



# Monthly Newsletter

FACILITIES FORUM

06 November 2024



PHOTO BY SARAH MANRIQUEZ

## 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 **Joseph Hausmann**, he is November's Employee of the Month. If you have a nomination for future EoMs, visit this [link](#).

Veterans Day is next Monday, **11 Nov 2024**. Thadd Williamson invites all Facilities Services Vets to swing by the Physical Plant Center Aisle on Veterans Day at 1200 for a sandwich (or two if you're hungry), chips, and a drink.

Keep watch on your emails as the holidays approach, there will be info concerning Payroll.

Please help welcome **Brady Selph** and **Breanne Harbison**, both with the Maintenance shop, **Alexander Dong**, **Kolman Smyth**, and **Michael Sackinger**, all with Utilities, **Estolio Murillo**, with DDC, and **Linney Kilgus**, with Customer Service, who started last month. Also, **Owen Bill**, with Operations, who started this month.



Thank you for being a part of Facilities Services.

*Facilities team x*

In this newsletter you can expect:

All FS Meeting

962 Loader

Current Recruitments

Popcorn Success



PHOTO BY LEIF VAN CISE



# ALL FS MEETING

ANNUAL CHECKIN EVENT

**11.06.24 • 10:30AM-12PM**

Woodcenter Ballroom



COFFEE AND PASTRIES TO BE SERVED

FREE T-SHIRTS FOR ATTENDEES

---

---

# 962 Loader

**by Casey Stagno**

Facilities Services recently took possession of a new Caterpillar 962M to supplement its fleet of wheeled front-end loaders. This loader arrived well-equipped and ready for snow, and its timing couldn't have been better. We got it just before the big winter snow when we saw 10 inches of snow and not an insignificant amount of rain. After less than 3 weeks and more than 220 hours of use, it has proven itself to be the workhorse for Grounds snow removal efforts.

This loader uses a different attachment style than our other two medium-sized front-end loaders and, therefore, came equipped with its own attachments. Notably a new snow push or Ublade. This snow push is considerably larger than our old large Ublade. Coming in at 15 feet wide, over 4 ½ feet tall, and nearly 7,000 LBS. It has the capacity to push 12 to 18 cubic yards of snow at a time; if the conditions are right, I can see that number creeping past 20 cubic yards, that is, two dump trucks full of snow for reference. This high capacity has already proven itself useful.

While, due to its size, it struggles to fit in some of the older areas of campus and even our own building, the added throughput in most parking lots and roads more than makes up for its shortcomings.

While we are very happy with this new loader, it has taken some effort to adapt to it. This loader is operated with a joystick instead of a steering wheel. It was initially rather intimidating to operate but ended up being much more intuitive to operate than I had anticipated, and for the most part, we have all picked it up pretty well so far, though it will still be some time until it is as second nature as using a steering wheel has become. This loader also offers an increased level of operator comfort and situational awareness. This loader came equipped with a 360-degree camera system and improved sightlines, allowing operators to see their surroundings better. As you can imagine, this is a big safety concern when operating on a college campus.

All in all we are very happy with this new tool and look forward to its many years of operation and the millions of cubic yards of snow it will move in its lifetime.



## Current Recruitments

CT3 Electrician -Utilities

Shuttle Bus Driver

HVAC Technician

Contract Specialist

Procurement Technician

Painter/Maint Mechanic

Maintenance Mechanic - Utilities

Concrete Worker/Building  
Maintenance Carpenter

## Popcorn Success



Thank you to all who have made the biweekly popcorn a success! Come on down to the Physical Plant center aisle the Wednesday of payday week for a special treat.

*Thank you for reading!*



UAF is an AAEO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination/](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination/).