

PHYSICAL PLANT NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1
Winter 2004

NEW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DEBUTS

Today, the Physical Plant department begins a quarterly newsletter to better inform the University com-

munity of current happenings, policies, and procedures. We also hope to offer timely reminders, as well as

interesting facts, gardening and home improvement tips. We appreciate any input or questions to be answered.



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GETTING READY TO MOVE!

The Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center completion is just around the corner. The building's opening is the first domino in a long chain of moves. So let's set the ground rules....

- Physical Plant will provide boxes for the move. Order your boxes by email thru FACIL.
- Valuables should not be moved by Physical Plant personnel
- All boxes should be marked with a name and new room number
- The weight of boxes packed should be 50 lbs or less.
- Furniture will not be moved without proper authorization.

Contact:

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Physical Plant #202
(956) 326-2325
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Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday
8AM to 5PM

GARDENING TIPS

What a crazy Winter we have been having! There was snow on Christmas and then 80 degrees on New Years Day! If you feel confused, you are no different than the plants in your yard. Although it has been unseasonably warm, the threat of freeze has still not passed. As you look around the city, you may see significant freeze damage to many trees and shrubs. Trimming back shrubs too early will cause them to resprout tender growth and, if it freezes again, the plant could die completely. Therefore, it is recommended that you do not trim back the dead branches until after February 15th. After this date, you can trim all branches back to the green areas. Granular fertilizer should be applied at this time. After a few weeks, if the new growth de-

velops below the ends of the recently cut branches, trim them back just above the new sprouts. Within a few weeks your frost-bitten shrubs will be just like new.



Freeze damaged shrubs should be pruned after February 15th.

Gardening Tips Brown Bag Lunch
February 11 @ 12 Noon WHTC 103

If your trees require trimming, now is the time to trim them. Winter is the proper season to do major tree trimming. When removing branches you should remove them flush with the trunk and use a pruning sealer. Trees should also be fertilized during this time. A balanced fertilizer 15-5-10 with extra iron and sulfur should be applied at a rate of 1 pound per inch in diameter. Holes should be made at the drip line of the canopy and the fertilizer spread evenly throughout the holes. This same fertilizer should be spread throughout all flower beds and shrubs. We often neglect fertilizing our flower beds and trees, remembering to only fertilize our lawns. Lawns should be fertilized in mid-Spring – this will be covered in our next issue.

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION NEWS

The campus continues to grow at a fast pace. The early fall brought the opening of the Residence Learning Center. The complex is comprised of 4 dormitory buildings, a club house, and a maintenance shop. The buildings can house up to 450 residents and offer great amenities such as swimming pool, computer lab, gym,

*Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center
official opening is April 16th!*

community kitchens, and TV rooms. The complex adds 47,500 sq. ft. of building space to the campus.

The Lamar Bruni Vergara Science Center officially opens on April 16th. The Science Center adds 79,000 sq ft of state of the art science labs and

offices. The new building will house 30 new labs, 43 faculty offices, and a fantastic Planetarium. The Planetarium will offer color 3D presentations with some of the most modern equipment in the world!

The design of the new Kinesiology Building expansion is 90% complete. This next building to be constructed on campus will bring expanded facilities for students and faculty to enjoy.

DO YOU KNOW? JUAN RODRIGUEZ, SITESCAPE MAINTENANCE



Juan Rodriguez supervises the grounds maintenance department consisting of 8 employees that maintain approximately 125 acres. The employees of the grounds maintenance department begin the day at 6AM and work through 3PM. Their daily duties include picking up all trash around campus, emptying all outdoor trash cans, mowing the grounds, maintaining the land-

scaping, athletic fields, and irrigation.

Juan originally installed the irrigation and landscaping for the contractor on phase 1 and 2 of the University. Later he was hired by the University as Sitescape Supervisor. Juan is an ex-bull rider and spent time on the rodeo circuit. He is married and has 3 daughters. He has been employed at the University for 6 years.

PLACING WORK ORDERS

The Physical Plant department schedules all work to be done by issuing work orders. An individual or department wishing to place a work order is asked to send an email to facil@tamiu.edu

Once the email is received by the Physical Plant, a work order will be issued, and a confirmation number will be sent to the requesting party. The work order is then issued to the corresponding department within the Physical Plant. The service worker then has 5 working days to complete the work requested. If there are any complications with the work to be completed, the requesting party will be notified by Physical Plant management.

HOME IMPROVEMENT TIPS

It's not too early to think about your AC!

Since we use our air conditioners throughout most of the year, it is wise to have them serviced before the season begins. AC service companies are looking for business during the off months, by scheduling maintenance early, you are more likely to have prompt service.

Install programmable thermostats. This will save you money by keeping your house warmer than normal when you're out, and still be comfortable when you arrive home.

INSIDE... THE CENTRAL PLANT

The Central Plant is the heart of the University heating and cooling system. The Central Plant houses four 1,000-ton chillers that produce cold water that is piped to all campus buildings to provide air conditioning.

The Central Plant, through the use of boilers or a heat pump, also produces hot water that is circulated to all buildings to provide heating in the Winter or to help control humidity in the summer months. The Central Plant also

has 2 boilers that produce domestic hot water that is circulated to all buildings.

Although hot water is available in all buildings, there is often a considerable wait for it to come out of the faucet. This is due to low usage in some buildings.

The hot water lines in these buildings often cool, and you may need to run the faucet a while before you get hot water out of the tap. So, be patient the next time you need hot water.



Row of four 1,000-ton chillers used to produce cold water for air conditioning throughout campus.

DID YOU KNOW.....

The athletic fields need to be cut 3 times per week during the summer months!

It costs over \$3000 per year to properly dispose of the University's used light bulbs!

The campus has 721,000 square feet of indoor building space!