



Facilities Forum

A newsletter for the UAF Facilities Services Community

February 7, 2024

Volume 1 Issue 3

Good morning everyone, welcome to the **Facilities Forum**.

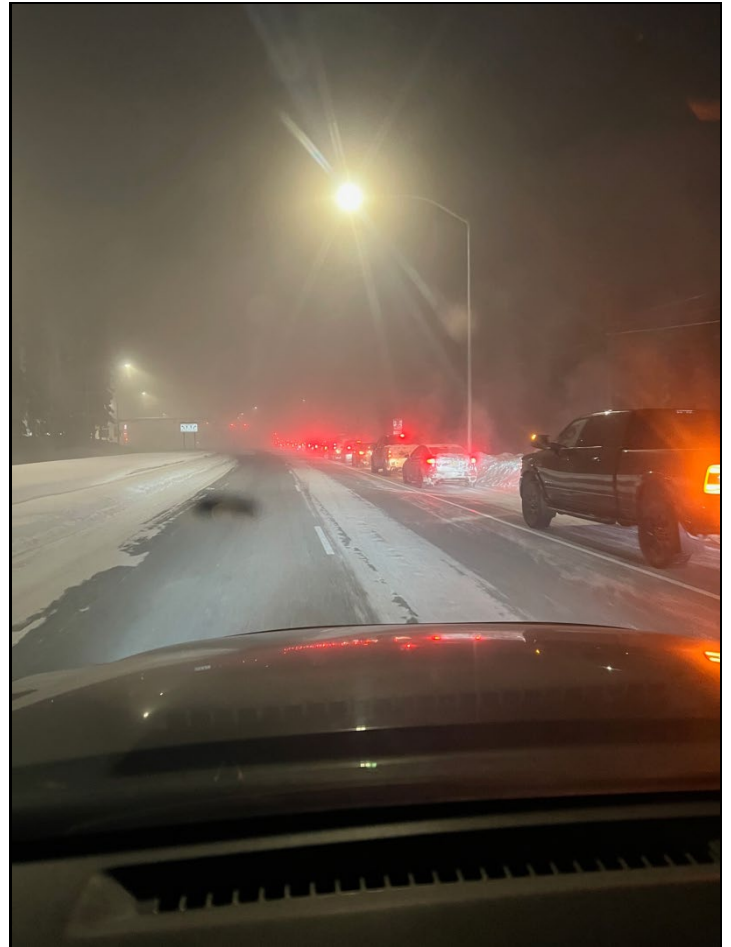
I hope everyone managed to stay warm during the cold temperatures we've had over the past couple of weeks! Overall, the buildings survived with only a few hiccups here and there. Many thanks to the crews at the Power Plant for keeping the lights on and the steam moving! Temperatures are expected to climb over the next few days, and hopefully we're past the coldest temperatures for this winter.

Keep reading for an update from Kellie Frize on our recent strategic planning efforts. We've also got a great article by Bear Edson about the campus shuttle bus program. If you have story ideas, or an exciting picture you want to share, please send them my way! The next edition of the Facilities Forum will be sent out February 21.

The Week in Photos



Adam Mcdermott from the Asbestos Shop sent this picture a couple of days ago. 49 below in the 49th state!



This photo from Bear Edson is looking south from Farmers Loop road toward the Alumni Drive intersection. Cars were lined up all the way back to Taku Drive for a chance to take a picture with the sign at -40.



On January 19, Fairbanks experienced a mild earthquake (5.3 on the Richter Scale) that was close enough and large enough that everyone noticed! For the most part, the campus escaped any damage, except for this light cover in a hallway in Reichardt, which fell off during the quake.



Ed Robinson from the HVAC shop had to climb out on the roof of Lathrop this past weekend to clear the ice buildup from the air intake. Nice job with the safety harness! Thanks to Thadd Williamson for the photo.



Is this the end of an era? Our old Thomas shuttle bus, E1087, the largest in the fleet with 31 seats, was involved in a small accident last week due to very icy conditions. This bus has been in service on campus since 1992. The Operations team is having it assessed by a body shop, and if possible we'll put it back into service. See below for a story by Bear Edson about the scope and importance of the shuttle bus service to the UAF community.



Ice fog settling over Fairbanks as seen from Butrovich last Friday.

Announcements

- The community coffee station is back in use at the Physical Plant near Customer Service. This is run solely on donations to purchase supplies such as coffee, creamer, sugar and coffee filters. Monetary or coffee can donations are encouraged. There is a donation can on the top of the coffee pot that is emptied every evening. Please contact Customer Service with questions.
- The UAF Police reported a vehicle stolen from the parking lot on the east side of Brooks on Friday night. This is a good reminder to everyone not to leave vehicles running and unlocked anywhere on campus. Please also be mindful of idling vehicles near air intakes, including at the Physical Plant.

Draft Strategic Plan and Feedback Sessions

By Kellie Fritze, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities

I am delighted to share Facilities Services' draft strategic plan through two feedback sessions scheduled for this week: a Zoom meeting scheduled today, Wednesday, February 7 at 1pm (join [here](#)) and an in-person meeting tomorrow, Thursday, February 8 at the Physical Plant bus barn at 2pm. We will share the Zoom meeting recording with anyone unable to attend.

This comprehensive plan reflects our shared commitment to excellence, innovation, and the well-being of everyone at FS and the entire UAF community. We will share background on the plan development and answer your questions about the plan. We'll collect your thoughts, suggestions and edits through a survey sent to all FS staff.

The strategic plan begins by emphasizing the purpose of Facilities Services - not merely as stewards of physical spaces but as caretakers of UAF in its entirety, including campuses, facilities, and, most importantly, our people.

The core values of Connection, Reliability, Safety, Stewardship, and Responsiveness emerge as guiding principles, reflecting our shared history and commitments that will shape our actions in the years to come.

Our vision is ambitious - by 2030, UAF will have the best-supported and utilized education and research spaces in Alaska. The vivid description paints a picture of Facilities Services as the cornerstone for campus planning, maintenance, and service delivery, with a tightly knit team, cutting-edge equipment, and university campuses that surpass expectations.

The strategic initiatives prioritized for Year 1 implementation underscore our commitment to growth and progress and focus on enhancing training, education and communication and ensuring a qualified workforce.

This strategic planning effort is more than a roadmap; it's a shared commitment to success. I hope you will join us at one of the feedback sessions, and complete the follow-up survey on how to improve our draft strategic plan. As always, I appreciate your unwavering commitment and dedication to Facilities Services and UAF. I hope to see you at one of the feedback sessions!



Shuttle Services

By Darrin Edson, Superintendent of Operations

You may have driven by our shuttle buses on campus many times over the years, but do you know all the services provided to the campus by this skilled and talented group of people?

Shuttle Services is made up of a team of 7 CDL certified drivers who provide services to the campus Monday through Friday from 7:00AM through 10:00PM. This team provides the daily scheduled services from the Nenana lot to the core of campus (Nenana Route), service from one end of Yukon Drive to the other (Yukon Route), and on-the-hour service to Old U-Park, Hutchison, CTC Downtown, Pipeline training Center and the CTC Hanger (CTC Downtown service). Providing the services requires us to make good use of our fleet of 8 shuttle vehicles. These vehicles range in age and passenger capability. We can move a van of 12 passengers with our smallest vehicle, and up to a bus of 32 passengers with our largest vehicle, the old Thomas bus.

Want to see where our buses are? Simply download the BusWhere App on our web page and track your required bus to see just when it will pull up to your stop. <https://www.uaf.edu/fs/services/shuttle-bus.php>

This team also provides scheduled and unscheduled ride service for ADA and Disability requirements across campus. This service enables students, staff, and faculty who need extra assistance, the ability to get across campus safely and promptly, this is done so with very limited effect on the normally scheduled routes.

There is as well a growing need for our charter services for which we transport groups across Fairbanks and the interior. We now provide charter shuttle service for the UAF Sports teams to and from the Fairbanks Airport, we provide charter shuttles specifically to allow students to have access to off-campus shopping centers for groceries and goods twice a week, charter service to Downtown Fairbanks for the First Friday events across town, and we now offer shuttle service for students to attend the UAF Hockey games and the Carlson Center.

During the summer months, we add a service that allows UAF-affiliated riders along with the public to visit the Museum of the North, UAF Botanical Gardens, and the Large Animal Research Station. This service runs daily Monday through Friday from 9:00AM through 5:00PM from Marmoreal Day through Labor Day. As well we provide a shuttle weekly to ensure folks who would like to enjoy the very popular Music in the Gardens can do so safely by not having to park along the roadside out by the farm. This shuttle runs continually during the events from the Nenana parking lot.

So, please give a wave to our drivers when you pass by them and let them know you appreciate all the work they do in providing such a wonderful service to the UAF community.

Our routes:

- Yukon-1
 - Yukon-2
 - Nenana
 - Off-campus CTC service
 - Tuesday night shopping shuttle
 - Thursday night shopping shuttle
 - Weekly charters transporting sports teams to and from the Fairbanks Airport
 - Hockey spectator shuttle service
 - ADA and Disability Service
 - Charter Service
 - Summer tourist route
 - Music in the Gardens
-

Open Facilities Services Positions

- [Light Duty Mechanic](#)
- [Sheet Metal Fabricator](#)
- [Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Asbestos Abatement Technician](#)
- [Housing Maintenance Technician](#)
- [Contract Manager](#)
- [Facilities Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Pool Technician](#)
- [Preventative Maintenance Assistant Manager](#)
- [Alarms Technician](#)
- [Labor Crew](#)
- [HVAC Technician](#)
- [Boiler Specialist](#)
- [Electrical Assistant/Relamper](#)

UAF Historical Photo of the Week



Today is my third (and probably final) photo from the construction of the Beluga ice rink in the late 1960's. Here we see a welder putting together the metal framework that comprised the base of the ice rink. Two old Physical Plant trucks are in the background. This looks like a really, really cold job!

That's all I have for today. I hope everyone has a safe and productive week. Thanks for all you do for UAF Facilities!

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