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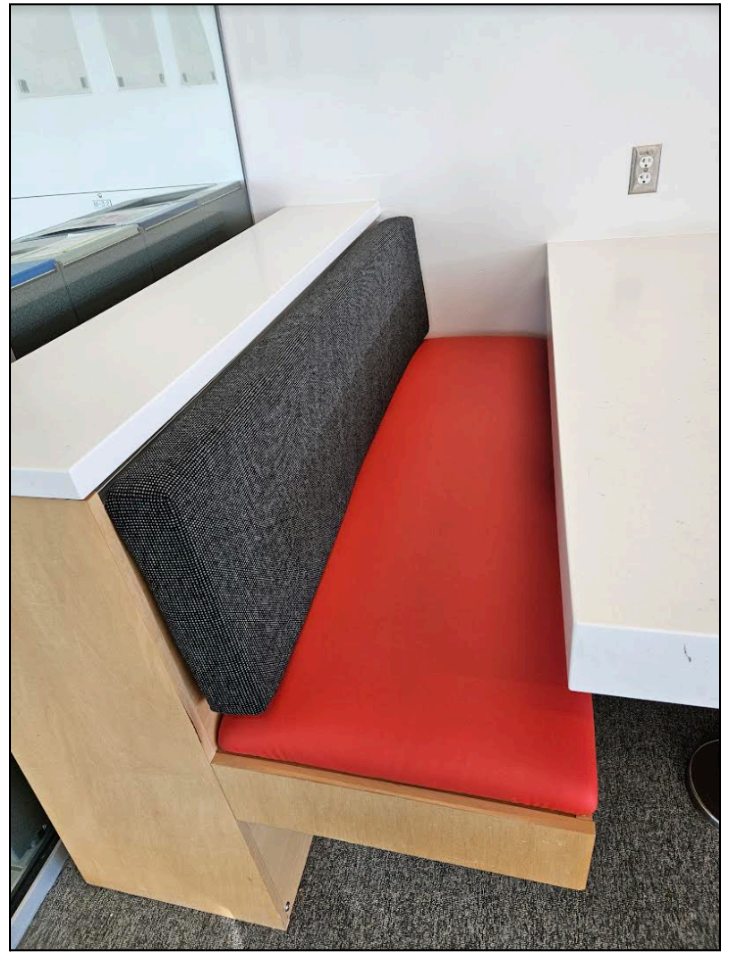
Good morning everyone, welcome to the **Facilities Forum**.

This week, I'm thrilled to announce that Jennifer Williams-Hickenbottom has agreed to take over editing the Facilities Forum newsletter. I've enjoyed my time doing it, but am very happy to have someone with Jennifer's talent for design take this on. If anyone out there wants to submit an article or photo for a future edition of the Facilities Forum newsletter, or has a photo to share, please send them to Jennifer. The next issue will be sent out April 17.

## The Week in Photos



Since it's been so warm the past few days, snow is melting off campus roofs and finding new and creative ways into the buildings! This is a roof drain clean-out in the Vet Med addition on the north side of Irving 1. There was so much head pressure that the lab users had to put a bucket over it to contain the



We've been working with Fairbanks Refinishing and Upholstery to fix up some benches in the Murie building. These were looking really rough just a few weeks ago. Our carpentry shop made some repairs to the wooden decking, then the seats and backs were recovered. Looks great! A big "thank-you" to Todd Smith



water. This was the result of a frozen line.

from the Custodial Inspector team for managing this project.



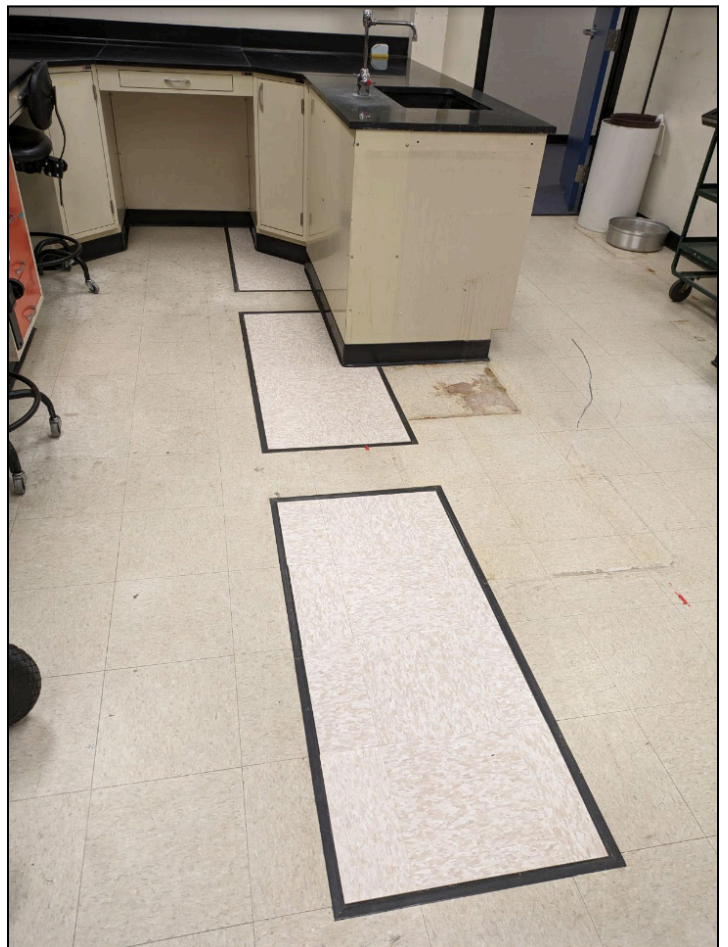
A sure sign of Spring! The UAF steam truck, which is now being called "Little Foot" by the shop, is out and about. Here, the truck is being used to clear a storm drain on the south side of the Patty Center. Nice work!



The Carpentry shop recently replaced the polycarbonate covering over the Cornerstone on campus, after the old sheet was broken. This will protect this important piece of UAF history for years to come. Looks great!



This beautiful new interior sign was installed in the lobby at Wickersham Hall by the Carpentry Shop. Awesome!



The Carpentry shop just finished patching some old floor panels in O'Neill 141, in anticipation of a new researcher moving into the lab. Next up, ABM's floor crew will strip and wax the floor tile, and the whole laboratory will look as good as new. Nice!

## Announcements

- Just a reminder that the staff performance evaluation period for FY24 is currently in progress. It is the responsibility of supervisors to ensure that evaluations are conducted for all team



members. Submissions should be finalized by the end of the fiscal year, which falls on June 30, 2024. Performance evaluations provide an opportunity for supervisors and employees to discuss expectations and ensure alignment between individual goals and those of their departments as well as the University of Alaska's overarching objectives. It is UA's goal that 100% of staff members receive an annual performance review. Performance evaluations can be completed from your [MyUA Employee Services dashboard](#). If the employee being evaluated has supervisory responsibilities as part of their job duties, select the "FY24 Supervisor Performance Review". Non-supervisors would select "FY24 Non-supervisor Performance Review".

- Staff Recognition and Development Day is Wednesday, April 10! The registration period is open from now until Friday, April 5. More information can be found on the [SRDD Website](#). Everyone is encouraged to participate.
- Congratulations to Tony Corbiel CT3 Electrician with the Electrical and Trades Maintenance Shop for being selected as April's Employee of the Month!

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## Spring Filter Blitz

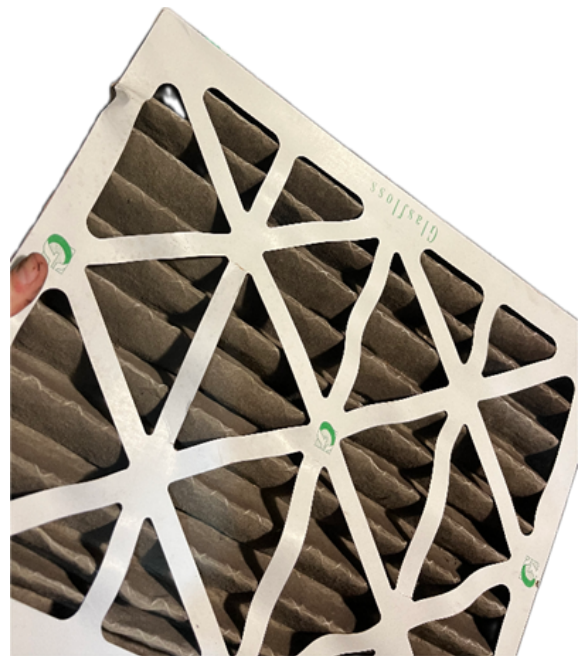
By Leo Faro, HVAC Shop Service Manager

It's fascinating to see how Facilities Services has transformed its Preventative Maintenance program over the past decade. In the HVAC shop, one of the primary PM pushes is referred to as the Filter Blitz.

During the Filter Blitz, which occurs in April and October, the team undertakes crucial tasks to ensure optimal HVAC performance. In April, the focus is on replacing winter main filters and the pre-filters, anticipating the upcoming pollen release and protecting the preheat coils. In October, the pre-filters are removed, and spring main filters are replaced, addressing the effects of summer dust accumulation and keeping the filters from potential hoar frost/snow buildup. Air Filters that are impacted with dust/pollen/snow drastically reduce the airflow to the Air handling system and can cause issues with getting heated or cooled air to the many classrooms, labs and offices on campus.



A clean air filter. These pleated paper filters are often called "pre-filters" because they are installed in line with larger bag-style filters in many campus air handlers.



A dirty air filter after doing it's job in an air handler for six months or more. The HVAC shop swaps out many hundreds of these on campus each year.

Let's dive into the astounding numbers of the Filter Blitz:

- Work Orders and Labor Hours: In 2023, a total of 560 work orders were issued for both the Spring and Fall Blitzes, demanding approximately 1076 labor hours by HVAC PM technicians.
- Filters Purchased: A staggering 7296 filters were procured from the warehouse for filter PM work orders last year. The primary Filter used is the (78500) 24x24x2 pleated filter, with a hefty 2500 units in use.
- Cost Analysis: The cost incurred for purchasing all these filters amounted to approximately \$411,495.00, echoing the significant financial resources invested in maintenance. Notably, the (78500) filters alone accounted for \$252,780.00 of this expenditure.
- Summer Out of Sequence Filter Changes: The team faces additional challenges during summer, necessitating out-of-sequence filter changes due to heightened pollen and dust levels, further impacting filter usage. We also install Charcoal filters into the Virology building during summers with high fire activity causing higher particulate levels.

By adopting this Blitz-style approach, Facilities Services ensures the HVAC systems remain operational and highly efficient. This commitment to Preventative Maintenance also extends the lifespan of our building Air supply systems.

Thanks goes out to Belinda Snyder and Keith Nuss for their help in finding the data for this article.

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## Residence Hall Furniture SOLD!

As everyone is probably aware, we are renovating Bartlett and Moore Halls this year. The scope of that work included completely refurbishing the restrooms, laundry rooms, kitchens, corridors, and each of the residence hall rooms. Both towers house 322 students in double and single occupancy spaces, and this renovation was our opportunity to purchase new furniture, something that only happens once in a generation. Residence hall furniture is famously robust, easy to repair, made of quality material, and lasts a really, really long time.

Having spent over a decade working as the facilities manager for Residence Life, a job which involved taking care of this stuff, I'm a dorm furniture enthusiast. These particular pieces were purchased by the University in 1996 and 1997, as part of a previous round of renovations in the towers. The furniture was built in Grass Valley, California by a company called Furniture by Thurston (FBT). It's primarily constructed of solid northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) with hardwood interior framing, high pressure laminate tops and solid wood edge banding. Unfortunately, FBT went out of business in 2011, but their sister company, New England Woodcraft in Forest Dale, Vermont, still makes identical pieces of furniture for university housing and military barracks using the same methods and materials.

When the old furniture was moved out of the towers and sent to Surplus for disposal, I expressed some skepticism that we would be able to sell it all, considering the limited local market. Just to be clear, we had 644 sets of furniture, including beds, desks, desk chairs, dressers, wardrobes. Similar furniture from Wickersham had been sold just a year prior to that. I expected that there might not be huge demand.

I have to admit, Frances Bedel and her staff proved me wrong! In just over 10 months, they sold it all. Some went to individual customers, some went to school districts like Nenena and Galena, and some were even purchased by Facilities Services employees who have no doubt repurposed it for all sorts of things. Nice job team!





Dan Bates (left), Lead Warehouseman with Central Receiving and Surplus, accepts one dollar from a customer purchasing the very last piece of residence hall furniture from the UAF Surplus store.



Residence hall furniture staged for sale in the Wickersham lounge



Residence hall furniture stacked up in the Central Receiving retail space, ready to be sold last summer.

## Open Facilities Services Positions

- [Grounds Worker](#)
- [Grounds Technician](#)
- [Warehouser-Central Receiving](#)
- [Assistant Database Manager](#)
- [Painter](#)
- [Engineering Assistant](#)
- [Senior Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Utilities Electrician](#)
- [Sheet Metal Fabricator](#)
- [Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Asbestos Abatement Technician](#)
- [Housing Maintenance Technician](#)
- [Contract Manager](#)
- [Facilities Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Labor Crew](#)

## UAF Historical Photo of the Week



I found this photo on a website called [Alaska Lost Ski Areas Project](#). It shows what the ski jump on campus looked like in 1950. Photo credit: Harvey Turner. According to the website, the UAF ski hill operated from the late 1940's until the early 1980's. It had a single tow rope and this 30 meter jump, also called the "Skarland Jump". It was located approximately where the west side of the SRC building is now. Apparently it was closed sometime around 1986, but the building that housed the tow rope equipment wasn't dismantled until 2002.





Photo credit: Alaska Lost Ski Areas Project

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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