

OUR PEOPLE. ————— OUR STORY.

*The Covid-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on our campus and community. The people of UK Facilities Management remain the “boots on the ground” for UK, providing the essential services needed to keep our campus safe, secure, and positioned to respond to the evolving crisis. The strength each of you demonstrate daily is inspiring and represents such courage and compassion. We are in this together and we will get through it together. **Thank you for everything you do.** – Mary Vosevich, Vice President for Facilities Management*



Facilities Management’s Grounds Department is piloting a new process for mulching campus trees. Providing mulch rings for trees has many benefits. From a maintenance standpoint, it prevents mechanical damage to the bark and trunk during mowing and trimming. The mulch also simulates the nutrients the tree would receive from the forest floor and limits competition for soil moisture. Over the past few years, and through events like the annual *Mulch Monday*, **Grounds** has established mulch rings around thousands of campus trees with the goal of protecting all 12,000+ campus trees with this technique. Our standard practice has been to purchase semitruck loads of hardwood mulch, up to 40 per year. This spring/summer, in an effort to reduce operating costs and find higher value uses for waste materials, **Stacy Borden** (left), UK Grounds Manager, is piloting the use of shredded tree material from campus and community tree pruning and removals. This has already saved thousands and has the potential to save tens of thousands of dollars annually if implemented as standard practice.



June 22-26 is *Animal Rights Awareness Week*. To celebrate, we will feature pictures and stories about campus wildlife each day this week. We are kicking things off with a good one submitted by **Mary Vosevich**, Vice President for Facilities Management. This young Cooper’s Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) paid a memorable visit to her window, perhaps attracted by her tasty looking rabbit. The Cooper’s Hawk is a crow-sized raptor found year-round across most of the continental US. It is a very skilled flier that dines on other birds. As it matures, its back plumage will become grayish blue and that yellow eye will turn red.



Self-care, maintaining and improving our mental and physical health, should always be a priority but it is especially important in these trying times. UK Human Resources, through their **Work-Life Connections Program**, provides a wide array of resources available to all UK Employees. We encourage you to take time this week to do two things. First, learn about the warning signs that commonly indicate that stress and circumstances are negatively impacting your mental health. Second, familiarize yourself with the resources that UK provides to help you regain balance and focus. More info:

<https://www.uky.edu/hr/work-life/counseling/worklife-connections-counseling>



PHOTO FRIDAY: Show off your garden!

June is also Fresh Fruits and Vegetable month, so let’s show off our home gardens. Much like the Victory Garden movement during WWII, home gardening has been an important coping hobby for many of us during these unprecedented and challenging times. Submit photos of your home garden to shane.tedder@uky.edu by the end of the day on Thursday for our Photo Friday Collage.