

We Keep the College Going

EPCC Physical Plant

Director's Corner

I hope you all had a wonderful and safe 4th of July.

In keeping with the current state of affairs, we here at the Physical Plant have been very busy with deferred maintenance projects.

In addition, many of our staff are working very hard making preparations for the return of faculty, students, and staff.

Rest assured that we are doing all in our power to have a safe working environment for all.



Rick Lobato, Physical Plant Executive Director

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Construction of the new three-story building at the **Valle Verde Campus** is in the final stages of construction.

The **HVAC systems** and the communication and data lines are being fine-tuned and the science labs are being outfitted.

See **pages 3 and 4** for more information and pictures.

Robert Samaniego, MSCM



Robert Samaniego, Physical Plant Project Manager, graduated from the **University of Texas El Paso** on Friday, May 14, with a **Master of Science in Construction Management** degree.

Robert joined the **Physical Plant** in March of 2015 and has pursued his degree while working full-time.

The **UTEP** commencement ceremonies for Bachelors, Masters, and doctoral candidates were held at the **Sun Bowl Stadium**. The commencement included the Spring/Summer/Fall Class of 2020 and the Spring/Summer Class of 2021.

We congratulate **Robert** on his academic achievement and we are proud to be his co-workers.

EPCC Project Manager Marries

Liliana Sepulveda, Physical Plant Project Manager, and **Carlos Guadian** were married on Saturday, April 3 at the **Faith Chapel** on **Murchison Drive**. **Liliana** tells us that it was a beautiful and fun, small family celebration.

Before joining the **Physical Plant** in March 2017, **Liliana** had been at **Carson, Franco, & Associates** for ten years and with the **Ysleta Independent School District** for seven years as Construction Manager.

Liliana earned a **Bachelor's degree in Architecture** from the **Universidad Autonoma de Cd. Juarez** in 2000.

We congratulate the happy couple and hope they have many years of



Valle Verde Campus Art, Science & Technology Building



The construction of the three-story **Art, Science & Technology Building** at the **Valle Verde Campus** began in May 2018. The COVID-19 Pandemic required that the deadlines of three of the six construction projects in the Master Plan be extended.

The pictures below show the **Dance Studio** and **Science Lab** being prepared for classes. A new application is the use of a contorted ceiling in the **Dance Studio** to help keep the sound of the music used from disturbing the adjacent classrooms and labs.

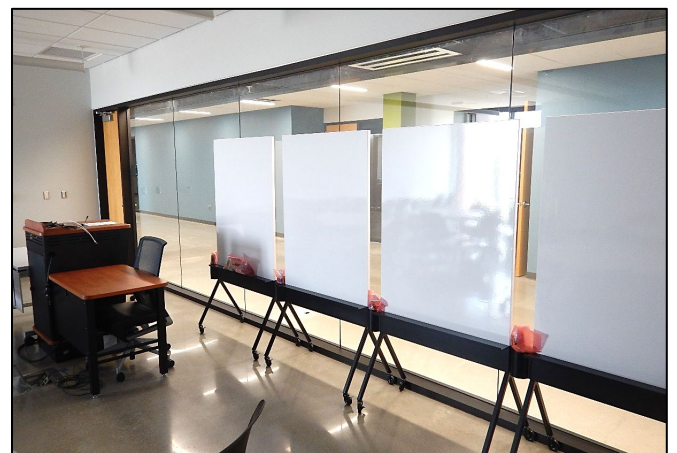
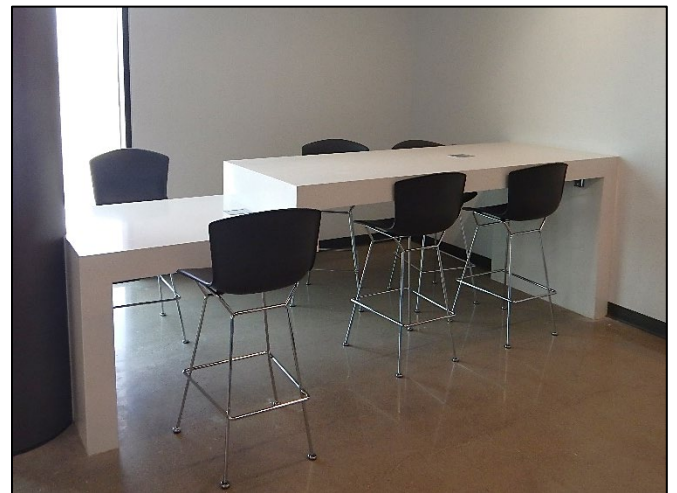


Valle Verde Campus Art, Science & Technology Building, cont'd.



These pictures show an outfitted classroom (bottom right) and three of the several areas throughout the building that provide students with a place to study, chat, rest, or recharge their cell phones or computers.

The picture at bottom left is of the area on the outside of the third floor facing the **Architecture Building**.



Sunday, July 18 Weather



On Sunday July 18, **El Paso** experienced 1.93 inches of rain and gusts of near-hurricane wind speeds. Evidence of this is shown in these pictures of **Valle Verde Campus**. Several trees were knocked down or had branches broken off, and the canopy at the **Americana Language Village** was torn. Fortunately, except for some water leaks, the buildings did not experience major damage.



Olympus Employee Honored



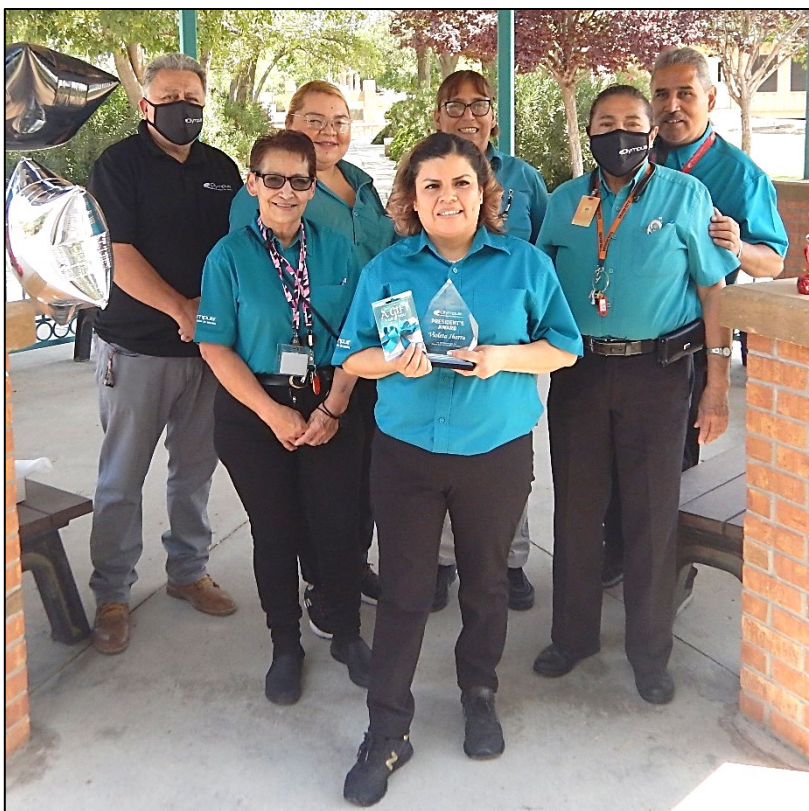
Violeta Ibarra, an **Olympus** employee since November 2017, was presented the **Presidential Award** by **Olympus Janitorial Services** for the month of May 2021.

Unlike the **Employee of the Month** honor, which every **Olympus** account bestows on an employee, the **Presidential Award** recipient is chosen from among the 600 **Olympus** employees nationwide.

Violeta is the **Lead Worker** during the day shift at the **Valle Verde Campus**. She was nominated for of her outstanding work ethic and leadership of the day shift crew, whose respect she has deservedly earned.

We congratulate **Ms. Ibarra** and are very glad she is part of the **Olympus/EPCC** family.

Violeta is shown in the picture below with the other **Olympus** employees of the **Valle Verde Campus** day shift. The presentation was only the fifth time the **President's Award** (below right) has been presented.



Valle Verde Campus AT&T Tower



Work on the **AT&T** communications tower at the **Valle Verde Campus** is nearing completion along with work on the cinderblock enclosure which surrounds it.

Installation of the tower began in July of 2020, and is almost complete.

The surrounding wall will have a veneer finish when complete.

Physical Plant Staff Birthdays

Jul 17	Barry Bautista
Jul 17	Benjamin Jordan
Jul 17	Alejo Ramirez
Aug 21	Caesar Lopez
Aug 23	Octavio Gonzalez
Aug 25	Jesus Ortiz
Aug 28	Rigo Rodriguez
Aug 31	Ramon Jurado

Holidays & Days of Note

- Sep 6 – Labor Day
- Sep 22 – Autumn Begins



Office of Risk Management and Safety

Rainy Weather Safety

When the rain comes, it can lower the temperature relieving us from the Summer heat. But we should be careful with the rain since it can bring on some dangers when driving or working outside in it.

With driving, you need to keep your distance from other vehicles. It is recommended to use the 3-second following rule on dry surfaces, especially on highways and freeways. With this, you see the back end of a



vehicle pass an object, and the front end of your vehicle should take 3 seconds to get to that object.

If it takes you less than 3 seconds to pass it, you are following too closely. On wet surfaces, you should try to double the time at least. When driving on surfaces that are wet from the rain can cause your tires to lose traction, and you can lose control of your vehicle. Another reason is that if you follow too closely to a car, especially at high speeds, the car's rear tires in front of you can toss water into the air.

And this extra water tends to hit your windshield, impeding your ability to see oncoming hazards.

About 6 inches of water can reach the bottom of a four-door passenger car, which can cause it to stall. A foot of water can cause a vehicle to float, and two feet can carry away most vehicles, including trucks or SUVs. So if you are unsure how deep water is, especially during a flash flood, whether you are walking or using a vehicle, turn around and don't risk your safety. When working in the rain, your feet can lose traction walking on wet surfaces. Due to this loss of traction, you can slip and fall. When you are walking in areas where large amounts of water limit your ability to see what is ahead of you. And if water flow is creating a current, it can carry you away if you are not careful. If you are stuck in still water, you can use something firm like a stick to make sure the path ahead of you is clear of holes or does not get deeper as you move forward.



*At EPCC we
"Take Safety Home"*

*Office of Risk Management & Safety
Ivan Flores, Safety Specialist*



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Recycling Program

The Three 'R's

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – these three 'R' words are an important part of sustainable living, as they help to cut down on the amount of waste we have to throw away.

It's really simple!

1. **Reduce** the amount of waste you produce.
2. **Reuse** items as much as you can before replacing them.
3. **Recycle** items wherever possible.



1. The first 'R' is all about creating less waste. **Reducing** the amount of waste we all generate is a great way to benefit the environment.
 - Only buy what you need
 - Buy in bulk
 - Choose products with less packaging
 - Look for items that you can re-use
2. The second 'R' looks at how you can **Reuse** certain items (ideally multiple times) before replacing them. Here are some ideas:
 - Fill a reusable water bottle with water from home/work instead of buying bottled water
 - Maintain updates on your cell phone and computer rather than getting a replacement
 - Repair items, rather than replace, whenever possible
 - Ditch plastic bags and choose reusable, environmentally-friendly bags
3. The third 'R' is about making sure you separate items that you can **Recycle**. Before you throw something away, think about whether all or part of it can be recycled.

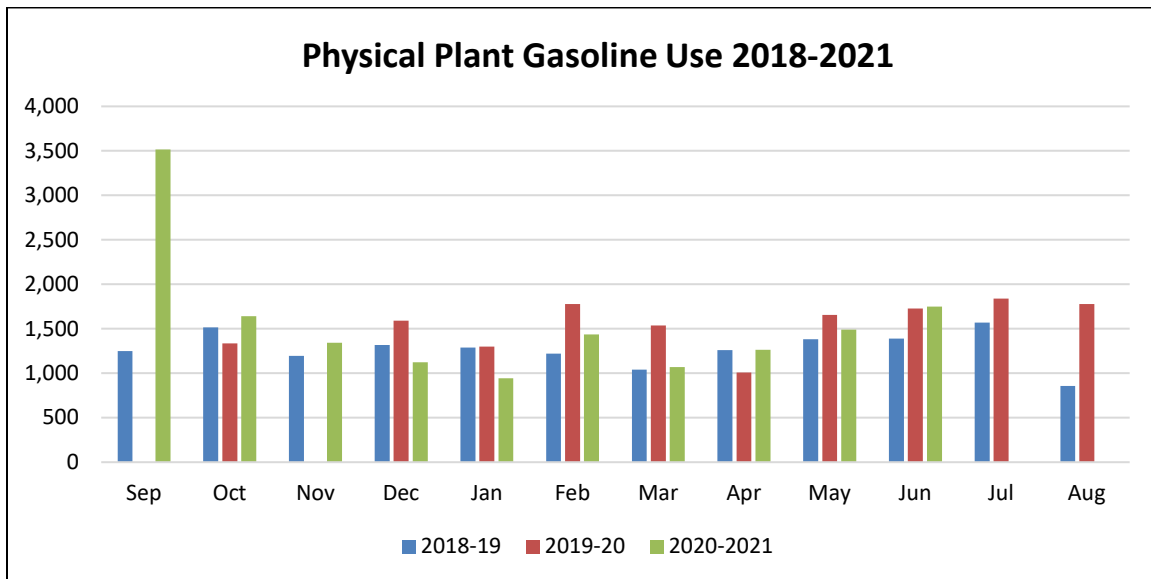
Materials that can be recycled include:

1. Plastic (no plastic bags or wrappers)
2. Paper/Cardboard
3. Aluminum/Tin



For questions or more information, contact:
Korina Navarro, Environmental Specialist at 915-831-7799.

Physical Plant Gasoline Use During Month of June 2021



The **Physical Plant** purchased **1,750 gallons** of gasoline during the month of **June 2021** at a cost of **\$5,371.25**.

This amount compares with 1,492 gallons purchased in **May 2021** at a cost of \$4,351.95, a 17 percent increase.

Physical Plant Work Orders for the Month of June 2021

June 2021 Work Orders

Campus/Location	Work Orders	Completed	% Completed
Administrative Service Center	72	63	88%
District-wide	8	8	100%
Mission del Paso Campus	93	83	89%
Northwest Campus	22	18	82%
Rio Grande Campus	49	41	83%
Transmountain Campus	45	39	87%
Valle Verde Campus	194	169	87%
TOTALS:	483	416	87%

During the month of **June 2021**, the Physical Plant received **483 Work Orders**. This compares with the total of **220 requests** received during the month of **May 2021**.

The work completed during one month's time includes the new work orders that are received after the month starts, and work orders from the previous month that are still in progress.

Olympus Janitorial Services received **108 calls** during the month of **June 2021**.

EPCC Utilities for FY 2020-2021

