New water infrastructure will boost UC Davis agricultural research capabilities on nearly 300 acres, just west of Highway 113. The infrastructure, which includes new piping and a pump station, was completed as a partnership between the Utilities Services department and the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. One primary goal of the project was to provide excellent test beds to projects across all parcels on the acreage, and this project delivered!

The old infrastructure was from the 1960s and had decayed over time. The original structures were concrete pipes, supplied with groundwater & surface water, with minimal water pressure. The new system became operational in October and will provide filtered surface water at a pressure that allows for drip irrigation. The upgrades will also make doing irrigation research at the site more attractive for scientists.

All of work was done in-house by our UC Davis Utilities Services and the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, and we want to congratulate them on the job well done! The Facilities teams include Utilities Master Planning, Project Delivery, Water & Gas, Instrumentation and Controls, and High Voltage, and Generator Crew, and FM Asset Management/GIS!

Energy Savings & A Serendipitous Find at VetMed 3A!

Our Energy & Engineering team and Building Maintenance Services have done it again! They recently completed a project in VetMed 3A in the large anatomy lab that not only will this save the campus energy, but will also improve teaching conditions for the professors in the building.

The Energy & Engineering team found that the lab was only used during the week throughout fall, winter, and spring quarters, but was ventilated and conditioned 24/7. They decided that the best course of action to reduce energy in the space, but still err on the side of caution, was to provide manual controls that allow the lab operators to temporarily decommission (i.e. turn down airflow) in the lab. They worked with HVAC Controls who then designed and installed the control panel that the lab operators now use.

Once the controls were installed, the final step was to provide the means for controlling airflow. The Energy & Engineering team worked with HVAC Controls and Sheet Metal shops to fabricate a custom 4 foot by 4 foot exhaust damper for the main exhaust duct coming from the lab, along with an airflow station. The system is now able to control the exhaust airflow with the damper and track it with the airflow station. Read more about their work & success in the online version!

REMINDER

Winter is coming! Sorry for the Game of Thrones pun, but winter weather in Northern California is almost here and Fleet Services reminds all Facilities staff to turn your headlights on in foggy weather. Don’t only rely on your auto setting. Why? Because auto headlights during daylight conditions usually do not turn on the tail lights, turning the switch to ON ensures you can be seen.

With rain, winds, and fog around the corner throughout the winter months, it is imperative that you take safety seriously when driving!

Green Buildings and BMS Strive for Platinum!

In Facilities’ first and largest joint green building project between Building Maintenance Services and the Green Building staff, we are setting the bar high! Aiming to be the first UC Davis Deferred Maintenance project to earn a US Green Building Council LEED Platinum certification, the two teams came together to work on certification for the Center for Health and Environment TPHR Lab. The BMS team included the Plumbing, Electrical, HVAC, and Structural shops. Although the final LEED rating won’t be known until the end of 2019, we do know the upgrades our teams worked on improved our overall score and put us in the running for earning a LEED Platinum rating! Read more online!
Darrell Marcum, Fire Alarm Electrician

When the fire alarm system encounters a problem, alarms start beeping, or a panel needs batteries replaced, you need an Electrical Alarm technician to check it out! When this happens, you may see Darrell Marcum on his way to troubleshoot.

Darrell has been working as a Fire Alarm Electrician since he joined Facilities at UC Davis two years ago. As part of the Fire Alarm Shop, he is responsible for testing and maintaining fire alarm systems, and occasionally switching out the older systems with newer panels. However, one of his favorite parts about his job is troubleshooting when something breaks or stops working properly. Most of the time, this can be done within his schedule, but sometimes this means staying after hours or late evenings. According to Darrell, there have been occasions in which the system goes down on a Friday night. When this happens, it means he is staying until the systems are back and working properly. He, just like the rest of his team, gets the job done as lives could depend on it one day (but we hope not!).

Although he was new to campus when he started working here, Darrell enjoys the training and advancement opportunities that are offered. One of his favorite things about working in Facilities has been working with those in his shop. But, when Darrell is not working, he likes to stay active. Outside of work, one of his favorite activities is to work out at the gym and stay in shape.

Facilities is Quick to Respond at Shields Library

Early in November, the BMS Plumbing Shop responded to an odor call in Shields Library and found that a cap for a 3-inch sewer line had detached. This led to the closure of the 24-hour Student Room and restrooms that serve the first, second and third floors. The line was in a small crawl space that needed to be cleaned and disinfected before repair. Our plumbing and projects teams sprang into action notifying the library and Facilities staff of the next steps needed, and a specialty contractor was brought on-site to begin cleaning.

The project team provided daily updates to library staff, helped construct a plastic barrier to prevent any odors from spreading, and laid out deodorizers. The glass shop also unsealed the access window to allow the vendor to start the clean-up.

Once the cleaning was complete the Plumbing shop returned and installed a new cap. They also ensured that there were no further blockages in the line. Then, the Lock shop returned and reopened all restrooms involved. Thankfully, due to the efforts of our team, the library is back to normal operations! Bill Garrity, Deputy University Librarian shared, “I’m writing to acknowledge and commend the work of multiple members of your Facilities Management team in mitigating and repairing the recent sewer line break under the 24-Hour Room, please do extend the Library’s deepest thanks to them... Every one of the folks involved was great to work with – responsive, communicative, skilled, and committed to resolving the issue quickly. The Library appreciates everything they did.”

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Peter Mendar-Warwick with Solano Park Maintenance shared, “Just a quick follow up on the wall heater replacement in Solano Park 4122 yesterday. Ryan Montoya did a clean, thorough, and efficient job. He also communicated well in the scheduling, the run up to, and during the work itself. He and I have done a number of these together and once again, it was a positive experience.”

Congrats to Vevencio Cagaanan in Custodial Services who received a thank you card and Early Academic Outreach Program tote bag on behalf of his excellent work in Haring Hall! The team there truly appreciates Vevencio’s work!

Facilities Staff Step Up During Closure

For the first time in campus history, Chancellor May announced on Wednesday, November 14, that UC Davis would close due to the extensive smoke that settled in the valley from the Camp fire in Butte County. This initial closure extended for more than a week as the air quality did not sufficiently improve. Although the campus was closed and classes cancelled, a lot of work was still going on behind the scenes to assure that campus buildings, equipment and grounds received the attention needed for any urgent work orders and/or repairs. We would like to take a moment to express our thanks to all of our staff for your dedication and commitment. You rock!