



Facilities Forum

August 2026

Employee of the Month

Please join me in congratulating **Avie Bruce, Property Manager at Property & Central Receiving** on being selected as our August Facilities Services Employee of the Month!

Avie's leadership, professionalism, and commitment to continuous improvement have made a lasting impact on Central Receiving and Property and exemplify the values of Facilities Services.

Congratulations, Avie, and thank you for everything you do for UAF Facilities Services! Know someone who deserves recognition? Nominate them [here!](#)



A smile says it all! Todor Yakimov gives the new Sherpa his seal of approval. photo by K. Fritze

From Kellie Fritze, AVCF

July was a busy month for Facilities Services. We kicked off the new fiscal year following a successful Utilities overhaul, added a new Sherpa to our fleet, and are now focused on preparing campus for the fall semester. Thank you for the pride you take in your work and for supporting one another every day.

You'll also notice a refreshed Facilities Forum. My goal is to make it shorter and a better reflection of the great work happening across Facilities Services. If you have photos, story ideas, milestones, or suggestions for future issues, I'd love to hear from you. — Kellie

Kudos!

I appreciate the grounds crew's efforts to make our campus look so nice. Thanks very much. — S.M.

Hello Grounds, Thank you for making this place so beautiful! — S.K.

Hi, I am the Assistant Swim Coach at UAF. I just wanted to say thank you for helping put new tape on the blocks. It is greatly appreciated. — L.I.

Shop Highlights

Thanks to Stacy Boone-Grant, Transportation and Shuttle Service Manager, for providing the following article, winter will be here before we know it....

Winter Vehicle Issues and How to Avoid Being Stranded

It is almost that time of year: the ice fog descends, the line at the UAF sign grows to 2 miles long as eager Alaskans and tourists want to take a picture at -40, no one wants to leave their wood stove or puppies, and the frost on your vehicle never goes away. Yes, we're talking about winter in Fairbanks. Much like us, our vehicles have a special kind of distaste for the cold weather, too.

Not much is more frustrating after dragging yourself out of bed at -40 and covering yourself in 5 layers of clothing and gear, than your vehicle not starting. Why does this always seem to happen? How can it be prevented? Let's take a look at how cold weather impacts vehicle function and learn more about what can be done to prevent this frustrating turn of events.

First let's take a look at ...

Go [HERE](#) to find the rest of this article

Summer Fun - Sink holes, roof leaks, crumbling concrete ... and disc golf!



A new sinkhole opened up north of O'Neill on July 15, measuring about 20 feet across and 27 feet deep. Thanks to Raif and Jamie from the Grounds Crew for quickly and safely collapsing the hole and filling it in. *photo by N. Platt*



Wood Center Dining: We always get excited about a new roof leak. This one happened during an epic rainstorm on July 13. A loose roof drain collar caused this puddle. Thanks to James in the carpentry shop, it's been repaired. *photo by N. Platt*



North Campus Update: The UAF Gold Disc Golf Course has a fresh new look with newly installed course signs. The updated signage makes the course easier to navigate and enhances the experience for students, employees, and community members enjoying one of North Campus's most popular recreational amenities. *photo by Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation*



Concrete Repairs: Alcan Construction is repairing the concrete stairs at the 100 Building in the Cutler Apartment Complex. Years of winter maintenance caused the stair edges to deteriorate. This project, along with repairs to a stairway on the east side of the Patty Center walking deck, is scheduled for completion by August 15. *photo by N. Platt*



Chancellor's House Improvements: Repairs are underway at the Chancellor's House. The rust on the wheelchair ramp handrails has been treated, and since this photo was taken, James and Connor from the Carpentry Shop have completed concrete repairs. Upcoming work includes touch-up painting of the handrails, a kitchen update, and landscaping improvements. *photo by N. Platt*

A note from Interim Chancellor Larry Hinzman:

As I drove into campus this morning, I was really happy with how nicely the campus looks today, and really through the whole summer. Although I'm sure the rain has helped, your team has been terrific in the daily upkeep of the grounds. Everything looks super and we are all appreciative of what a great first impression this gives to our visiting students and their families.

Thanks to everyone for their efforts. Facilities Services deserves to be proud of your work.

A look back to FY26

FY26 by the numbers:

- Gross square feet maintained: *4,013,670 gsf*
- Work orders transactions billed: *73,648*
- Total contracts encumbered through DDC: *158 to a tune of \$15,996,652*
- Total Invoices paid through DDC: *450 totaling \$19,860,894*
- Total # of Warehouse transactions: *23,581*
- Total # of hours billed by FS Shops: *179,642*
- Total amount of fuel sold through our pumps: *68.664 gal of gasoline and 50.808 gal of diesel*
- Total # of vehicle/lease transactions: *518*
- Total # of air filters purchased through the Warehouse: *8,116*
- Total # of shuttle riders served: *111,567*
- Total # of packages received and delivered by the Campus Mail Center: *30,205*
- Total # of pieces of letter mail received and delivered by the Campus Mail Center: *334,454*
- Total # of surplus listings on GovDeals: *1,550*
- Total amount oil used for light duty vehicle oil changes: *660 gallons*
- Total amount of steam to campus: *342 million pounds*
- Total amount of electricity generated: *63,357 MWh*
- Total amount of coal used: *74,421 tons*

UAF Trivia (first person to give me the correct answer gets bragging rights next month!)

Before students learned geology in a classroom, what card game did they play using rocks instead of playing cards?

- A. Gold Rush Poker
- B. Rock Poker
- C. Miner's Bridge
- D. Quartz Rummy

Current Facilities Recruitments



Utilities CT3 Instrumentation Mechanic

Assistant Director of Maintenance and Operations - currently in the review process

Electrician - CT2/CT3

Property Coordinator

MSW4 Utilities Laborer

CT1 Grounds Technician

Temporary Full-Time Shuttle Bus Driver

CT1 Shuttle Driver