

September 2024

Just The Dirt

Custodial & Grounds Newsletter



A Letter from the Manager

Greetings,

As we embark upon another exciting semester, I wanted to take a moment to personally extend my warmest appreciation and gratitude for the tireless summer project work and return-to-school preparation I know took place. Your dedication and contributions to our campus and community have not gone unnoticed, and I am truly grateful for your unwavering commitment to our student's success. The ability to create a clean, functional, and safe learning environment is truly admirable. Your tireless efforts and passion have made a significant impact on the lives of our students and staff.

I am filled with excitement and optimism for the new school year that lies ahead. The possibilities are endless, and I am confident that together, we can continue to make a profound difference in the lives of the students and campus community. Your passion for services and expertise are invaluable assets that will undoubtedly contribute to another successful year.

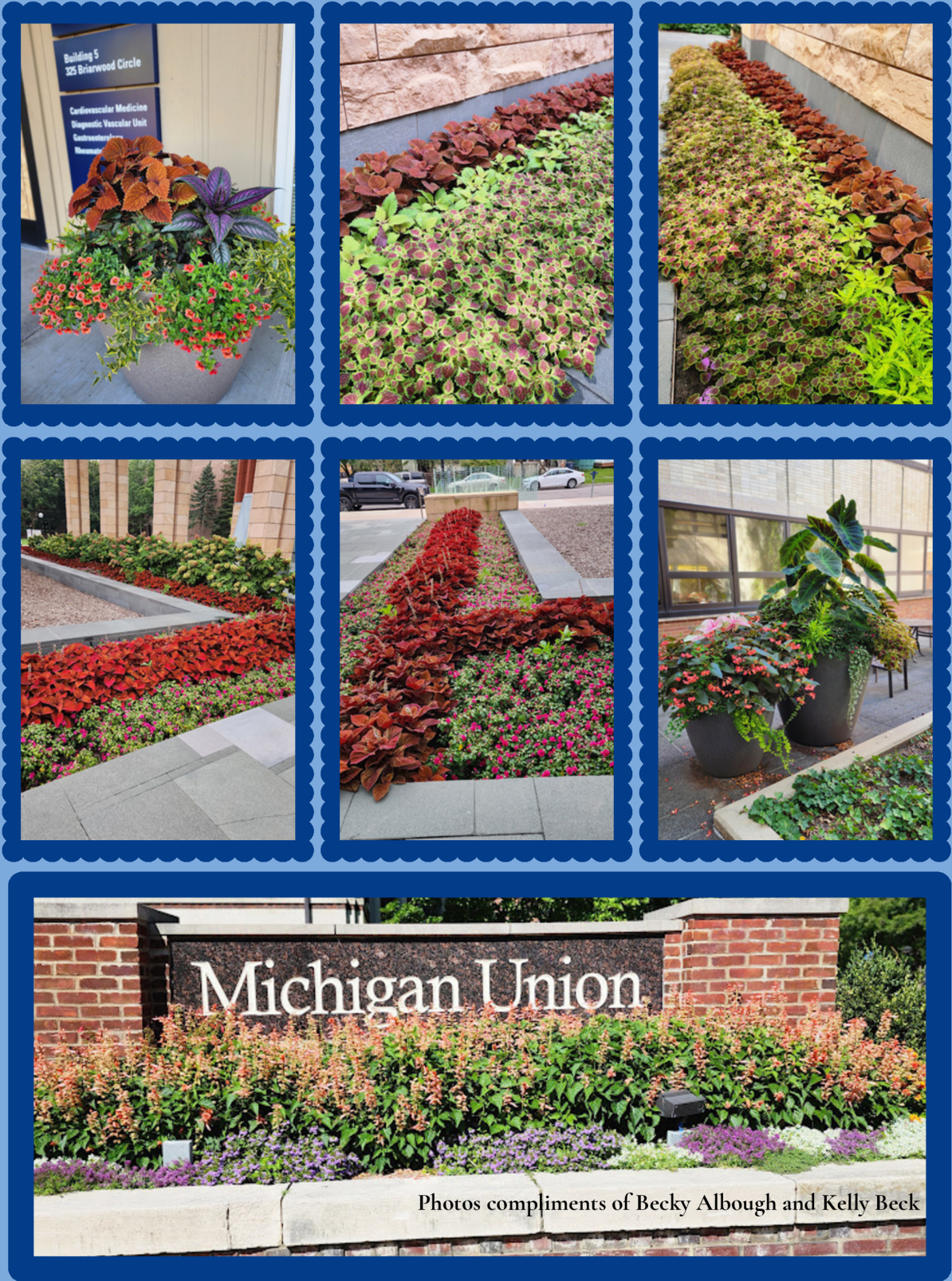
Please know that you have the Lead Team's full support as we navigate any challenges and opportunities that the new school year may bring. We are here to provide any assistance you may need and to collaborate with you in fostering a vibrant and thriving environment.

I am truly honored to be joining this wonderful team and have enjoyed getting to know you and learning the Maize and Blue way!

Onward and Upward,

Rachel Saunders

Grounds South Zone



Photos compliments of Becky Albough and Kelly Beck

The attractions of the South Zone Grounds have unfurled a symphony of blossoms within planters, filling our campus with a tapestry of vibrant colors. As you wander the campus, pause to embrace the nature tended to by our diligent caretakers. This well-balanced space signals pollinators, intertwining a spell of sustainability into the very structure of our surroundings.

Spotlight

Proper Pruning Techniques

By Article and photos by Denise Krause

When it comes to proper pruning techniques for trees and shrubs, timing is crucial. The majority of trees can be pruned at any time of the year, although certain species, such as the Oak Tree, should be pruned in winter to prevent Oak Wilt. Late winter or early spring is the optimal time for pruning for most trees, as this allows for the healing process to commence as the tree becomes active in its growth phase during spring.

Before



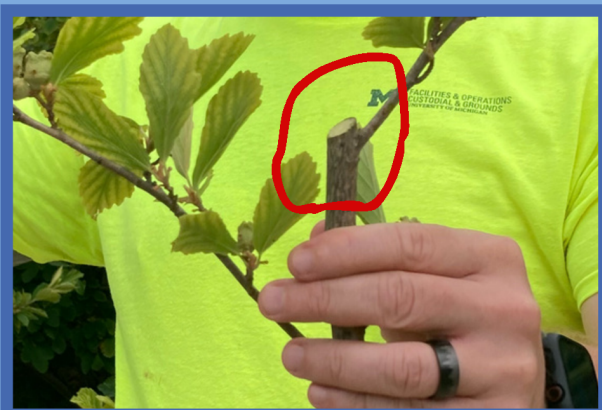
After





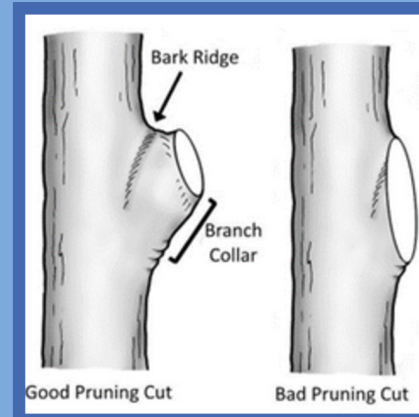
Pruning in late winter or early spring has the advantage of the tree being in an active growth phase, which facilitates the sealing of pruning wounds. Additionally, the absence of leaves during this period makes it easier to make precise cuts. However, deadwood can and should be removed at any time.

The primary reasons for tree pruning include raising the height and clearing surrounding objects to ensure adequate air movement for healthy growth. When making pruning decisions, it is advisable to take photos of the tree or shrub beforehand to determine the extent of the branches to be removed, thereby avoiding excessive pruning that can compromise the tree's integrity. It's important to limit pruning to 20 to 25 percent of the tree or shrub to prevent potential failure.



Size ratio when trimming smaller branches. The location to trim is just before the next large branch where the branch is growing off the parent tree or branch.

When making a pruning cut, it is essential to reduce the size of a branch, ensuring that the side branch cut back is at least one-third the diameter of the branch being removed to prevent the formation of sucker sprouts. Removal cuts, which are intended to eliminate a branch, should be made just outside the branch collar to prevent decay and promote proper healing. The branch collar is the visible swelling that forms at the base of a branch where it attaches to a larger branch or the tree's trunk.



Correct trimming to remove excess foliage from the tree.



Incorrect trimming when removing excess foliage from the tree.



Fall Insects Intruders

As fall descends upon Michigan, residents like you and I often encounter a surge of insect intruders seeking refuge from the cooling temperatures. Among the most common fall invaders are the Asian ladybeetles, which resemble native ladybugs but can become a nuisance as they cluster indoors. (They are shown here in a cluster and a single photo to the right).



Fall Insects Intruders continued



Boxelder bugs are another frequent intruder. They also like to congregate in groups in your home or establishment. Boxelder bugs are recognizable by their black and red markings. They are often found lounging on sunny exterior walls before infiltrating homes (photo left and below).



Stink bugs, with their shield-shaped bodies, also make their way inside, releasing a pungent odor if disturbed. Many like to avoid this pest due to the unpleasant odor. (Stinkbugs photos lower left).



Fall Insects Intruders continued



Additionally, cluster flies, which resemble house flies, seek warmth in attics and wall voids, creating a buzzing annoyance. This group of pest definitely are know to be home invaders.

If home maintenance practices are in place it will help alleviate these invasions by sealing cracks, using screens, and maintaining a tidy exterior to reduce the appeal of these autumnal pests.

(Article written by Denise Krause)

Maize & Blue Cleaning

Maize & Blue Cleaning concentrates on the well-being of both the building's inhabitants and the diligent custodian. This innovative approach, known as MBC, embraces a team cleaning philosophy where tasks are divided by duty rather than by designated zones. This means that the custodians focus on a singular task across the entire facility, rather than confining their efforts to one specific area.

Custodial Services originally transitioned to task team cleaning in 2009, with OSI. In 2020 we began rebranding, rejuvenating, and carefully crafting MBC. The MBC program was meticulously designed to meet the unique needs of UM as we discovered one size does not fit all.



Control cabinet, a storage unit for cleaning items that are used on a daily basis.

Maize & Blue Cleaning continued

The Maize & Blue Cleaning program uses and promotes the Lean concept and when followed, creates a more organized and productive workspace. The 5-S's principles: Sort, Straighten, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain, form the foundation of the program. Mastering these principles enhance staff safety and promotes improved processes and productivity. We believe a workplace free of clutter creates a space that is easier for the staff to manage, find tools as needed, and removes stressors from some of their daily work activities.

The program includes several specialists to ensure a comprehensive cleaning approach:

- A Light Duty specialist who handles surface cleaning and trash removal from the rooms.
- A Vacuum specialist who efficiently sweeps all floor surfaces using a backpack vacuum.
- A Utility specialist responsible for mopping, cleaning stairs, entries, glass, and taking trash to the dumpster, as well as operating large machines and managing project work.
- Lastly, the restroom specialist focuses exclusively on restroom cleaning.

We implement core cleaning, which refers to a thorough cleaning of spaces, once a week, alongside routine cleaning, which we define as daily maintenance for all areas not scheduled for core cleaning that day. (Article written by Colette Donner)



Example of a RR cart, that carries all tools needed to clean the restrooms



Example of our Light duty set up, and tools used daily



Example of our backpack vacuum

Happy Anniversary

ACUNA, DANILO
ALBAUGH, REBECCA
ALLEN, BLAISE
ANDERSON, LINDA
ATTIA, WAFIK
BEHR, CHRIS
BELL, KEVIN
BELYEW, DONALD
BLACK, CHARISSE
BOMBACH, JASON
BONNEE, TOMMY
BREADIY, ELAYYAN
BRIEGER, JOSHUA
BROOKS, PATRICK
BROWN, DANYELLE
BROWN, GERMAIN
BURKE, PAUL
BUTLER, LILIAN
CAMPBELL, LASHOWNDA
CANDY, JOHN
CARPENTER, DERRICK
CASTILLO TERRAZA, MAYRA
CATT, DENISE
CHANDLER, ZACHARY
CHRISTENSEN, VERONIC
COOPER, MEGAN
CROSKEY, BRET
CROSS, WILLIAM
DAVIS, JONATHAN
DEDNAM, SAMUEL
DENSKI, DEREK
DEVENTER, BRANDON
DICKERSON, DEMOND
DOLETZKY, ROBERT
DONNER, COLETTE
DUNNAVANT, DELANEY
EFFINGER, THERESA
ENGLISH JR, ROBERT
FERGUSON, MELANIE
FORTSON, MARKELL
FRAZIER, MATTHEW
FRENO, THOMAS

GAISHIN, CHERYL
GARNICA AGUILERA, JUANA
GESNER, THEODORE
GEY, GAIL
GLUSKI, MARY
GRANT, JAMES
GRIEVE, MICHELLE
GRIFFIN, CHRISTENE
HEARN, MICHAEL
HERRON, JASON
HONEYCUTT, GARY
HOWELL, STEVEN
IROHA, PETER
ISMAIL, FADUMO
ISOM-BROWN, IYANNAH
IVERSON, CARL
JACKSON, DWIGHT
JACKSON, SHANIQUA
JONES, TIFFANY
KAUFFMAN, MITCHELL
KINZINGER, RICHARD
KIRK, CHELSEA
KLEIN, MATTHEW
LACOSS, BRANDI
LANGAN, RYAN
LAPINSKI, ZACHARY
LARA-MARTINEZ, VIRIDIANA
LEACH, TERRY
LEE, TAI-TSENG
LOPEZ, PORFIRIO
LUNA, ANDERSON
MACGRAINE, DONALD
MARTIN, SHAWN
MARTINEZ, KENDALL
MAYRA, SEAN
MCGEE, CELESTE
MCGEE, QUANTINA
MCQUEEN, MILEDIS
MEREDITH, ANDREW
MILLER, VERSHAWN
MULLALLY, PENNY
NAVARRETE, DIGNA

NELSON, KASEY
NEWSOM, ERIC
NGANGA, JAMES
NIKODEM, KAREN
OAKES, ERIC
OSORIO GARCIA, RODRIGO
PAREDES, DIEGO
PHILLPOTTS, ROSEMARIE
PRIVETT, RICHARD
RAMEY, CHRISTOPHER
RAYMOND, NITA
REID, ALEXIS
SAVILLE, RYAN
SCHWANNEKE, JOHN
SKUCZAS, RYAN
SMITH, JOSHUA
STILTNER, DARRYL
STONE, RILEY
STOVALL, RAVEN
SUTPHIN, JONATHAN
SWOPE, ADAM
THIELEMAN, MADISON
THOMPSON, DOROTHY
THOMPSON, JEFFREY
TILLISON, EMANUEL
TOURE, MAMADOU
VANTUYL, MARY
VICTORIO, ROGELIO
VILLALOBOS, WILLIAM
WADE, DARIUS
WARD, AMELITA
WELKER, ELEONOR
WELLS, DENNIS
WILLIAMS, CHARLEAN
WILLIAMS, DARREN
WILLIAMS, WARREN
WILLINGS, HANNAH
WOODRUFF, WILLIAM
WRIGHT-JONES, JASON
ZIELINSKI, DEBRA

If anyone has been missed. Please let me know so the anniversary information can go in the next newsletter.