



December 2019

## Plant Services Prepares for Winter!

By Eric Slocum



It is that time of year again when the possibility that the wonderful white stuff will start falling from the sky! Winter Wonderland. Well, whatever you call it we need to be ready for it. The 3 divisions of Plant Services have to prepare like everyone else, but we might start a little earlier than some. In September we begin the process.

Motor Pool, Heavy Equipment and Grounds all have quite a list of materials that need to be on hand for that early storm we can get in October. Heavy Equipment hauls in sanding rock to fill up the storage building and orders liquid chloride to fill our two 8000 gallon tanks. Motor Pool purchases snow tires and changes them on close to 100 vehicles. Grounds stocks up with 12 pallets of pelletized deicer and lots of shovels to replace last year's worn out ones. As you can imagine there is quite a number of other materials needed such as tire chains and rubber tensioners, diesel fuel additive, ice scrapers, cutting edges for

WINTER.....continued on page 2

### Inside this Issue:

Plant Services Prepares for Winter	1 & 2
WSU Scholarships	2
From the Associate Vice President	3
Service Awards	4—7
Retirement	7
Training Schedule	8
New Employees	9
WSU Holidays Schedule	9
Promotions	10
KUDOS	11 & 12
Halloween at Facilities Services	12
Thanks for Working Safely Award Winners	13
APP Safety Question Contest	14

Enter the Safety  
Question  
Contest on the last page  
of this  
Newsletter and you  
could win a  
**PRIZE!**

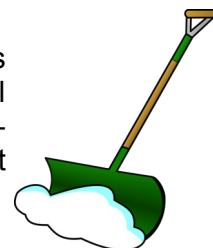
snow plows, RV antifreeze, winter gloves, winter safety kits for rental vehicles just to name a few of the winter requirements.

The amount of snow removal equipment that gets prepared for the season takes a number of weeks to get everything outfitted. Taking off summer attachments and converting them to snow removal machines is part of the yearly task. Mowers are outfitted with brooms and snow blades after the mower decks are removed. Truck beds that are used to dump things in the warm months are fitted with sanders and the snow blades are installed on the front of the trucks. The 7 Toolcats we use on sidewalks and ADA parking spots are all converted from loaders to plows and set up with chloride distributors.

We need to have the materials and equipment ready to go but most importantly we need to prepare the people for winter work also. Snow removal can require working long hours and not always in the best conditions. Everyone is refreshed on cold weather safety, winter driving techniques and snow plow safety operation. All the team members learn the plow routes and locations to shovel. We have maps and procedures that they need to learn before they are put into action. This year we have quite a few new employees that are doing trial runs to ensure they are up to speed by the time it really snows.

There are some things we do that you might not normally think about but is all part of our winter preparation. One of the biggest projects for winter is blowing out all the irrigation lines on campus. With around 95 separate systems and miles of pipe it takes the irrigation crew at least a month to complete this task. Heavy Equipment puts a stake marker at curb ends so while plowing in parking lots they can see the curbs and not hit them. As you can imagine there are a lot of curb ends to mark. Heavy Equipment also builds a ramp next to our rock shed that enables the small loader to dump sanding chips into our sanders easier. Grounds puts out signs and ropes to show pedestrians the areas that no snow removal will occur. At the Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center there is a water feature outside on the building and Grounds winterizes the waterfall to keep it from freezing. These are just a few of the tasks we do that a person might not think of or know about.

So every year by the time the temperatures drop and it feels like winter is here Plant Services is ready for whatever Mother Nature throws at us. We start preparing for winter when it is still hot and dry so we can keep campus safe when winter arrives. It is a team effort within Facilities Services to keep our campus community safe throughout the winter season and Plant Services is prepared to do their part.



**WSU Scholarship Deadline is Approaching!**  
**January 31, 2020 is the deadline for completing**  
**the scholarship application.**

Do you have a student (child or grandchild) that will be attending WSU the Fall of 2020? Now is the time for them to start working on the Scholarship Applications online at:

**<https://financialaid.wsu.edu/scholarships/>**

To be considered for any of WSU scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year, the application must be completed by the deadline date. If you have questions on scholarships, financial aid, and options for funding your students education at WSU, you may call the Student Financial Services office at 509-335-9711.

## From Facilities Services Associate Vice President, Olivia Yang

The end of the year is a good time to reflect on all of your accomplishments this past year.

And 2019 was a busy year for us. We started the year lulled by a mild January which was followed by a very snowy February that taxed us all. Snow removal is something we do well, and in February 2019 our extraordinary efforts were well recognized across campus. Snow removal is typically an effort across units, and in the last few days of February I recall seeing many on the sidewalks with shovels who would not normally be doing so.

This past year many of you interrupted your work to address significant failures in our aging infrastructure: work on Feeder EA9, the water line break at the arch near Sloan Hall and the storm sewer blockage at Rogers Hall. These unexpected disruptions along with planned infrastructure repairs like the tunnel lid replacements on College Avenue shine a light on Facilities Services' collaborative and creative approach to difficult challenges. Our success in responding to these challenges and in keeping the physical plant of the university operational depends on all units and divisions working together.

It is when we work together that we do our best work.

2019 also marked increased attention to our deferred maintenance backlog and how the condition of our facilities are a hindrance to the University's Drive to 25 and its mission of teaching, research and service. We are fortunate to have the support of university leadership in developing new processes to optimize our scarce capital dollars.

In thinking of our maintenance backlog, our organization and the industry in general, there is real potential for technology to play an ever increasing role. But as we consider investments in

technology and capital improvements, we must also make sure that we are ready to optimize those investments, by investing in ourselves.

In reflecting on what we do with the lean resources we have I am always filled with pride to serve the University with all of you. As we look to begin a new decade, we should think of our many accomplishments as the platform for an even better year. In the coming year, we intend to begin conversations about Facilities Services and our culture, and how we can be the service provider of choice for the University, as well as the workplace of choice. These conversations will build on the behaviors we value: teamwork, collaboration, innovation and creativity, resilience, a service orientation balanced with stewardship. These conversations will clarify our roles and how we meet the future. I am looking forward to these discussions and I hope you will too.

Wishing you all that is merry and bright this holiday season. May you enjoy the holidays with those that matter the most to you.





# Service Awards!



**Riley Gale**  
**5 Years**



**Mark Hadaller**  
**5 Years**



**Dustin McGillic**  
**5 Years**



**Kent Overby**  
**5 Years**

# Service Awards!



**Kevin Hill**  
**10 Years**



**Eric Lynch**  
**10 Years**



**Skip Nelson**  
**10 Years**



**JB Self**  
**10 Years**



# Service Awards!



**Louise Sweeney**  
**15 Years**



**Don Hulst**  
**15 Years**



**Brian Funke**  
**15 Years**



**Rick Finch**  
**25 Years**

# Service Awards!



**Sharon Stout**  
**35 Years**



**Bonnie Becker**  
**40 Years**

## Service Awards Not Pictured:

**Alysha Andres ..... 5 Years      Jolene Osterberg ..... 5 Years**

## RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Barry Birdsell! Barry has served the University for 47+ years! He spent the majority of his time at WSU in the Window Washer position. Anyone on campus that has a window in their office or area has probably met Barry and his crew. We will miss having him as part of the Facilities Services Team as I am sure people across campus will too.

Enjoy retirement Barry and thank you for your years of service and dedication to WSU!



## RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS!



CONGRATULATIONS to Deborah Carlson on her retirement after serving the University for 32+ years. Deborah started her career at WSU in the Budget Office as a Budget Analyst 1 with several promotions. Approximately 1998, Deborah accepted a position as the Budget Advisor to the Provost Gretchen Bataille. When Provost Bataille left WSU in 2000, Deborah transferred back to the Budget Office as the Associate Budget Director for Capital, served as interim Operating Budget Director and was later promoted to the Director of the Capital Budget which is the position she held upon retirement. Deborah has worked with higher education operating and capital budgets for almost 41 years with 8 of those years at the University of Idaho. We feel very fortunate to have had Deborah as part of the Facilities Services Team and wish her an enjoyable retirement with more time to spend with her family, friends, and her music.

### January Training Sessions

**To sign up, contact D. Thomas 335-9846 or at the front reception area in McCluskey Services**

Other Upcoming Training can be found at [facops6/safety/default.aspx](http://facops6/safety/default.aspx)

Facilities Services Training	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Asbestos for Trades	Wed, Jan 08 8am-10am	EHS Basement	Matt McKibbin
First AID/CPR/AED Enrollment Capacity: 5/8	Tue, Jan 28 8am-12pm	Admin Conf. RM 173	D. or Jann

**Open to the public every Friday 10am-3pm**



# WSUSURPLUS

ebay

GovDeals

Public Surplus

<http://surplus.wsu.edu>

Find us on Facebook



# Welcome New Employees!



Name	Position	Division
Terren Torgeson	Custodian 1	Custodial
Richard Priebe	Custodian 1	Custodial
Catherin Campbell	Custodian 1	Custodial
Jolee Wilcoxson	Custodian 1	Custodial
Fred Nowack	Waste Collector	Waste
Danny Roe	Equipment Operator 2	Heavy Equip
Gary Duke	Grounds Nursery Services Specialist 3	Grounds
Jacob Reeves	Truck Driver 1	Waste
Jake Frazier	Grounds Nursery Services Specialist 3	Grounds
Joseph Whitney	Maintenance Mechanic 3	Maintenance
Robin Turner	Grounds Nursery Services Specialist 2	Grounds
David Gutierrez-Aguirre	Grounds Nursery Services Specialist 2	Grounds
Carlos Amado-Cogollo	Grounds Nursery Services Specialist 2	Grounds

## WSU Holiday Schedule

Christmas	December 25 - 26, 2019
New Years Day	January 1, 2020
Martin Luther King Day	January 20, 2020
Memorial Day	May 25, 2020

Independence Day	July 3, 2020
Labor Day	September 7, 2020
Veterans Day	November 11, 2020
Thanksgiving	November 26—27, 2020

# Congratulations Promotions!



Congratulations!

**Eric Lynch**

Promoted to:

Automotive Mechanic Lead  
at Motorpool



Congratulations!

**Ben Breitsprecher**

Promoted to:

Grounds Supervisor  
(GNSS6)  
for Grounds Department

Congratulations!

**Kurt Brantner**

Promoted to:

Maintenance Mechanic 1  
In Maintenance Services



# KUDOS

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"I just wanted to say thank you. I am a senior at WSU and have noticed you (Fred Cook) cleaning in Todd multiple times over the years. Without you, one of the busiest halls at WSU would not be an enjoyable learning environment. Most people probably don't think how important your job is, but I have and want you to know your work does not go unnoticed. I appreciate you! Thank you!"

Madeline

"I would like to extend a big thank you to the men of the Sheet Metal Shop (Chad Congdon and Steve Gates) for the outstanding service they provide to our shop. Any time we need a quick turn-around on fabricated parts for projects they exceed our expectations. They truly make our jobs easier. Thanks again for all you guys do."

C. Gray

"I am writing to offer my compliments regarding Rachelle Ragains, custodian in Biotechnology Life Sciences building. I have been a 'resident' of BLS since it's opening and have seen several custodians come and go. It is very nice to know that Rachelle is here and is very dependable. Rachelle never fails to smile at me and say good morning. Although I don't typically see her every day, I've had several wonderful interactions with her. She is very responsive when I ask questions or have suggestions. As noted above, I have seen several custodians come and go. I believe the team we have in BLS at the moment (Rachelle Ragains & Taylor Bartlett) work well together and our building is in particularly excellent shape in terms of cleanliness. Thank you for partnering the two of them together!"

C. Emerson-Farr

"I would like to acknowledge the work the custodial staff (Brandy Berney, Jennifer Shaul, Josh Woodland) are doing in the Spark Building. The Spark is a place where activities are happening all the time – ALL THE TIME!!! These activities are broad in nature – everything from class time across the curriculum, ASWSU

student groups, hackathons, evening exams, activities inside classrooms and common spaces. These activities bring hard use and debris wherever they happen. The custodial staff are extremely patient and diligent in their work to return the Spark back into a condition appropriate and inviting for classes to begin the next day. Their work is absolutely critical in ensuring the Spark is the welcoming and conducive to learning and interacting for faculty and students. So – a huge shout out to the custodial staff in Spark – they are awesome."

J. Manwaring

"Now that I'm all settled in my new office, I just want to take a moment to thank you (Stacy Gravel) for your good work on making it just what I wanted! In fact, it's better than I imagined it would be, and I'm delighted with how it all turned out. It makes me happy every time I walk in! My office has become quite a popular place lately – lots of folks hearing how nice it is and coming by to check it out! I really appreciate your work on this and your guidance as I was picking things out (the chairs are totally awesome!!). Thank you so much, Stacy. "

V. Murray

"Thank you Jason (Baerlocher) + Ralph (Webb) for your forensic work on this issue. I appreciate your precision and follow-through. We are moving all art from the vault. We will soon use it only for crate storage. It is a pleasure to work with you both!"

R. Held

"Can you let Li (Yi) and Marla (Haskell) know I really appreciated the time they spent with me today, showing me around Sloan. They are both great, very professional, and really have that Customer focus attitude, which is fabulous. They identified a few things that I will check on (building maintenance items), but otherwise the areas looked great and they are doing a great job with the spaces that they have. "

C. Cole



## KUDOS

"I am the Collections Manager at the Museum of Anthropology in College Hall and I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate Jon Asplund. Jon is one of the most positive people I've ever met. He always looks on the bright side and is helpful, and resourceful. Yesterday he came over in response to a work order that I put in. I thought we needed new light fixtures in the display cases in our first floor hallway, and was frustrated that we would have to wait quite a while and spend money (which we don't have a lot of). Jon helped us figure out what our problem was and how to make the best use of the fixtures we have. Please make sure that Jon gets the credit he deserves!"

D. Curewitz

"Thank you Signe Stolz for the quality work done prepping and painting an office in our department. It looks like a new room! Signe was professional and friendly in her interactions with staff. Thank you Signe!"

C. Alred

"We have a new grounds person here at Northside named Robin (Turner). He has really cleaned up our area and the Regents area. Thank you so much."

C. Martin

## Halloween at Facilities Services



Once again, Halloween did not slide by without a visit from some interesting characters this year. Left to right we have Corrina Johnson as the Operations game man ("Cavity Sam") complete with a pair of tweezers around her neck. Then there is D. Thomas as a Zombie prisoner, Margot Buckley as a Gypsy. Next we have Deborah Carlson sporting a black outfit with a fashionable zombie throw. Joanie Thomas looked fabulous in her vampire bat costume accessorized with a boot and crutch. Roxy Hunt gave a glimpse into the future dressed as an old lady completing her outfit with a tissue in her sleeve. Mike LaVielle sported Halloween colors finishing his outfit with Halloween theme socks. Stacy Gravel was a true Twinkling & Shooting Star. Jackie Hedenstrom tried to find a costume online but all she got was an error message "No Costume at this Site" that she wore proudly. Heather Munro showed up with a "Chip on her Shoulder" which proved to be a real potato chip sitting on her shoulder. All in all, we appreciated the fun style and creativity of the group. Rumor has it "ZZ Top" was sighted visiting Facilities Services from Auxiliary Facilities Services across the street from McCluskey.

## Thanks for Working Safely!

**Tom Moore**



### **Congratulations to Tom Moore and Marty Brigham!**

#### **WINNERS of the “THANKS FOR WORKING SAFELY AWARD!”**

Tom Moore was observed using Lockout Tagout at the Allen Center to replace a BSL3 Isolation Damper (Bubble Tight Damper). Tom applied Lockout to the electrical disconnect.

Marty Brigham was nominated for wearing proper personal protective equipment (PPE) while working on a piece of equipment in the Motorpool Shop.

**Marty Brigham**





## Facilities Services Safety Committee

### Safety Question Contest for the Month of December 2019

**Directions:** The answer to the question below can be found in one of the chapters of the Accident Prevention Program (APP). Read the question carefully. When you think you have found the answer, you may email your answer to Jann Dahmen-Morbeck [jann.dahmen@wsu.edu](mailto:jann.dahmen@wsu.edu) or print off this page and cut out the form on the dotted lines. You may give the form to your supervisor to send in intercampus mail to Jann or drop it off at her desk in the front reception area of McCluskey Office building. The names of all employees who submit the correct answer will go into a hat for a drawing. Whoever's name is drawn will be able to pick out one of the monthly safety awards. This contest will be open only until 5 p.m. on January 15, 2020 so get started finding the answer now and win a nice prize! Link to APP Chapters: <http://facops6.ad.wsu.edu/safety/APP%20Manual/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

#### Reference APP Chapter 7 Accidental Injury Reporting

**Question:** Which SPPM(s) is/are referenced in the Process section and how many steps are noted in the Process section and what are they?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Employee submitting the above answer:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Division:** \_\_\_\_\_

*October's Question: APP Chapter 27 - 1) What equivalent chill temperature correlates what two factors together? 2) At what temperature is the department to provide cold weather protective clothing to employees that work outside?*

**Answer:** 1) Estimated Wind Speed and Actual Temperature Reading. 2) When the equivalent chill temperature is at or below -25 degrees Fahrenheit.

### **CONGRATULATIONS!** **FRED COOK is the Winner!**

Fred Cook's entry for the Safety Question was randomly selected from the total entries with correctly answered questions. Those correct entries not chosen will be placed in the bucket for the annual Safety Award Drawing at the Facilities Services Picnic summer of 2020.

*Thank you to all that entered the contest!*

