

News and Views from Facilities Management



October 2019

Welcome back to all!

With all the new faces on campus, I always use this issue to remind everyone that only Facilities Management (FM) and contractors of Facilities Development are permitted to make modifications to campus buildings. While seemingly restrictive, the requirement protects you from personal responsibility for damaging University property, and prevents you from inadvertently exposing yourself to unseen hazards. In addition, working through FM helps to ensure you don't violate Western's Bargaining Unit Agreements.

One topic I want to highlight is the ability to reissue keys to new employees without needing to return those keys to the lock shop. We see a lot of new key requests that can actually be accommodated by your departmental key controller receiving keys from a departing employee and reissuing those same keys to a new hire. The key controller only needs to contact the customer service desk or submit a ReADY request by clicking on the access request icon shown to the right.

With the frosty mornings we've had recently and snow in the passes, winter is just around the corner. Look for my special winter weather notes coming next month!



October 16th is Thank Your Cleaner Day (no kidding) – please consider showing some extra appreciation to the hard working custodians in your building.

John Furman, Director of Facilities Management

REQUESTING WORK

There are many ways to request services from FM, ranging from a call to the customer service desk to an online request. [ReADY](https://ready.eas.wwu.edu/) (<https://ready.eas.wwu.edu/>) is FM's work request portal. If you have a chair to fix, a leak to stop, or a key to order, ReADY is how you request all facilities services; if you have a universal ID and password, you are already a registered user. For more information about logging into ReADY, please visit [FM's website](#). You'll find some handy guides on the site for how to log in, how to approve funding, and how to delegate your funding authority.

If you aren't comfortable using ReADY or don't have immediate access to a computer, you can text your concern to fixit@wwu.edu. Finally, if you just want to talk to a real person, give our helpful customer service team a call at x3420 with any questions on your work requests, or email aim@wwu.edu with any issues or suggestions about ReADY.

If you have an after hours need that can't wait until the next work day, please call UPD Dispatch. Dispatch will initiate a call back and someone from FM will be called back to campus to make repairs.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PAINT SHOP

Although named “The Paint Shop”, they do a lot more than simply paint! In addition to painting, this crew does taping and spackling of dry wall, tile repairs, flooring repairs, graffiti removal and all campus signs.



Left to Right: John Major, Deming Burdette, Lance Hedwall, White Miller, Clint Burt (supervisor), Bob Larson, Jessica LaBelle, Javier Duarte, Beto Duarte (shop lead)

SUMMER MAINTENANCE



Also known as “While you were away”, I provide this photo documentary of some of the workmanship our crews provide that might otherwise never see the light of day!

One of the most significant projects we undertake each summer is the annual steam shutdown. This shutdown allows us to perform critical repairs and maintenance on the system without subjecting the crews to high pressure steam with temperatures as high as 338 degrees F. To the left are some lines below SMATE before the work and below are those same lines from inside the tunnel after the insulators worked their magic



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The next series of pictures is from a mechanical room in Old Main. Over the summer contractors replaced the ancient heat exchanger and FM crews came in to finish up certain valves and insulation. It's hard to believe these are pictures of the exact same location - amazing how much less space current technology takes up!



Old Main Steam/Hot Water Lines



Old Main New Heat Exchanger

If you happened to be walking through the flag plaza this past Thursday you would have seen most of the carpenter shop working with a concrete truck to pour a new foundation which will be the new home of the Judd Sculpture. The piece (shown below), a part of Western's public art collection, was removed from in front of Old Main a couple of years ago to be restored.



The Judd Piece

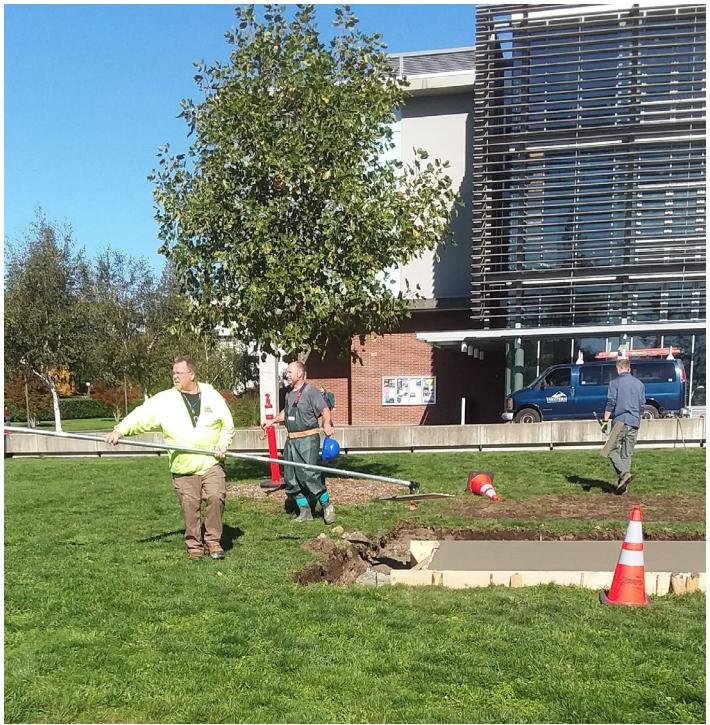


Formwork & reinforcing steel

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Concrete being pumped into the formwork



Finish work on the slab surface

ANNUAL ELECTRIC OUTAGES



For those who were here over the summer, you were almost certainly in a building where we scheduled electrical outages for maintenance. It's common for me to be asked why we have to inconvenience campus for these outages so here's a Readers Digest explanation.

We actually operate our own electrical distribution system with nearly 300 high voltage switches and transformers along with all the cabling necessary to run such a system. Just as you change the oil in your car, the electrical system requires regular maintenance, and it's always safer to perform that maintenance when the power is off. The value of preventative maintenance is always hard to demonstrate since the fundamental objective is to *prevent* a catastrophic failure – and I can't prove what didn't happen!

Shown to the left: a typical high voltage switch cabinet

CLOSING THOUGHTS

If there is some topic or project you would like to see addressed in these notes, please let me know. If you are interested in receiving these notes personally rather than through Western Today, please email me (John.Furman@wwu.edu) and I'll place you on the distribution list.