Hello everyone, and welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. The Physical Plant has finally been given the green light to move our administrative offices to the ASC “B” building.

Our move should be complete by Friday, October 2nd. As soon as we settle in, we will host an Open House so that all interested parties can come by and visit our new area.

Rick Lobato
Physical Plant Executive Director

The move of the Physical Plant administrative offices to the ASC “B” building will be completed this week. We hope you come by and see our new offices.
Physical Plant Personnel

Chuy Ortiz, MdP Campus Technician, has been working at EPCC for twelve years. He began as the campus technician at Northwest Campus for 3 years, followed by 5 years at Rio Grande Campus. Finally, he has been the campus technician at Mission del Paso Campus for the last 4 years.

Before starting at EPCC, Mr. Ortiz worked in Maintenance Department for 17 years at El Paso Water Utilities at the Fred Hervey Facility.

Chuy tells us that every request is important to someone and should be done with respect regardless of how large or small it may appear.

Last November, Chuy was diagnosed with advanced cancer of the prostate. Chuy went through Radiation Therapy and Hormonal Therapy, and, ultimately, an operation to remove the prostate. He was finally declared cancer-free. He tells us that he feels very blessed to be cancer-free, since many others with advanced cancer are not as lucky. He also credits a positive attitude and a great support system (his family) for the complete recovery.

We congratulate Chuy on his medical victory and are happy to see him healthy and at work.
More than 30 birds roost on the electricity lines and on the poles in front of the ASC “B” building. At different times of the day, around a hundred birds can be seen perched on the wires and on the poles at the same time.

In the afternoon of Monday, August 31st, there was an electrical outage in the ASC “A” and “B” buildings. Fortunately, the power was restored within a few hours and business went on as usual.

During the search for the cause of the outages, workers found a dead bird that looked like it had been struck by lightning, because it had. The bird had, obviously, touched an area on the pole that caused a short, which activated a fuse, and cut the power to the building.

When the fuses were reset and the power restored to the “B” building, there was a power surge from the El Paso Electric pole that triggered the fuses for the “A” building, and they did what they are supposed to do – cut the power to protect the building and equipment. They were also reset and power was restored in both buildings.

Pascual Martinez, Construction Supervisor, told us that there is no way to cover the area on the pole that roasted the bird and caused the outage. That is a vulnerable point at which a bird, or even heavy rain, can cause another outage.

Mr. Martinez added, “Power outages at these buildings have occurred at least four times in the last six years and I expect that they will happen again, as long as there are so many birds resting on the lines and poles.”
Work Projects Throughout the District

An emergency station was installed recently in the east parking lot of the ASC “A” building.

The station includes a telephone with a direct line to the EPCC Police, and a flashing blue light to help everyone be aware when there is an emergency.

At left, workers from SD Technologies complete the installation, which is powered by a solar voltaic panel located at the top of the pole.

Physical Plant coordinated with EPCC Police and SD Technologies concerning the location of the emergency station.

Bike Station Installed at Rio Grande Campus

Another project is the installation of the SunCycle Bike Share bike station on El Paso Street next to the “E” parking lot of the Rio Grande Campus. The solar powered station will hold 15 bikes that can be rented with a credit card or a membership card. It is part of the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program.
Physical Plant Supports New Culinary Arts Projects

The Grounds crew of Physical Plant recently assisted the Culinary Arts by helping to plant Ash trees to provide shade for a future herb, fruit, and vegetable garden on the east side of the ASC “B” building.

The ambitious project includes beds in which herbs, fruits, and vegetables will be planted and will be shaded by the Ash trees.

Fruits trees also surround the plants, including Apple, Pomegranate, Fig, and Pecan trees, and four varieties of Grape vines.

Another part of the plan is the Aquaponics Tanks, in which fish are cultivated in tanks with vegetables planted in a tank above. The water that is fed to the plants is purified as it flows down through layers of clay and supplies clean water to the fish tank below.

The water from the fish tank is fed to the plants and the waste from the fish fertilizes the plants as the water trickles down and goes through the cycle again. Chef Daniel Guerra says that Tilapia will be the fish that the system will provide.

The project received the support of the United States Department of Agriculture through a grant in the amount of $140,000. It will also receive another $80,000 through UTEP beginning in October.

Chef Guerra added that they hope to move the Aquaponics Tanks to a proposed greenhouse to be located near the garden. An open Compost heap will also be located near the garden.

We congratulate the Culinary Arts Program and hope to support their projects in the future.
Valle Verde Campus Student Service Center Back in Business

It took eleven months from the contract date to the day people moved back into the Student Service Center (SSC) at the Valle Verde Campus on July 27th after extensive remodeling.

The tenants temporarily worked in rented trailers while the work was done.

Originally constructed in 1990, the Student Service Center added 42,113 square feet of space to the Valle Verde Campus.

We hope that you get the chance to visit the newly remodeled building and see the changes for yourself.

The current departments and offices at the SSC are listed below.

**First Floor:**
- Athletics
- Career Services
- EPCC Police
- Recruitment & School Relations
- Testing Services
- Traffic Office
- Transfer Center

**Second Floor:**
- Counseling
- Dual Credit & Early College High School
- NSO
- PREP

This photograph was taken by Laura Gonzalez on the day she moved back into the VV SSC.
Propane Safety

Propane gas is used for grilling, powering equipment, and the movement of machinery. Many individuals have come to rely on it for many purposes and we at the Office of Risk Management & Safety would like that you keep safety in mind dealing with this chemical.

In an enclosed area, such as inside a home or building, propane leaking from a gas tank cannot escape as easily as when it is located outdoors. Propane gas is heavier than oxygen and because of this it remains closer to the ground. As it builds up with the right conditions this mixture of propane gas and oxygen, with just a spark, it can explode.

Keeping propane tanks in buildings where there is a large amount of people within is not a good idea. Areas that have a lot of people are usually public places like churches, schools, some businesses, and community centers.

The safest location for these propane tanks would be outside in a cage or a gated area. The reason for this is because while outside propane gas has a better and greater chance of dispersing due to the wind. This includes having more space for the gas to disappear unlike closed offices or closets. That is not to say that Propane is not a safe fuel source, but safety should be kept in mind storing the tanks or using Propane.

If the smell of gas is in the building or even in your home follow these tips:

- Do not create flames or sparks
- Leave the area immediately
- Shut off the gas (if possible)
- Report the leak
- Return to the area only when told to

At EPCC we
"Take Safety Home"

Office of Risk Management & Safety
Nancy Tharp, Risk Manager
Ivan Flores, Safety Specialist
GCA Services has started a new employee recognition program which will identify an Employee of the Month at every one of its accounts.

The first Employee of the Month at EPCC is Jaime Acosta, who has been at EPCC for 13 years. He started working with the previous janitorial service and transferred to GCA Services 10½ years ago.

Mr. Acosta is the Supervisor of the custodial day shift at the Valle Verde Campus. He also responds to emergency calls, spills, and special requests.

We congratulate Mr. Acosta and want him to know we are glad he is working with us.

The Scrub Crew is currently working at the Mission del Paso Campus and will move to the Transmountain Campus on September 24th. They should be there until the end of the month of October.

Welder Fernie Arriaga recently installed perforated steel panels to replace plexiglass panels which had been broken on the bus stop on the south side of Transmountain Campus.
Physical Plant Gasoline Usage for the Month of August 2015

The Physical Plant purchased 1,838 gallons of gasoline during the month of August 2015. This amount fueled 39 vehicles and various Grounds equipment. The amount is just 8 gallons less than the amount purchased in July 2015.

The Physical Plant is responsible for more vehicles as a result of the transfer of the older models being transferred from other departments that have been replaced by new vehicles.

The Recycling Program is participating in the 2015 Keep El Paso Beautiful Annual Golf Tournament which will be held on October 2nd at the Painted Dunes Desert Golf Course. Funds will go for promoting environmental education at local schools and our community. Information is available at www.KEPB.org or www.facebook.com/keepelpasobeautiful.
EPCC Utilities from 2013-14 to 2014-15

**Electricity - kWh**

- 2013-14
- 2014-15

**Gas - Ccf**

- 2013-14
- 2014-15

**Water - Gallons**

- 2013-14
- 2014-15