



# Monthly Newsletter

FACILITIES FORUM

02 April 2025



PHOTO BY TODD PARIS

## Exciting Updates Ahead: Check Out What's New This Month!



Welcome back to this month's edition of Facilities Forum. Time for the announcements!

Congratulations to **Macie Schoemaker**, she is April's Employee of the Month. If you know someone who you think deserves to be recommended as a future Employee on the Month, please visit this [link](#) to nominate them.

Performance evaluations are close at hand!! Log into MyUA and talk with your supervisor to start the process if you haven't already. All Facilities Services performance evaluations are due to be completed by June 1, 2025.

Staff Recognition and Development Day is tomorrow. Congratulations to all of the longevity award recipients! For more information visit this [link](#).

**Jennifer Williams-Hickenbottom** will have her last day in her current position this Friday, as she transfers to a position at DDC. Please remember to address all FSHR emails to [uaf-fshr@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-fshr@alaska.edu).

Thank you for being a part of Facilities Services!

*Facilities team x*

In this newsletter you can expect:

Gruening  
Carillon

Surplus to the  
Rescue

Fairbanks Heart  
Walk

Current  
Recruitments



PHOTO BY LEIF VAN CISE

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# Gruening Carillon



by **Nathan Platt**

Anyone who has been around the Troth Yeddha' campus for a few years probably remembers that there used to be chimes that played from loudspeakers on top of the Gruening building every quarter hour. Those chimes haven't worked in several years, but that may soon change.

Recently, Facilities received a request from the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra to use the loudspeakers on Gruening to play Beethoven's 5th Symphony in support of the "Beat Beethoven" 5K race to be held on campus April 19. We agreed to look into it, and Blake Rummell with the Electric and Trades Maintenance Shop was given the task of getting that system functional again. There is a hub room on the first floor of Gruening with an AV rack full of old audio equipment that runs the loudspeakers. Included in that system are a cassette tape player, CD player, and of course, the head unit that controls the chimes.

The chimes are also sometimes called the "Carillon", which is a bit of a misnomer because technically a carillon is a musical instrument

composed of at least 23 bells arranged in chromatic sequence. Our system consists of only 11 "bells", which are really chimes played by a small mallet striking a suspended tuned bar. Still, it's pretty neat that the chimes we used to hear on campus were actually created by an amplified percussion instrument!

The carillon is an old piece of equipment. I wasn't able to tell when it was purchased, but it has a property sticker on it from 1980. There's also a note in the hub room left in 1983 by a long-retired technician instructing us to return the unit to the manufacturer, Maas-Rowe, for refurbishment.

For now, Blake is looking at options to replace the mechanical chimes with a digital substitute, and we hope to have them ringing again this summer. It may not be as sincere or nostalgic as the original, but it will have to do for now.

Also, rest assured that the loudspeakers will be ready for the 5K race in April.

\*For more information on carillons around campus, read this [article](#) about the 1955 Carillon in Eielson.



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## Surplus to the Rescue



**by Tony D'Aoust**

I arrived at work the other morning to discover a graffiti artist had decorated our Wilson Alaska Technical Center Test facility, affectionately called BARB (big Autonomous Red Box) essentially a glorified 20' storage container. We secured all relevant permissions to have this test facility on campus and it has been here trouble free moving into our second year now. After this graffiti happened we called Campus police and went

through the reporting process but I wanted to implement something immediately to show that some action was taken on our part and a quick trip to UAF Surplus provided two defunct but suitably intimidating looking cameras one of which was able to be installed that evening and the other I'm building a bracket for the secondary location. Thank you for the quick service you provide and the immediacy of the solution outside of the timeline of any financial approvals or other requisition delays.



**BARB**

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# Fairbanks Heart Walk



American Heart Association®  
Heart Walk.®

**by Karrah Hearn**

The Fairbanks Heart Walk this year is on May 10th at the Carlson Center.

*Facilities Services has a team, and we want you to join us!* This is a fun event that can be attended by the whole family.

If you follow the link below, you will be taken to the Facilities team page, where you can learn more, sign up to be a walker for the team, or make an online donation. If you need assistance signing up or have general questions please let Karrah Hearn know.

**Saturday, May 10th**

11:30am Opening Ceremonies

12:00pm Walk Begins

[https://www2.heart.org/site/TR/HeartWalk/WSA-WesternStatesAffiliate?team\\_id=900268&pg=team&fr\\_id=11677](https://www2.heart.org/site/TR/HeartWalk/WSA-WesternStatesAffiliate?team_id=900268&pg=team&fr_id=11677)

## Current Recruitments

[Summer Temp](#)

[Maintenance Mechanic](#)

*Thank you for reading!*



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