



# Monthly Newsletter

## FACILITIES FORUM

December 2025



PHOTO BY TODD PARIS

## BRACE YOURSELVES, NANOOKS: THE BIG CHILL HAS ARRIVED!



PHOTO BY CINDY BRAVO

Alaska is about to remind us why it's one of the coolest places on Earth—literally. A major cold snap is rolling in, bringing temperatures expected to drop as low as -30°F and stick around for the next couple of weeks. While the frosty beauty of a Fairbanks winter is something we all cherish, staying safe and prepared is essential.

Before the deep freeze hits, please make sure you, your family, and your home are winter-ready.

- Plug in all vehicles and equipment—anything left unplugged in this kind of cold simply won't start.
- Double-check extension cords and outlets for damage.
- For fleet and work vehicles, ensure block heaters are functioning properly.

The silver lining? Clear, cold skies bring incredible aurora displays.

If you're willing to bundle up, the northern lights are expected to be stunning over the next few nights.

Cold snaps like this are part of what makes Alaska life adventurous, and the UAF community knows how to rise to the challenge. Stay warm, stay safe, and don't hesitate to reach out to Facilities Services if you notice anything on campus that needs attention.

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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## UAF Events

DEC 5	UTILITIES FIRST FRIDAY TOUR 1:30 PM
DEC 5	STUDENT ART SALE - FINE ART COMPLEX NOON - 6 PM
DEC 6	THADDEUS WILLIAMSON MEMORIAL NOON - SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL
DEC 11	UAF FACILITIES SERVICES HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 11:30 AM
DEC 18	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES HOLIDAY LUNCH NOON - 1:30 PM
DEC 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS

UAF NEWS AND EVENTS

SUPPORT UAF SPORTS



## Thaddeus Williamson Obituary



"Stay warm and dry!" -Thadd

Published by Daily News-Miner on November 29, 2025

Life-time Alaskan resident and Mamaceqtaw (Menomonee) Thaddeus Williamson, 54, at long last is at peace, having passed away on Nov. 20, 2025, at home in Fairbanks, Alaska, after his lifelong struggle against home repairs.

A memorial mass will be held at noon on Dec. 6 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Fairbanks, Alaska, with a reception following afterwards downstairs.

Thadd was born in Anchorage, Alaska, on Aug. 4, 1971. He grew up hunting, fishing, and otherwise running and exploring the Kenai Peninsula, snowboarding in the mountains and fishing in Cook Inlet, Katchemak Bay, Kamishak Bay and the Gulf of Alaska while attending school in Soldotna and later Fairbanks.

He was a true Alaskan man, a child of nature, who deeply believed in service to country, community, tribe, family and God and did his best to practice this throughout his life and to support those who also chose to serve others. He was many things including a commercial fisherman, a sailor, a medic, a firefighter/paramedic, a safety officer, and an assistant professor for emergency services, but the two roles he was proudest of were those of husband to his wife of 22 years, Debra, and a father and mentor to his children - both his biological children and to the hundreds he trained in the fire, EMS, and police services.

Thadd was one of those people who was obnoxiously good at helping others and was blessed with being placed in the right place at the right time to do so. He used his sense of humor to lighten the darkest of moments; having seen the darkness for himself he always tried to shield others from it. His family was most important to him. Parents, siblings, children, extended, by shared blood or by blood shed for one another - but above all he simply loved his wife.

He would often say "The only thing that makes me sad about knowing my time will eventually come is leaving the people I love and those who love me."

He is survived by his wife, Debra Williamson, who loved him deeply and it was her love that he treasured the most and above all worldly things. He is also survived by his children, Jayce, Jordan, Thadea, Keinan, and Corbin. Being loved by his wife and children gave him strength and deeply loving his wife and children gave him courage.

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# Employee of the Month - Betty Rodgers

By Kellie Fritze

Please join me in congratulating Betty Rodgers from the Housing Shop as our December Employee of the Month!

Each month, the Facilities Services leadership team reviews all nominations and votes on the winner. Generally, we don't receive many extra comments beyond the nomination itself - however this month, one leadership team member added, "I would love for Betty to get it. When I run into her, she is engaging and curious and helpful." That really says it all.

Betty has been a quiet force behind so many of the moments that bring our teams together. Her hard work, kindness, and the care she puts into everything she does make a meaningful difference every single day. Her efforts strengthen our culture, bring people together, and help make this a place where people feel supported and valued.

Below is the nomination submitted on her behalf:

Nominee: Elizabeth (Betty) Rodgers

Nominee Dept/Team: Facilities services housing

Reasons for Nomination:

Achievements and Accomplishments:

For the past decade, whenever there has been a celebration or gathering requiring food, organization, preparation, or execution, Betty has been the one ensuring everything runs smoothly. She has been the go-to person for all facility holiday parties and biweekly luncheons here at the Physical Plant. She works tirelessly to plan these events, purchase the food, cook and serve the meals, and 95% of the time when I walk through the housing shop afterward, it's Betty who is washing the dishes and putting everything away. If anyone here deserves to be Employee of the Month, it's her!

Positive Attitude and Behavior:

There are two ways to thank someone: one is through the mind with words, and the other is through the stomach with food. Betty elevates the attitude and well-being of every employee in this building through her efforts. When she is in the housing shop cooking for a meal, the aromas that fill the building lift everyone's spirits. Her attitude while doing so is contagious in the best possible way. She loves what she does, and everyone can see it and appreciate it.

Teamwork and Collaboration:

Yes, we do have a committee that meets from time to time to help arrange events here at Facilities. That being said, a great deal of the heavy lifting is done by Betty. She organizes and rallies the team to ensure our events are successful and that our people are well fed and taken care of. Betty will step up at any moment to lead the group and make sure everything comes together. It comes naturally to her - she truly enjoys helping people and making sure they're taken care of.

Leadership and Initiative:

Leadership: If there is ever any question about who is running the show when we're putting on a large event here at Facilities, just walk into the housing shop and watch. There is always one person calling the shots, giving direction, and assigning tasks - and that person is Betty. Everyone goes to her to see what she needs, and they make it happen. Without ever having to say it, she is the leader and the driving force who ensures everything gets done.

Customer Service and Satisfaction:

I cannot count how many times I have seen Betty pay out of her own pocket to ensure that students could participate in the lunches, or to help shop personnel who didn't have money until payday. She consistently goes out of her way to make sure the people in this building are fed and taken care of. Her generosity and compassion do not go unnoticed.

Additional Comments:

I understand that the items listed above focus primarily on Betty's cooking for Facilities Services, and to be honest, that is exactly why I feel she deserves Employee of the Month - because of the extra work she puts in to ensure we are all taken care of and happy. In Housing, I see Betty at the end of the day, exhausted from the physical work required to maintain the buildings where our residents live. Despite all of that, she still takes the time to organize, purchase, cook, serve, and clean for the events we hold here at the Physical Plant. I have heard people in the past claim that she does this because she wants to "get out of work," but those comments typically come from individuals who have never organized an event and do not understand the amount of work involved. As someone who is paid to put on events and ensure their success on campus, I can confidently say that the amount of effort Betty puts in to make these events happen is immense - and it absolutely deserves recognition.

Congratulations, Betty, and thank you for everything you do for Facilities Services and the broader UAF community.

If you'd like to nominate a colleague for next month's Employee of the Month, you can do so [here](#).

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# UAF FACILITIES SERVICES HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 11, 2025 at 11:30 AM

Please plan to provide for 150-200 people.

Thank you to the Leadership team for providing the turkeys and hams!

HVAC: Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Preventative Maintenance/EH&S: Macaroni & Cheese

Labor/Grounds/Rural & Remote Site Manager: Pies & Desserts

Electrical & Trades Mtc Shop/IT/Warehouse: Salads (pasta, coleslaw, potato, fruit)

Housing, Plumbing & Dining Shop: Stuffing & Sweet Potatoes

Central Receiving/Mail Center: Beverages

DDC/Utilities: Rolls & Bread

Vehicle Shop/ Shuttle/ Alarms & Insulation Shop: Veggies (hot & cold), Cranberry Sauce

Business Operations/IT/Admin/ Customer Service: Butter, Paper Plates, Plastic Utensils, Napkins



## Vice Chancellors Holiday Lunch

Tuesday, December 18, 2025

Noon - 1:30 PM Wood Center Ballroom

Please RSVP by Friday, December 5: <http://forms.gle/EWLXqSkctcHAYDkR9>

Shuttle service from Power Plant and Physical Plant to North Wood Center

## UAF Benefits

Contact the UA Benefits team  
(907) 450-8242 | [ua-benefits@alaska.edu](mailto:ua-benefits@alaska.edu)  
[Schedule one-on-one time](#)

Need personal benefits help?  
[TouchCare](#) | 1-866-486-8242  
[assist@touchcare.com](mailto:assist@touchcare.com) | [TouchCare's Website](#)

## Current Recruitments



## UAF JOBS

[Alarms Technician - 530903](#)

[MSW4 Utilities Laborer - 531506](#)

[HVAC Technician \(MSW4-CT1\) - 531479](#)

[CT2 Building Maintenance Technician - 531567](#)

[UAF Grounds Temporary Small Equipment Operator - Swing Shift - 531576](#)

[UAF Grounds Temporary Small Equipment Operator - Night Shift - 531569](#)

## First Friday Tour at the Central Heat and Power Plant

The Utilities Operations Division of Facilities Services offers monthly tours of the UAF Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant. Tours take place on the first Friday of each month at 1:30 p.m., meeting on the first floor of the CHP Turbine Building (north side entrance).

To help us plan for the appropriate number of tour guides, please email [UAF-chptours@alaska.edu](mailto:UAF-chptours@alaska.edu) in advance to reserve your spot. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a special tour, please contact us at the same email address.

We look forward to seeing you!



*Thank you for reading!*