Managing Risk is Universal

Managing and Prioritizing Risk is the theme of this issue, and it’s a universal topic for facilities management. Everything you do during the workday, every decision you make regarding the use of your resources, is your attempt to manage the risks and potential consequences in your support of your department and the institution you serve.

Of course, you may not always think in quite those terms, especially when you find yourself reacting to daily demands on staff, budget, or equipment. But the strength and stamina of your leadership can be measured in how you plan, how you anticipate, how you adjust, how you communicate, and how you respond to every aspect of your position as a facilities professional.

For his lead story on managed risk, writer Mark Crawford interviewed an SFO, a campus risk and life safety manager, two innovative business partners, a campus CFO, and a rep from a risk management association. They each provide a different perspective and insight into the definition, prioritization, process, and execution of managed risk. In addition, Mark Heroux’s feature on the “Seven Facility Maintenance Practices Costing You Money” dives deeper into one important aspect of facilities risk management.

Also in this issue we’re pleased to share with you a lengthy sampling of beautiful, functional, and student-focused housing at 20 college and university campuses throughout the United States. These include recent renovations and new construction, as well as several forthcoming projects that further enhance the educational experience. You’ll find photos, project details, and special features for each of the 26 different residential facilities highlighted here.

A regular feature of the January/February issue are the reports from each of the annual conferences held by the six APPA regions. The 2015 reports begin on page 18, where you’ll see the variety of special events, the quality of the programming, and the tremendous opportunities for networking that our regional conferences provide.

These same elements can be found at the many state and local APPA chapter conferences and meetings held during the year. Many of those chapter conferences take place in the March through June timeframe, but a few are held at other times. APPA promotes all regional and chapter conferences through our events listings published in Facilities Manager and the Inside APPA e-newsletter, as well as in the online calendar found at the APPA website. Please send any regional or chapter events listings directly to me at steve@appa.org for inclusion.

Finally, you may notice a few cosmetic tweaks to the magazine with this issue. We took the opportunity to change the font and line spacing to increase readability, modify the look of the regular department pages, and change the paper stock to a brighter white, among other minor modifications. We’ll be asking you to participate in our periodic readership survey in the next few months, and we look forward to your honest and thoughtful comments and suggestions regarding the magazine’s look and content. Thank you for your continued readership and support.