

# THE SEED SOWER

OU Facilities Management Quarterly Newsletter



## Message from the AVP

*OUFM Team Members,*

*They said with the SEC, "It Just Means More" and they were correct. It has been a fast-paced and busy fall semester so far and the success enjoyed by the University would not be possible without the efforts of everyone in Facilities Management. I want to thank each of you for your hard work over the past several weeks, especially with the extra activities around the Tennessee football game and hosting ESPN College Gameday. The College Gameday team was very complimentary of the hospitality and can-do attitude of our team. What a way to welcome them back to campus after twelve years!*

*I hope you enjoy this issue of The Seed Sower. The editorial team does a great job pulling together articles, kudos, and interesting tidbits for this quarter's publication. The team is always looking for content and would appreciate submissions.*

*The annual Fall Festival is right around the corner, and I cannot wait to see everyone at the event. I look forward to announcing our 2024 Employee of the Year and enjoying delicious fair food. See you there!*

*Be Safe,*

*-Matt*

*Matthew C. Rom  
Associate Vice President for Facilities Management*

## UPCOMING DATES

**QUARTER 4 AWARD  
NOMINATIONS DEADLINE**

OCTOBER 4

**FALL FESTIVAL**

OCTOBER 11

**OU VS. TEXAS**

OCTOBER 12

**BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT**

OCTOBER 14 - NOVEMBER 1

**STUDENT THANKSGIVING  
VACATION**

NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 1

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

NOVEMBER 28-29

**FINAL EXAMINATIONS**

DECEMBER 9-13

**WINTER BREAK**

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 1

Have an idea for the next quarterly newsletter? Email [Facilities@ou.edu](mailto:Facilities@ou.edu) with your idea!

# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### JEFF GREER

Congratulations Jeff Greer on his well-deserved retirement! Jeff is the most tenured HVAC Journeyman in the Environmental Systems department. Jeff began his career at OU in 2000 and quickly became an integral part of the team. Throughout his time in Facilities Management, he was more than just a seasoned professional – he was a mentor and trusted expert in the department. He will be missed but we wish him the best in this next chapter of life! Congratulations, Jeff!



## MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

### 1 YEAR

Kenneth 'Tig' Barton | Jul 3, 2023  
Noel Mata | Jul 3, 2023  
Johnathan Prater | Jul 3, 2023  
Tyler Farris | Aug 7, 2023  
Jacqueline Garcia | Aug 7, 2023  
Ian Chilson | Aug 14, 2023  
Anthony Elder | Aug 14, 2023  
Christopher Howell | Aug 14, 2023  
Mikal Behm | Aug 28, 2023  
Rodney Strickland | Aug 28, 2023  
Ricky Buettner | Sep 11, 2023  
Michael Abernathy | Sep 11, 2023  
Jeffrey Lawson | Sep 11, 2023  
Angela Pool | Sep 24, 2023  
Joshua Grigg | Sep 25, 2023

### 5 YEARS

Bonnie Riedmann | Sep 16, 2019

### 10 YEARS

Lois Arnold | Jul 14, 2014  
Nancy St. Clair | Jul 14, 2014  
Shelli Woolverton | Aug 4, 2014  
Sarah Ballew | Aug 15, 2014  
Justin Combs | Aug 18, 2014  
Aaron Brown | Aug 25, 2014

### 15 YEARS

Ronald Senn | Aug 19, 2009



## NEW HIRES

### FACILITY SERVICES

Ashley Baker | Jul 1  
Jeremy Smith | Jul 1  
Richard Dickson | Jul 14  
Kent Bishop | Jul 15  
Carolyn Scott | Jul 15  
Dakota Chesher | Aug 11  
Tah Lisa Cornett | Aug 11  
Barry Harbison | Aug 11  
Michael Lampe | Aug 11  
Justin Ocegueda | Aug 11  
Michael Wilson | Aug 11  
Dustin Harrison | Aug 12  
Garion Murdoch | Aug 12  
Maxiilian Murdoch | Aug 12  
Tyler Chadwick | Sep 8  
Kejuan Gunn | Sep 8  
Tesonda Johnson | Sep 8  
Jacklyn Autry | Sep 22  
Hannah Baird | Sep 22  
Makenzie Eikenbary | Sep 22  
Timothy Kreun | Sep 22  
Helen Tsotigh | Sep 22  
Nicole Johnson | Sep 23  
Shon Scarberry | Sep 23

### MAINTENANCE

Gregory Pabst | Jul 15  
James Lane | Jul 29  
Christopher Ebert | Sep 9

### UTILITY SERVICES

Makenzie Miller | Sep 23  
Zorion Teref-Ta | Sep 23

### LANDSCAPING/GROUNDS

Brian Clark | Jul 29  
Garrett Jones | Aug 24  
Marshall Radtke | Aug 26

## WELCOME



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# QUARTER 3 AWARD WINNERS

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**Q3**

## **UTILITIES ALEX LOFTUS**



**ALEX LOFTUS IS A IRRIGATION TECH FOR IRRIGATION HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 20 YEARS.**

“

*Alex spends dedicated time with each of the new techs, teaching each on troubleshooting and repairs. Additionally, he is the shop go to team member on operation of large equipment for trenching, etc.*

”

**Q3**

## **MAINTENANCE JOSH HARDY**



**JOSH HARDY IS AN ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 5 YEARS.**

“

*Josh's outstanding job performance is evident in his remarkable flexibility with working hours and unwavering support for sound system events.*

”

**Q3**

## **LANDSCAPE GUNNAR DELAPLAIN**



**GUNNAR IS AN GARDENER FOR LANDSCAPE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 7 MONTHS.**

“

*Gunnar is always going above and beyond everyday. He gives 100% no matter the task and goes beyond expectations to maintain a clean environment!*

”



**Nominate a Team Member for  
Employee of the Quarter**

Scan the QR code for the nomination form  
or email Jessica Shinabery at [jshinabery@ou.edu](mailto:jshinabery@ou.edu)





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# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

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## 705 COMPUTER LAB



The computer lab is now open! The Project Office and Maintenance Services completed a renovation of the ACM shop to a computer lab at 705 E. Lindsey. The computer lab will be used for daily computer access, as well as a variety of online trainings. A calendar is now available in Outlook under the name FM 705 Computer Lab for teams who would like to reserve this space for trainings. Please remember to refrain from reserving this room between 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM, if possible, as it is heavily utilized during these times. Thank you to all the teams who contributed to the creation and development of this space for our department. We look forward to the many learning opportunities this space will offer in future!



Pictured Above : Computer Lab at 705 E. Lindsey

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## KUDOS KORNER



### Marta Morgan

“The tiles are fixed and look great. The technician did a great, professional job. They also examined pipes above the tile to determine if additional repairs/work was need. They kept us informed along the way. Thank you for the excellent work.”

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## IN MEMORIUM

Gregory Allen Cornett Sr.



Former Tree Supervisor, Greg Cornett worked for Landscape from October 2004 to October 2022. Greg passed away on July 8, 2024.

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# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

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## UTILITIES STEP COMPLETIONS

**Dewey Privett**

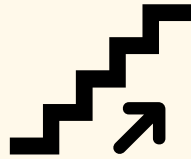
Step 5, Maintenance Mechanic Program  
Utility Maintenance Mechanic

**Travis Rubrecht**

Step 3, Maintenance Mechanic Program  
Utility Maintenance Mechanic

**Jason Alvarado**

Step 2, Maintenance Mechanic Program  
Utility Maintenance Mechanic



## PROMOTIONS

Congrats to the following team members on recent promotions!

**Mackenzie Little**  
Custodial Lead

**Michael Childress**  
Gardener

**Kristin Fulton**  
Gardener

**Garrett Jones**  
Gardener

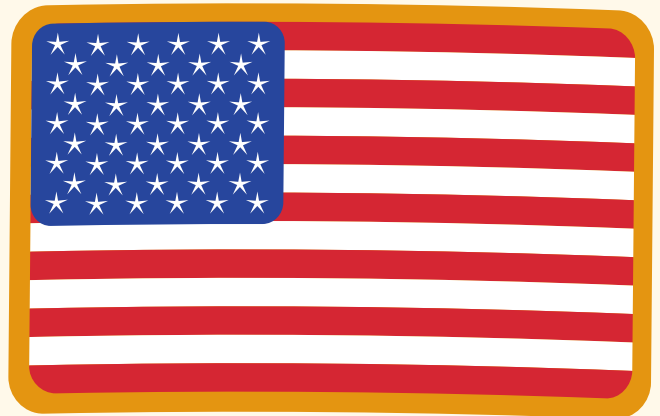
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## FM Proudly Supports Our Veterans & Active Service Members



Pictured: MRTP Supervisor Jim Payne attends a Flag Folding Ceremony on September 12 at the Armory, honoring his father who served in the US Navy for forty years.

*Thank you*  
**FOR YOUR SERVICE**



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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Sooners First SEC Home Game



The University of Oklahoma hosted the Tennessee Volunteers on September 21, 2024, for the first SEC home opener. Facilities Management prepped for the inaugural season by placing SEC banners around the stadium, planting mums in the SEC logo on the O-Drive, adding more waste and recycling bins in new tailgate areas, and assisting Athletics with a variety of maintenance needs. ESPN's *College Gameday* also returned to campus for the first time since 2012, adding another level of excitement. FM supported the program through trimming trees, trash cleanup, and hauling tables and other materials.

During the game, FM offered routine support for pre-game field sound, south endzone cleaning, elevator repairs, and trash duty. At halftime, a main water line on the west side busted, causing a water outage from the Santee Lounge up through the upper desk and press box. FM Maintenance and Athletics Maintenance worked together to temporarily fix the broken pipe.

The Teamwork value was displayed throughout the entire week!



Pictured: Maintenance Services team members Austin Roesler, Brandon Brown, and Glen Gordon respond to the broken main water line during the game.

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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Summer Projects



The quietness of campus after graduation up until move-in means a busy summer for Facilities Management. Check out the improvements and projects across campus from this past summer.



Pictured Left: Utilities, Landscape, and Maintenance Services joined efforts to remove hedges, add sidewalks, replace bench locations, move irrigation heads, and install sod west of Buchanan Hall.

Pictured Below: Utilities, Landscape, and Maintenance regraded the lawn north of Carpenter and Jacobson Hall. Additional plant materials were added.



Pictured Right: The Project Office and Maintenance Services refurbished the iconic red telephone booths across campus.





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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Summer Projects Continued



Pictured Above: Refuse & Recycling painted dumpster trailers used for tailgating at home football games and routine landscape work.

## Headington Dorm Lighting Upgrade

In July, the Electric team, along with Athletics and 2 vendors—Triple C Lighting and Hunzicker Brothers Electric—worked together to install new Lumenpulse LED lights at the top of Headington Athletics Dorm. Part of the project involved removing and disposing of the old, outdated system. The department coordinated with the city to shut down a lane on Jenkins, which allowed us to operate a 125-foot boom lift needed for the installation.

Lumenpulse provided custom electronics to control the new lights, and the FM Electric team worked some evening hours to meet with their technician to upload and fine-tune the system programming. Now, the lights can be controlled via a touch screen in the building, and the setup includes several different color schemes. The Electrical team made sure everything was up and running before the first football game, so it was ready for the season. Great job, Electrical shop!



Pictured Above: Headington Hall lighting at night



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# HR UPDATES

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## SAFETY UPDATES

I would like to give a shout out to all the current, active participants in the Safety Recognition Program. They have been completing extra safety training, sharing safety topics with their team, and turning in observations. These are all instruments that increase safety awareness amongst our teammates and help make the campus safer for everyone! Thank you, all!

### Access Control

- Chris George
- Logan Byers
- Jim Lambert
- Charlie Keller
- Tyler Farris

### Material Management

- Geena Brownell
- Dan Alinger
- Logan Kuhn
- Kyle Armon

### Custodial

- Ashley Bowen
- Cheyenne Farris
- Daniel Crow
- Darren Bean
- DeDe Brannon
- Jeff Hunt
- Malissa Harbison

### Customer Service

- Kristin Odom
- Shelli Woolverton
- Stephanie Cunningham
- Syndi Petross

### FM Business Office

- Terry Coltharp
- Carmen Detar
- Bonnie Riedmann

### Carpentry

- Marta Morgan

### Environmental Systems

- Jimmie Shockley

## HR UPDATES



SAVE THE DATE for Benefits Open Enrollment beginning October 14 - November 1 for all OU employees. There will be two benefit fairs for the Norman campus: Tuesday, 10/8, from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Stephenson Research Atrium, and on Wednesday, 10/9, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM in the OMU Ballroom (3rd floor). Cigna will remain the medical plan carrier for 2025, but there are changes to the plan design and rates for both the PPO and the HDHP. OU has also partnered with Garner Health to help provide a guide to employees in helping reduce medical costs, offer incentives, and provide richer benefits. You can learn more about the plan changes on <https://benefitsenrollment.ou.edu/>

Additionally, Open Enrollment season is a good time to update and review the following:

1. Your mailing address in PeopleSoft Self-service
2. Life Insurance Beneficiaries in PeopleSoft Self-service.
3. Your emergency contacts – email Jessica Shinabery ([jshinabery@ou.edu](mailto:jshinabery@ou.edu)) or Meghan Warren ([m.sanders@ou.edu](mailto:m.sanders@ou.edu)) for updates.

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### Did you know?

The OU campus is ranked among the most 25 beautiful campuses in the United States.

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## LIKE & FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

