Although there is good news these days, people are tired and struggling. Please check in with your co-workers to see how they’re doing. Take advantage of confidential resources available through the United Way-Working Bridges program and Dartmouth’s Employee Assistance Program (https://www.dartmouth.edu/eap/). Let’s all care for one another.

**Enjoy the Last Runs of the Season**

Snow on the Winslow side of the Dartmouth Skiway is in great shape, so head out to the Skiway to enjoy the last few days of spring skiing and boarding. The lifts officially stop running on Sunday, Mar. 28, though the Skiway’s Facebook page notes that uphill exercise is open as long as the snow lasts. **BIG THANKS** to the Skiway employees and Ski Patrol for making this a fun and safe season.

**Take Advantage of Vaccine Offerings**

Dartmouth employees who are NH residents and over age 50 (who are in the state’s 2a, 2b or earlier vaccination categories) are encouraged to sign up for a free covid-19 vaccine. All eligible employees should follow the instructions you received in an email from Occupational Medicine, a Dartmouth department. If you don’t use email at work, please seek help from your supervisor or from HR Admin Services. Currently there are a number of openings on March 31, so grab a slot while you can. If you have further questions, please reference the Human Resources website at: https://www.dartmouth.edu/hrs/covid/index.html#vaccines.

Information about covid testing in VT for VT residents is available at https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine.

**TIMELY NEWS:** We just learned of an opportunity for upper valley residents (NH) of color/ethnic minorities to get vaccinated this weekend as part of NH’s equity vaccination program. The clinic is being organized by the Upper Valley Public Health Council. Interested people should call 603-523-7100 during business hours no later than Friday, March 26 at 10am. The clinic will be held in Lebanon on Saturday, March 27 from 12:15 -3:00.

**Talent Abounds in the EM Shop**

The Equipment Maintenance (EM) shop is one of the technical trade shops in Facilities Operations & Management (FO&M) and is responsible for maintaining all the mechanical equipment on campus. If the EM shop had a motto, it might be ‘out of sight, but not out of mind’. “Most of the equipment we maintain is hidden from sight,” explains supervisor Gregg Poretto, “and so are we. We enjoy being behind the scenes and hardly noticed, because this means we are doing our jobs.”

EM shop professionals improve the reliability and performance of various systems on campus, ranging from HVAC (heating/ventilation and air conditioning) systems to welding, subterranean infrastructure repairs, chilled water plan maintenance, athletic equipment repairs, and much more. Their work, which Poretto describes as “basically anything that moves,” is mostly preventative in nature, to avoid major equipment problems down the road.

These photos show underground infrastructure work, specifically rebuilding steam manhole #24 located near McNutt. The team disassembled the old piping and replaced it with new with all the mechanical work done in-house.

The 14 talented crew members include 4 licensed master plumbers, 1 certified welder, 3 certified refrigeration techs, 1 licensed master electrician, 2 certified LP gas/oil techs, 1 certified steamfitter, and 4 experienced building maintenance mechanics.

“The current EM Shop crew is the best crew assembled since I became the EM supervisor in 2004,” Poretto notes. “We’re a light-hearted group of professionals who don’t take anything too seriously, because we’re secure and confident in our abilities.” What a awesome success story!