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Smullin Center in Line for New Chiller

Sometime this winter, a plumbing crew will spend about four days in Asante's Smullin Health Education Center to replace the building's water chiller, which is original equipment from the Smullin Center's construction in 1988.



"It's inefficient, we've had issues with it and the refrigerant is being phased out and won't be made anymore, in the near future," said Jason Houy, a project manager for Asante's Real Estate Department.

The water chiller is part of the building's heating and cooling system. It cools interior air by absorbing heat into a liquid, then removing warmth through a heat-exchanger and exhausting it into the outside air.

"Many people don't realize that most commercial buildings in Medford require air conditioning in the winter," Jason said. "This is

due to the heat load generated by equipment, lighting and occupants, along with the airtight construction of the building envelope."

Replacement of the existing Smullin chiller and start-up of the new one will take about four days to complete, he said. The work – to be done by a Medford plumbing contractor – will take place in part during a weekend, to minimize disruptions. A start date has not yet been set, but it will be sometime before spring.

The building's heating system will remain fully functional throughout the project. The work will not require the Smullin Center to be closed.

The new water chiller will be similar to the existing one, but will be more efficient and up-to-date.

Asante News is published every Tuesday. Deadline for submission of articles is every Friday. Send via e-mail to asantenews@asante.org.
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