



Biweekly Newsletter

FACILITIES FORUM

17 April 2024



PHOTO BY TODD PARIS

Here's what has happened in the last few weeks and what's to come!

Dear Members of Facilities Services,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Facilities Forum! Within these digital pages, we're excited to dive into the heartbeat of our Purpose: the constant care and enhancement of UAF and all its facets. From the people who bring life to our community to the very structures that house our ambitions, this newsletter serves as a conduit for sharing the stories, updates, and achievements that shape our collective journey.

Join us as we explore the latest developments, celebrate milestones, and highlight the tireless efforts of those who work non-stop to uphold the standards of excellence that define our institution.

Thank you for being a part of Facilities Services. Together, we propel UAF forward.

Facilities team x

In this newsletter you can expect:

Nesting Owls

Facilities Help Phone Rescue

Open Enrollment

Current Recruitments

Performance Evaluations

GINA Antenna Lift

Cable Management





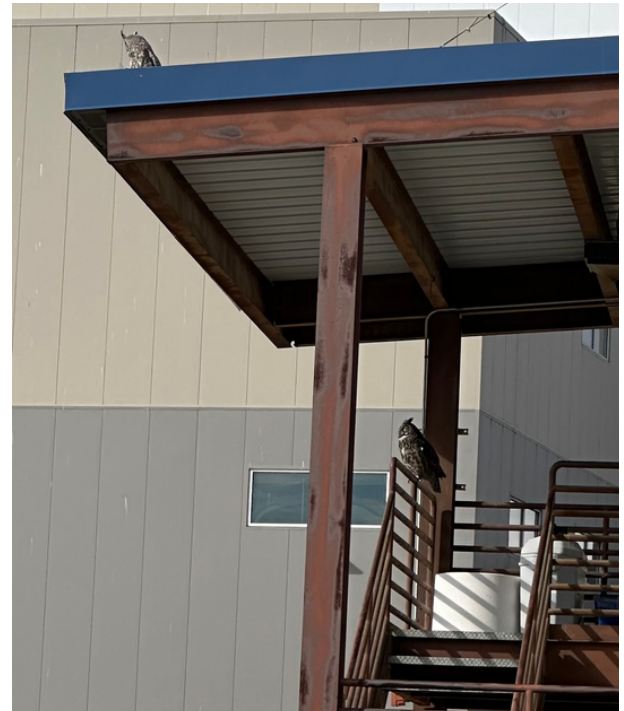
Nesting Owls

We have a mated pair of Great Horned Owls that have chosen to nest in the flower planter on the second story landing of the southern exterior stairway at 824 Alumni Drive. An employee accidentally startled them last Monday morning while exiting the building. The nest is marginal so the worry was that they might not return.

The south exit from the second floor is temporarily reclassified as an emergency exit only and signage is posted on the exterior stairwell indicating emergency use only.

We ask that you please enjoy them from afar. We are hoping that they will stick around and act as a pigeon deterrent.

Photos courtesy of Thadd Williamson and Keith Nuss.



Phone Rescue by FS Labor and HVAC



by Thadd Williamson

UAF Laborers Zion Barker, Ryan O'Connell, Dan Wilson and FS HVAC Ed Robinson (Left To Right) successfully completed a confined space operation to rescue a cell phone that had been accidentally dropped down a storm drain. It still works! Please remember to keep valuables and tools secured when working at height or around enclosures.

FY25 Open Enrollment!

15 April to 03 May 2024

Open Enrollment started on Monday and will run through Friday, May 3, 2024. Forms must be submitted by 5pm Alaska on May 3rd. Late forms will not be accepted.

The updates that you make to your benefits today will be effective on July 1, 2024 and will be valid until June 30, 2025, unless you experience a qualifying life event and are able to make changes mid-year. Please keep in mind some benefits are evergreen - meaning once you elect the benefits, they remain in place until you elect to make a change during Open Enrollment or during a life event. Some benefits require active enrollment each year, including any Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs).

[Open Enrollment website!](#)

If you have any questions on how to navigate the website, FS HR can assist you.

Please read through the website before initiating your form. There are several resources available to you - including both live and recorded training - to help guide you through Open Enrollment. Any questions about health plans and guidance on what might fit you and your family best should be directed to the UA Benefits Team:

(907) 450-8242

ua-benefits@alaska.edu

Current Recruitments

[Senior Mechanical Engineer](#)

[Asbestos Abatement Tech](#)

[Warehouser](#)

[PM Assistant Manager](#)

[Accounting Tech](#)

[Grounds Tech](#)

[FS Pool Tech](#)

[CT3 Electrician -Utilities](#)

[Grounds Worker](#)

[Contract Manager](#)

[Painter/Maint Mechanic](#)

[Building Tech Kodiak](#)

[Mechanical Engineer](#)

[Assistant Systems and Database Manager](#)

Performance Evaluations

by Nathan Platt

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".



PHOTO BY THADD WILLIAMSON

by Keifer Kanayurak

I was brought into the project after the antenna needs were identified (what size, where, and why), towards the tail end of 2022.

In spring 2023, after familiarizing myself with the basic weights and dimensions of the equipment, I began looking into the logistics of the antenna installation. I reached out to a local crane company to visit the alleyway/building to determine if the lift was achievable and with what size of a crane.

Not long after, I began working with a local engineering design firm to perform the antenna foundation load calculations and design a platform to withstand all the applied loads (wind, weight, movement, seismic, etc). Concurrently, I began working with the GINA folks, the antenna manufacturer/installer, and our Facilities Services Electrical Engineers to make sure that Usibelli had the infrastructure necessary to supply the antenna equipment with power, backup power, and communication.

The project was originally advertised in mid-September with the intent to install the antenna and radome in the fall of 2023. When the bids came in on September 20th, I was shocked to see that the bids had more than doubled my estimated construction costs. In addition to the high bids, the antenna manufacturer couldn't guarantee that the equipment would arrive in time for the fall installation. I spoke with GINA and it was decided to hold off on the installation until the following spring of 2024 (this would allow the project drawings to be completed and would allow interested contractors more time to review the contract documents).

Forwarding to this spring, the additional clarification from the complete drawings and time did not affect the bid amounts very much. After speaking with other project managers, and a couple of local design firms, they shared similar experiences on some of their latest projects. Nonetheless, GINA needed the antenna to

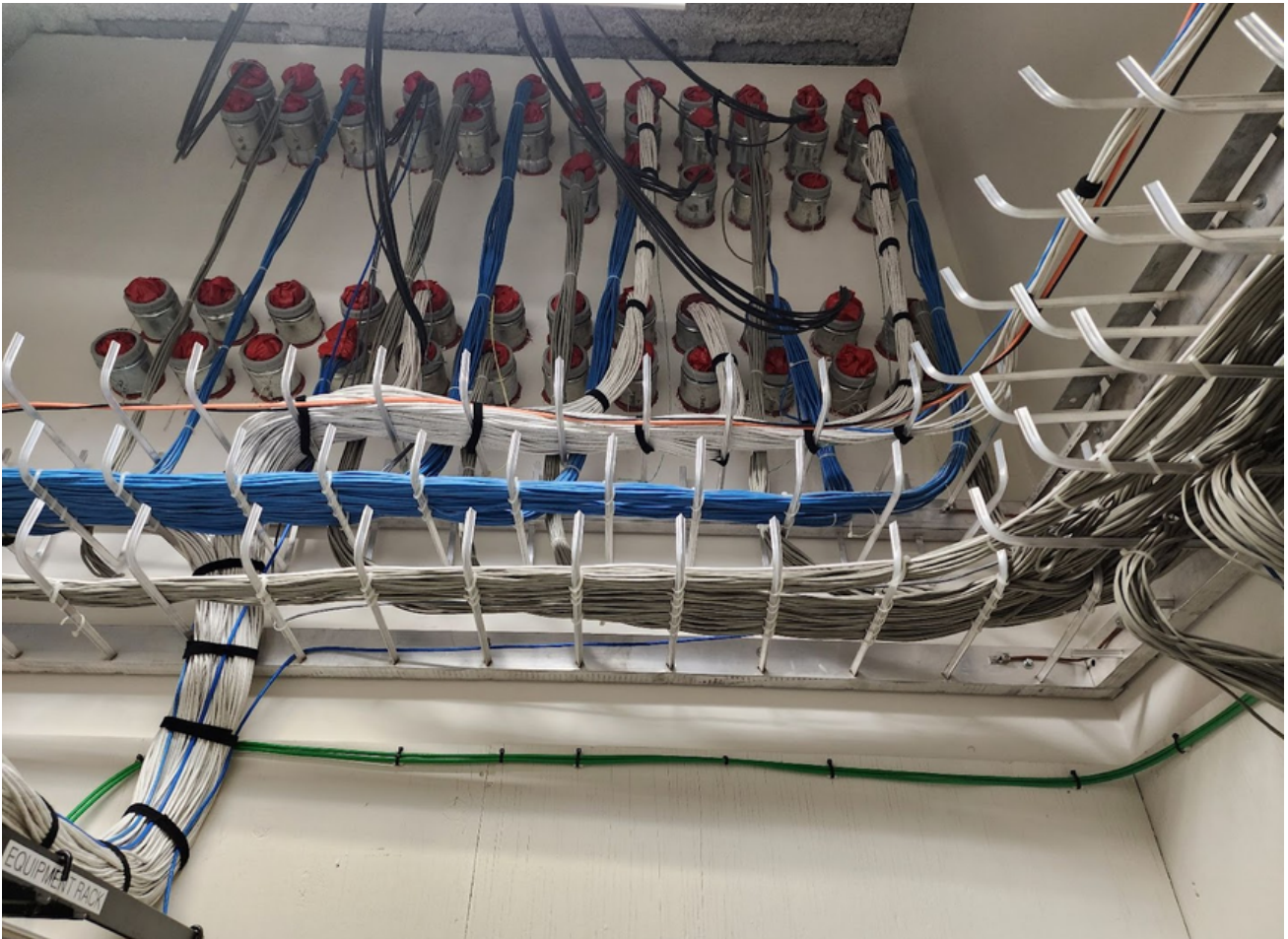
continue providing vital information to local, state, and federal agencies, so we proceeded with the installation.

After arriving in Fairbanks, and before the antenna and radome equipment could be transported to the project site, it was stored at the UAF Central Receiving warehouse. My schedule had us assembling the antenna and radome from 4/2 to 4/5 before the crane arrived on Saturday morning (4/6). Do you know what they say about plans always coming together? Not so much. The antenna installer was scheduled to arrive in Fairbanks, from another installation in Australia on Monday (4/1), but did not arrive until late Tuesday afternoon (due to delayed and missed flights).

We lost a day; not a big deal. That's why I budgeted some additional time towards the end of the week. When we began unpacking the radome from the shipping crate, we noticed that the wrong bolts were sent and the radome manufacturer couldn't get them to Fairbanks until Friday morning. With an additional two days lost, we were adamant that we would assemble the radome (even if that meant working through the night). We began assembling the bottom row of panels only to find that the radome manufacturer had forgotten one of the radome panels.

Thankfully, after speaking with the antenna manufacturer, we verified that the antenna equipment is all outdoor-rated. The radome's primary purpose is to prevent snow from accumulating on the reflector dish of the antenna.

Finally, on Saturday morning the fabricated steel platform was lifted and bolted down, next came the antenna positioner, and lastly, the reflector dish. As visible from the ground, there is no radome on top of the Usibelli Engineering Building, but there is an antenna that is now tracking satellites and gathering the vital information that our state needs.



Cable Management

by **Nathan Platt**

I got this from Carl Westphal, it's a picture from the main hub room at Reichardt. It shows a whole bunch of unused wall penetrations that were put in during construction. The interesting part is that the University was just starting to use the internet when this building was built in 1993-ish. There was no way to know how much wiring would be needed in the future to accommodate increased network traffic, so the decision was made to put in a huge number of conduits just in case. There are 36 available in this one room!

It really shows the foresight that someone had 30 years ago, making their best guess as to what technology might look like in the future. Wireless internet wasn't a thing yet, but they assumed everyone would need more network cable "eventually".

We're going to use one for a new PIM (panel interface module) for the card access system, and one for wiring for the new EPS (Emergency Power System) this summer. Still have 34 available!

There's a lesson here about planning ahead.

Thank you for reading!



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