The spring, summer, is quite a hectic time for people in their lives. But then it comes to autumn, and to winter and you can’t but help think back to the year that was, and then hopefully looking forward to the year that is approaching. The past summer has been a very busy time for all of us. Most of the summer we prepared for the reorganization of bringing the trade shops to the zones, moving the painters to KU Construction, and developing the new Central Operations for Maintenance. As of September 8, 2015, we have been reorganized and thanks to all of you it went as smooth as could be expected. Our six zones are bigger and our new initiative now is to concentrate on Preventive Maintenance (PM). As we move forward, our teams will be working more and more on PM. It has been a proven fact that with a good PM program, reactive maintenance calls will decrease. The ideal preventive maintenance program will prevent frequent equipment failure before they occur – thus decreasing unexpected downtime and expenditures. In the coming months, we will be actively working on developing a 24/7 shop. This will allow us to respond to emergencies faster and in some cases decrease damage due to floods.

I have heard many rumors since the reorganization idea was announced. Rumors and gossip can be debilitating for any organization. They create a kind of parallel universe that siphons vital energy away from important work. Trust and rumors are mostly incompatible. If there is low trust, it is easy for someone to project something negative for the future. When trust is low, these sparks create a roaring blaze like tinder in a sun-parched and wind-swept desert. If trust is high, the spark may still be there, but it will have trouble catching on and growing. This is because people will just check with the boss about the validity of the rumor. I would like all of you to trust the direction that we are moving this organization. I've been talking about the smaller budgets that we are operating with and no filled positions have been lost. We are all still here. Please trust that if we are told to get leaner that we will make every effort to only hold vacant positions from being filled. I want to improve our communication within Facilities Services. If you hear a rumor, ask your supervisor if it is true. If they don’t know, they will ask further up the ladder and we will get you an answer. Remember you can always email, call or stop by and see me and I too will get you an answer.

The start of this new season provides a wonderful opportunity for you to renew. Fall has arrived - behold the changing leaves, and enjoy the crisp breeze. Thank you for everything you do.

Stop by and say hello,
Vince Avila, Director, Facilities Services

**News**

- Sam Gunther is retiring in November
- Do you like to celebrate your birthday? Fill out a birthday sheet and receive a birthday greeting!
- September 28-October 2 is Campus Sustainability Week
- October 23 is the deadline for the November EAC Employee of the Month
- November 15 is the deadline for the Health Quest $480 discount
- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

![Keith Visoscky (right) & David Weeks (left) performing monthly fountain work at the University Guest House.](image_url)
Distracted Walking Is a Significant Safety Threat

We see this all the time, not only on campus, but everywhere we go, including our homes. Distracted walking injuries are on the rise, with women and people ages 40 and younger experiencing the most injuries. As the joke goes, some people can’t chew gum and walk at the same time. Apparently, a large number of us can’t chew gum and walk at the same time, either.

Fifty-two percent of distracted walking incidents involving cell phones happen at home – not adjacent to roadways, as many may believe, according to a study in the Journal of Safety Research. Sixty-eight percent of those injured are women, and 34 percent are people ages 40 or younger. "Whether we are in the car or on foot, it is important to be aware of our surroundings, even if they are familiar," said Deborah A.P. Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council. "More than half of all unintentional injuries each year happen at home, so don’t take your safety for granted. No call, text or update is worth an injury.”

Distracted walking injuries involving cell phones accounted for an estimated 11,101 injuries between 2000 and 2011, making it a significant safety threat. The trend is so alarming that it was included for the first time in the annual National Safety Council statistical report, Injury Facts, which tracks the leading causes of unintentional injuries and deaths.

Unintentional injuries are the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. While cell phone distracted walking injuries were most common among women and those ages 40 and younger, the study found the issue is impacting all age groups. Twenty-one percent of those injured were 71 and older. Talking on the phone accounted for 62 percent of injuries, the most common of which were dislocation or fracture, sprains or strains and concussions. Nearly 80 percent of the injuries were due to a fall.

The rise in cell phone distracted walking injuries parallels the eight-fold increase in cell phone use in the last 15 years. It is just as important to walk cell-free as it is to drive cell-free. Pedestrians and drivers using cell phones are both impaired and too mentally distracted to fully focus on their surroundings, according to a white paper released by the National Safety Council, "Understanding the Distracted Brain,” and research published in Accident Analysis and Prevention. For pedestrians, this distraction can cause them to trip, cross roads unsafely or walk into motionless objects such as street signs, doors or walls.

Energy Office

The Energy Office has been very busy organizing data and coming up with energy savings potentials. Below is a list of projects and news about what we have been up to.

LED Lighting
The LED Lighting project is progressing. Hundreds of existing compact fluorescent and halogen lamps have been replaced with LED.

Natural Gas Purchasing
Natural gas prices have dropped significantly over last winter & spring. The University locked in 50% of its natural gas use for FY2017 and FY2018 at a price of $0.342 per therm.

Thermostat Set Points
Work is continuing on changing set points on thermostats to avoid simultaneous heating and cooling. JRP’s savings from this and other conservation measures amounted to over $11,000 for FY2015.

KU Energy Hogs
This project is focused on looking at KU buildings that are among the top 15% of energy users on a Btu/sqft basis. The buildings that have been identified are below.

The goal of this project will be to do a close review of these buildings to see look for opportunities to bring energy use down. Example of work being done at this time include looking at an HVAC replacement project for Watkins that will cut its energy use in half. Repairs and changes in operations at Eaton Hall amounted to over $30,000 in savings for FY2015.

Westar Solar Project
The solar panels for this project have been installed on the roof of M2SEC. Waiting on a power connection for the solar array cluster controller. This will be complete in October.

Energy Dashboard
Training was provided by Schneider Electric on the Power Monitoring Expert system. Setting up a dashboard with the system was included in the training. The Energy Office will be working on this as time permits (time has not been permitting).

Occupancy Sensors
Looking at areas where lights are being left on to determine savings potential and cost.

Scheduling
The Energy Office and Sustainability have worked to make operating schedules in buildings accurate. Many buildings were operating over weekends or late in the evening for no reason. Many of schedules have been reduced. Work is being done to get departments to let us know about additional hours of operation that are needed in buildings each semester.

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The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

-Mark Twain

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I would like to convey my extreme satisfaction with the resolution for this work order request. In addition to a quick response, there was a rapid resolution, and the individuals followed up to ensure that the problem was really addressed. Overall - very thrilled with these two gentlemen and their work efforts!!  
Kandi White, Business Manager, Undergraduate Biology Program

I wanted to take a moment and send a thank you for several of your staff members. ... There were several items going on here in Strong related to Facilities today – there was some type of drain problem in the custodial closet that overflowed into the hallway – the staff who handled the problem were very courteous and professional. They informed what was going on and followed up by letting me know that someone would be over to clean a couple spots in the carpet. I’m not sure who this one was but … There was a gentleman here this afternoon from Facilities to do a repair on part of our carpet that had a lifted section in it. He did a wonderful job and it looks great -- can hardly even tell. I just wanted to let your office know how much we appreciate your office and your staff and what you do for our office and our staff.

Sharon Parnell, Provost Office

I was given your name by one of the cleaning staff in Watson. I just wanted to commend your staff on the excellent job that they did in cleaning the exterior of the 2nd floor entrance to Watson Library. It looks very nice and we greatly appreciate your efforts on our behalf! Much appreciated!

Shannon Royer, Director of Fiscal Services, KU Libraries

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Sharon Parnell, Provost Office

Julie Popiel, Administrative Assistant - Ellsworth Hall

I just wanted to let you know that I did a walk-thru of the building today and it looks wonderful. Very clean and in good shape. I was happy to see everything looking so great.

Julie Popiel, Administrative Assistant - Ellsworth Hall, KU Student Housing
EAC Employee of the Month July:
Olga Gonzalez

Olga is a team player who takes pride in her work and is known for going above and beyond expectations. She is highly adaptable and often volunteers for more tasks. She is a no-nonsense employee who takes pride in her work and supports her team members. She was nominated by Jeff Jones & Becky Shepard.

EAC Employee of the Month August:
Jeannie Russell

Jeannie Russell has worked in Landscape but after an injury she went to help do inventory in the store room. We received three nomination forms for Jeannie hailing her excellent skills of learning quickly, being pleasant to work with, efficient and a team player. Jeannie was nominated by the entire storeroom staff and leadership.

EAC Employee of the Month September:
Peter Bridges

Many who work in Facilities know Peter as his accent and colorful personality often precedes him. The number of people who praise Peter’s work are numerous. When his nomination came forward additional letters of support were quickly offered because many felt passionate that Peter’s work and dedication was astounding. Many praise his cheerful attitude but above all there’s no one who won’t say that Peter doesn’t jump in and help—and stay until the job is complete. Peter was nominated by Dale Smith & Dennis Madere.

KU Employee of the Month September:
Guy Price

Since coming to Facilities Services, Guy has been an essential catalyst for moving Zone 5 towards a Preventive Maintenance mentality to improve and cut down on reactive maintenance. This accomplishment alone will not only save the University money, but time and effort. Guy can analyze and synthesize large amounts of data and make a decision based on not only data but also on intuition. He has the can-do, will-do attitude to get the job done. Congratulations Guy on a job well done.

Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.

-Theodore Roosevelt