



# Monthly Newsletter

## FACILITIES FORUM

05 August 2025



PHOTO BY TODD PARIS

## Facilities Services Summer BBQ

Join us August 21st at noon

- All FS Employees
- Physical Plant Bus Bay
- Burgers, dogs, chicken patties

### Shop Assignments:

Admin / Customer Service / DDC / Warehouse / IGSA

\* Fruits & Desserts

Alarms / Asbestos / Center Receiving / Mail Center

\* Beverages

Business Ops / Grounds / Labor / Utilities

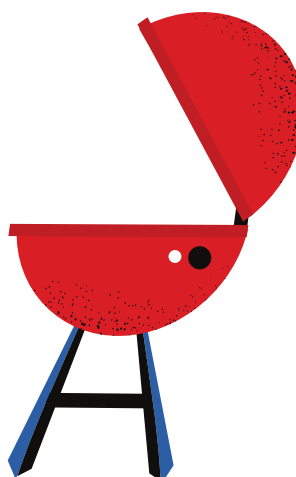
\* Buns (burger & dog)

Carpentry / Electrical / Housing / Plumbing / HVAC

\* Side dishes (salad, beans, etc)

Custodial / IT / PM / Shuttle / Vehicle

\* Chips, dip & veggies



Please coordinate within your department to provide for 150-200 people

Questions? Contact Betty 907-978-5407

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

Facilities Services Summer  
BBQ

UAF Events

Employee of the Month

Music in the Garden

Bear's UAF Grounds  
Summer Camp

Sink Holes

First Friday Tour at the  
Central Heat and Power  
Plant

## UAF Events

Aug 7 - Ice Cream Thursday 12 pm – 2 am - Wood Center

Aug 7 & 8 - Simply Thai Food Truck 11:00 am – 2:30 pm - Cornerstone

Aug. 21 - Residence halls open to first-year students only, 8 a.m.

Aug 22 - Residence halls open to all students, 8 a.m.

Sept 13 - 2025 Food Truck Rally 11 AM - 8 PM - Patty center

<https://www.uaf.edu/summer/events/upcoming.php>



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# Employee of the Month

By Kellie Fritze

Please join me in congratulating Heather Dorsett as our August Employee of the Month!

Heather's efficiency, professionalism, and positive spirit make her an outstanding member of the Design and Construction team. This summer, she played a critical role in supporting the Utilities overhaul, turning around rapid-fire contracts and change orders that kept key contractors and turbine crews working without delay. She did all this while also supporting three other busy project managers and mentoring new team members - always with a smile and a "can-do" attitude. Please join me in congratulating Heather on this well-deserved recognition and thanking her for all she does!

## Reasons for Nomination:

- Achievements and Accomplishments:
- Heather was instrumental in turning around rapid-fire contracts and change orders to keep up with the shifting or emerging needs during the recent Utilities overhaul in June, which helped to keep term contractors and the turbine inspection crew on the ground working where they were needed most. In addition to that incredible effort, she kept up with support for three other busy project managers' needs and spent time training and mentoring new contract specialists at DDC, all with a smile on her face! Last summer Heather worked towards and passed the test to obtain her Construction Documents Technologist (CDT) certificate, which is a mark of distinction demonstrating advanced knowledge in the field of writing, interpreting, and enforcing construction documents. It takes a lot of work to achieve and to maintain that certification through ongoing education and training.
- Positive Attitude and Behavior: Heather supports an array of project teams within DDC, and no matter what challenges she may occasionally face, she attacks her work with diligence and "can-do" spirit. The project teams that she works with know that she is 100% committed to supporting their project successes, and they often praise her depth of knowledge and her efficiency with paperwork. Heather has been generous in sharing her time and knowledge with two newer members of the DDC contracting team, often happy to go beyond surface processes and delve deep into the reasons behind a particular procedure or form. Beyond that, she sets a great example with her work ethic and dedication.
- Customer Service and Satisfaction: DDC serves many "customers," whether they be colleagues from Maintenance or Utilities, departments within the university, the Alaska Dept. of Labor, or the contractors and design firms that work on campus projects. Regardless of who she works with, Heather has a service mindset and is eager to act as a resource to anyone that needs it. She does a great job representing Facilities Services and DDC.

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Congrats to Heather!! If you'd like to nominate a colleague for September Employee of the Month, you can do so [here](#).

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## Music in the Garden this Thursday

AUG 7, FROM 6 PM - 8:30 PM



Diamond Fuller at 6pm



Fairbanks Community Jazz Band at 7:30pm

Join us for this FREE family-friendly event. Enjoy live music in the UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden with Diamond Fuller at 6 pm and the Fairbanks Community Jazz Band at 7:30 pm.

With limited parking space use our free shuttle from the Nenana parking lot (across the road from the Patty Center). The shuttle begins at 5:30 p.m. and will run until 9 p.m.

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## Bear's UAF Grounds Summer Camp



PHOTOS BY BEAR EDSON

By Darrin Bear Edson

Over the years, the workforce behind UAF Grounds and Labor has grown and changed in many ways. One of the most impactful changes has been the people themselves—those who have dedicated their summers, and often much more, to caring for and maintaining our beautiful campus.

Back in the late '90s and early 2000s, the UAF Grounds Crew was mostly made up of UAF students working alongside a few full-time staff. It was a close-knit, hardworking group. But as time passed, it became more difficult to find UAF students.

Faced with a shortage of workers, we reached out to local high school counselors and asked if they had students who were both interested in attending UAF and open to a summer job on campus. It turned out to be a great idea. We quickly realized this was more than just filling job openings—it was an opportunity to introduce future UAF students to the university in a unique, hands-on way.

The program has been a huge success. Many high school students have spent their junior and senior summers working on the UAF Grounds Crew, and then gone on to become full-time UAF students—and in many cases, full-time employees. Some have worked on the crew through all four years of their university education.

This initiative has given young people a chance to gain real-life work experience, form lasting friendships, and feel a true sense of belonging. Once you've been part of the UAF Grounds and Labor Crew, you're always part of this extended family. We've watched team members grow into adults, raise families, and even send their own kids to UAF—some of whom now work on the same crew.

The UAF Grounds and Labor team has always been more than just a crew—it's a community. I'm proud to have played a part in building and growing that legacy over the past 30 years.

Passing the torch.

Amber McKirgan, a couple of years ago, stepped in to lead the department. Amber knows this place inside and out. She started working here right out of high school and has risen through the ranks through dedication and hard work. She's a second-generation UAF employee—her father also worked here for 30 years.

So it's only fitting that as we turn the page to a new chapter, we embrace a new slogan that honors this next generation of leadership:

**Amber's UAF Grounds Summer Camp**

Here's to the future—and to the legacy we continue to build, one summer at a time.

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## Sink Holes



By Nathan Platt

A couple of new sinkholes (also called thermokarsts) have opened up on North Campus. The one in the picture is in the middle of the road to the "deer yard". These form when ice lenses under the surface melt, creating a void that eventually falls in on itself. The Grounds Crew collapsed these holes, packed them full of gravel, and fixed the road

Two are from the "deer yard" road north of Murie, one is from the Akasofu north parking lot.

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## Current Recruitments

[Signage Technician](#)

[MSW4 Grounds Worker](#)

[HVAC Technician \(MSW4 - CT-1\)](#)

[Assistant Systems and  
Database Manager](#)

[Facilities Services Student  
Assistant - Shuttle Bus Driver](#)

[Temporary Shuttle Bus Driver](#)

[Shuttle Bus Driver](#) -  
Internal only at this time

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## 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!



TOUR STARTING SPOT

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*Thank you for reading!*