



# USB News

Facilities Management  
July - September 2011



## Happy 4th of July!

### *Introducing Nathan Hunsaker...*

Nathan is Facilities Management's new IT Technician and Programmer. He is available to assist FM employees with any issues related to university computers, printers, and handheld devices. He is getting familiar with AiM, our electronic maintenance management system, as well as the rest of FM, the university, and even Harrisonburg.

Although Nathan is originally from Virginia, he is new to Harrisonburg. He came to us from Logan, Utah where he was a computer and network technician for a large manufacturing company. A scholarship took Nathan to the state 14 years ago when he became a fourth generation Utah State Aggie. Marriage, work and a growing family followed.



Nathan and his wife have three children, a nine-year-old daughter and twin three-year-old boys. Much of Nathan's down time is spent doing activities with the kids such as Boy Scouting and coaching soccer. Time for hobbies is limited, but when he has spare time he really enjoys working on computers. He built his own media server that is hooked up to a big screen television.

Please be sure to welcome Nathan and contact him if he can be of assistance! His number is 568-5228 and his email address is [hunsaknh@jmu.edu](mailto:hunsaknh@jmu.edu).



### BANQUET COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- FM summer picnic to be held mid - August.
- Weekly ice cream sales are typically every Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the hallway in front of the USB lunch room.
- Monthly ham and roast beef sandwich sales are the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the hallway in front of the USB lunch room.

## Sign Shop

Despite its small size, the Sign Shop accomplishes big things. The shop consists of only two employees, Victor McManaway and supervisor, Roger Stover. Together they create and install most of the signage on campus to include the following: renovations and construction, new buildings, parking, events, rooms, and offices. They also make the JMU logos for the vehicles. The busiest time of year tends to be the summer due to the signage required for construction and renovation projects. Summer is also the time to do walk-throughs of all the campus buildings to check for stolen signs and vandalism or damage to existing signs. This increased workload tends to continue through the fall as door signs and desk blocks are created and delivered for new staff starting in the fall semester.

The Sign Shop works very closely with some of the other FM shops. One of the larger projects that the shop ever completed was in conjunction with Recycling, the Paint Shop and the Carpentry Shop. They worked together to produce a multitude of recycling signage used for football games. Roger and Victor work consistently with the Carpentry and Paint Shops and Roger insists that these two shops are vital in accomplishing many of the Sign Shop's projects.

Other large projects in the future include signage for the following renovations and new construction: North Campus (old hospital), Duke Hall, the Steam Plant, Port Road recreation fields, and the new ISAT building. Material and workload planning is crucial in getting these type of projects completed under strict engineering deadlines. Interior building signage is very important in these buildings,

Obviously, for identifying what is behind a door for regular visitors, but also for use by Fire and Rescue personnel and JMU police. The brail on the signs is used by the visually impaired.

When Roger started at JMU back in 2005, he was concerned over the lack of work in the winter months. This is no longer an issue. With the growth of the university and the increased mechanical capabilities of the shop, they are busy all year long. Additional equipment has limited the need to outsource work requests. This is an advantage for the university because the Sign Shop can typically handle customer requests immediately whereas outside vendors typically take two to three weeks to complete requests. Roger anticipates that the shop will continue to acquire equipment that will better enable them to meet customer requests. The only thing standing in the way might be the size of the shop and its capacity to handle additional equipment. He foresees that this problem may be remedied in the future as Facilities Management grows and physical changes are made to accommodate this growth.

Growth is inevitable and the Sign Shop has handled it well. Roger attributes a lot of the shop's efficiency to Victor's strong work ethic. They both do what it takes to get the job done. They alter their work schedules, coming in early or staying late, to set up or take down signage for events. Roger does not view his work strictly as a job, though. He really enjoys what he does and views it as an opportunity to be creative and use his imagination!



(L-R) Roger Stover, Victor McManaway

## Safety Zone by Brett Sinclair

### Severe Weather

Below are some severe weather safety tips for being outside. Always check the local forecast before going out for the day. Summer storms can roll into our area very quickly under the right conditions, and you need to be prepared.

### Lightning/Thunderstorms

Seek shelter immediately if a storm is coming or if you hear the early warning alert system. When activated, warning devices will sound a single 15 second audible signal from air horns and strobe lights will begin to flash. Seek shelter in a substantial building first. In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle such as a car, bus, or truck, with a hard metal roof (not a convertible), with the windows rolled up completely, can provide a measure of safety. DO NOT seek shelter under trees or non-substantial buildings such as sheds or pavilions.

### Flash Flooding

Because of the mountainous and hilly terrain

in this area, flash flooding is a major concern. Do not walk or drive through moving flood waters. As little as six inches of water can sweep a car away. Culverts, ditches, and drains can easily become plugged during a major storm. Barricade roads and walkways that are flooded or prone to flooding. Post signage in barricaded areas.

### Tornado

In the event of a tornado, seek shelter immediately in a substantial building. An underground shelter, basement, or safe rooms are the safest places. If none of those options are available, go to a windowless interior room or hallway. If you are in a vehicle, you should immediately seek shelter in a sturdy building. Modular buildings are not safe during tornadoes! Abandon modular buildings to seek shelter in a sturdy building immediately. If you work in the Grace Street Modular or Driver Drive Modulares, know where you plan to go in the event of a tornado.



# FM Snapshots



Plumbing Supervisor, Robert Ritchie, and Energy & Utilities Supervisor, Rodney Lam Photo by K. Whetzel



Scheduled Maintenance Supervisor, Brain Clements, (foreground) and Welder/Fabricator, Paul Sullivan Photo by K. Whetzel



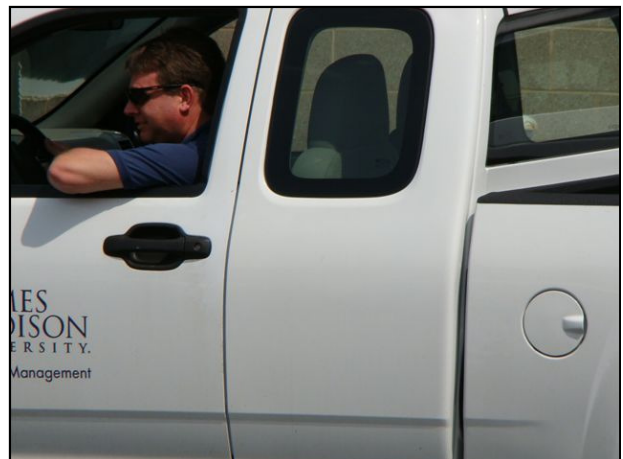
Landscape Worker, Don Ritchie Photo by K. Whetzel



Steam Plant Lead Mechanic, Mark Sayre Photo by K. Whetzel



Campus between Maury and Jackson Halls



Sign Maker, Victor McManway Photo by K. Whetzel



## FM Snapshots



Flower bed behind Performing Arts Center



Roses from garden behind Wilson Hall



Small Engine Repair Technician, Ken Demastus working on Landscape Equipment  
Photo by K. Whetzel



Landscape Worker, Jordan Smiley mowing in the Village  
Photo by K. Whetzel



Recycling/Ground Litter Worker, Fred Mason



## Employee Spotlight

Mitchell Propst is a Fire Alarm/Auto Sprinkler Technician for Facilities Management. He has been with JMU for a little over three years as part of Life Safety. He came from Perdue in Bridgewater where he worked for 16 years dealing with fire pumps, plumbing, supervisory responsibilities, and general maintenance, among other things. At JMU, Mitchell checks approximately 25 fire pumps weekly to make sure they are working properly and keeps records of test results. He is also learning the alarm side of the sprinkler systems which is challenging given how the technology is constantly changing. During the work day, Mitchell encounters many FM folks. He is known for his sense of humor and outgoing personality, but many may not realize that he is also known for his music and his gardening.

Playing music is a "family thing". Mitchell's father and older brother and younger brother all play instruments. It wasn't until his daughter, Victoria, was born that Mitchell attempted to learn as well. His dad, brothers, and brother-in-law, Tony Kennedy, all taught him, along with help from friends like Allen Umbarger, who now works with him in Life Safety. In addition to playing guitar, upright base, electric base and a little mandolin, Mitchell sings. He had his own band, Family and Friends, for about ten years, playing gospel, bluegrass and country. The positive response from the audience really makes playing music enjoyable. Last year he joined the band, Pendleton Bluegrass. He plays with the group from time to time, but availability to perform is limited in the spring and summer because much of his spare time is spent doing garden-related activities.

Gardening is a source of great pride for Mitchell, but requires a lot of work. He gets plenty of assistance from his wife, Tammy (who works in Housekeeping), 16-year-old daughter, Victoria, and 13-year-old son, Mitch Jr. All pitch in to work the approximately 100-by-100 foot garden. They grow potatoes, beans, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, corn, and plenty of cabbage. Currently he has 65 heads of cabbage. The large quantity of this leafy vegetable is necessary to support the growing demand for Mitchell's sauerkraut. He and his family make close to 600 pints per season. They send the sauerkraut to customers in Louisiana, New York, and Georgia. One customer alone has requested 50 pints. Mitchell really loves to plant something and watch it grow and makes a point to say that he is thankful to the Lord for giving him the knowledge and ability to make things grow.

Mitchell's thankfulness extends to his working situation as well. He loves working at JMU and is grateful for the opportunities that the university provides, particularly the opportunity to work with such wonderful people. Mitchell insists that the crew he works with in Life Safety is made up of the "greatest guys he has ever worked with"!



Mitchell Propst

# University Farm

One of the lesser known properties that JMU owns is its farm. The University Farm is located approximately ten miles from campus off Port Republic Road. It is a 31-acre farm that was purchased back in 1929. The majority of the farm is made up of forest, but a portion of it is open land with an old farm house that looks out upon the North River. According to an article by August Smith on JMU's website, the land and farmhouse were used quite a bit back in the 1930's and 40's for student retreats and again in the 70's. In the late 70's, the house on the property fell into such disrepair that its use was prohibited.

Although the farmhouse is currently boarded up, the grounds are still used by students, faculty, staff, and the community. In addition to the house, the property has pits for barbeque and horseshoes, a pavilion with many picnic tables, and restrooms. Many years ago, Facilities Management held their summer picnics there. FM keeps up the property by mowing, cleaning the restrooms and handling any other maintenance that is required. Anyone interested in renting the facilities can contact JMU's Event Management at 568-6330.



View from the farm on to the North River



Farmhouse



View of the farmhouse (left) and the pavilion (right)

**This is your newsletter! We want to include special projects or accomplishments of your department or shop. We would especially love to include any pictures that would be relevant to the newsletter. Please contact Deanna at 8-6422 or email to glassdl.**



<u>July</u>						<u>September</u>	
Ken Demastus	7/1	Stacey Grimsley	7/21	John Nelson	8/10	Cynthia Harris	9/1
Kevin Landes	7/1	James Andes	7/22	Bob Weaver	8/11	Vickie Elyard	9/2
Najat Salihi	7/1	Donna Dove	7/23	Angela Branson	8/13	Ron Jennings	9/3
Al Smith	7/1	Holley Mitchell	7/23	Dorothy VanFossen	8/14	Joe Rufo	9/3
Dimple Moyer	7/2	Joe Moshier	7/23	Ricky Lucas	8/15	Shirley Gill	9/6
Donna Moyer	7/2	Tamara Ralston	7/24	Cathy Miller	8/15	Abe Kaufman	9/6
Nasreen Salihi	7/2	Greggory Robertson	7/24	Bob Shanholtz	8/15	Oakley Hill	9/7
Sarah Knupp	7/4	Amanda Short	7/25	David Shifflett	8/15	Pat Trissel	9/7
Nola Smith	7/4	Nathan Baker	7/27	Wayne Lantz	8/16	Brian Kelley	9/8
Nancy Wright	7/5	Debbie Gordon	7/27	Linda Hedrick	8/17	Kelly Sites	9/8
Dawn Knight	7/6	Jamie Wyant	7/27	Emily Hummel	8/17	Victoria Hartman	9/10
Rick Miller	7/6	Dennis Dove	7/28	Jerry Myers	8/17	Sean Tulin	9/10
Debra Redman	7/6	Michael Borrer	7/29	Lee Paixao	8/18	John Ventura	9/11
Jeff Smallwood	7/6	Jack Martin	7/29	Donald Campbell	8/19	Teresa Whetzel	9/12
Dean Botkin	7/7	Debra Bogan	7/31	Lowell Miller	8/19	Dennis Hart	9/13
Cindy Rexrode	7/7	Mike Davis	7/31	Jeff Fisher	8/21	Susan Leecy	9/13
Howard Shifflett	7/7	Michael Hott	7/31	Darrel Hensley	8/22	Chad Churchman	9/14
Joyce Wilkins	7/7	Chris Keagy	7/31	Mark Ringwald	8/22	Barry Smith	9/14
Glen Myers	7/8	Donald Ritchie	7/31	Travis Bussey	8/24	Bonnie Barr	9/15
Susan Hensley	7/9	Teresa Wilkerson	7/31	Ronda Grimsley	8/24	Bob Knott	9/15
Mike Bennett	7/11			Chris Shifflett	8/24	Sandra McCray	9/15
Chris Dove	7/11	<u>August</u>		Crystal Wright	8/24	Abby Reedy	9/16
Linda Shull	7/11	Sharrie Bennett	8/2	Amy Morris	8/26	Melissa Hedrick	9/17
Carrie Comer	7/12	Jack Losh	8/2	Sandra Baugher	8/27	Nancy Cornwell	9/17
Nathan Mitchell	7/14	Lisa Dunivan	8/3	Brandi Meadows	8/28	Johnwayne Comer	9/19
Sandra Casady	7/15	Amy Conley	8/3	Wayne Ford	8/29	Phillip Lowery	9/20
Wes Westfall	7/15	Amanda Hottinger	8/3	Ronnie Loker	8/29	Yolanda Morris	9/20
Candie Ford	7/17	Terry Nesselrodt	8/3	Brian Clements	8/30	Mike Blankenship	9/22
Stephen Good	7/17	Rick Dean	8/7	Nathan Leecy	8/30	Anna Hudick	9/22
Joyce Hensley	7/17	Daniel Smith	8/7	Jerolene Southerly	8/30	Jackie Dove	9/23
Sam McGhee	7/19	Margaret Delawder	8/10	Kimberly Breeden	8/31	Debbie Morris	9/23
Lee Fultz	7/20	Dennis Kiracofe	8/10	Barbara Myers	8/31	Helen Carper	9/24
Gary Thayer	7/20	Brian McAvoy	8/10			Matthew Marks	9/24
		David Meadows	8/10				



### September

Susan May	9/24
Eddie Propst	9/25
Kim Collier	9/26
Regina Doolan	9/26
Tina Mueller	9/26
Leslie Patrick	9/26
Paul Sherman	9/27
Carolyn Smith	9/27
Carol Rhodes	9/28
Elmer Stoops	9/28
Danny Thomas	9/28
Michael Simmons	9/29
Donna Armstrong	9/30
Louise Hummel	9/30
Stacey Sheffer	9/30
Stephen Wine	9/30

*JMU Human Resources has moved from the University Services Building to Wine-Price. HR representatives for Facilities Management, Michelle Small and Deanna Glass, remain in the USB, but will be moving soon to suite 208 .*

*From JMU Human Resources Website...*

### **Good News! The \$20 Cash Match Returns**

Effective with the June 10 payroll period, the cash match for full-time state employees who participate in the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan and/or the 403(b) plan will return to 50 percent of their contribution, not to exceed \$20 per pay period. For example, employees who contribute \$40 per pay period to their 457 or 403(b) account will receive the full \$20 per pay period cash match.

To change your payroll deduction for the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan, go to <http://www.varetire.org/>. Select Commonwealth of Virginia Deferred Compensation Plan under the Defined Contribution Plans tab and log into your account using your password. You may also call the Plan Information Line toll-free 1-VRS-DC-PLAN 1 (1-877-327-5261).

To change your 403(b) payroll deduction, contact an HR benefits representative at 83970. Changes are effective the first available pay date in the following month.

*From JMU Surplus Property Website...*

### **Surplus Property**

JMU's Surplus Property has inventory of a multitude of items such as bookcases, chairs, desks, and tables available to JMU employees at no cost for use in their respective departments. If your area is in need of such items:

- Review the [Current Inventory Listing](#) of available items for transfer (at no cost) to JMU departments.
- Contact the Surplus Property Coordinator, Mark Colopy, [colopyma@jmu.edu](mailto:colopyma@jmu.edu), (568-6931) to check for items in which you are interested.
- Visit the Surplus Property warehouse during open warehouse hours (Wednesdays 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) or contact the SPC to make an appointment to visit at another time.

Many government surplus items are sold to the general public via the online auction website [www.GovDeals.com](http://www.GovDeals.com).

*In memory...*



**"Beachy"**  
**James Marvin Beach, Sr.**

Long time FM employee and special friend to many co-workers

May 5, 1936-June 4, 2011