

The Level



The World is a Museum of Passion Projects.

I saw this tweet a couple weeks ago and it reminded me of the Passion Project of my Grandma & Grandpa... The Garden.

Grandma and Grandpa were married just two years when the Great Depression began. They had started a family and were forced to move several times just to find work to provide food and shelter for their kids. The Great Depression permanently changed my grandparents and everyone in that generation. By the time I came to know my grandparents more than 40 years later, they had both retired from successful teaching careers in high schools and universities, both in the states and abroad.

← Tweet



John Collison
@collision

As you become an adult, you realize that things around you weren't just always there; people made them happen. But only recently have I started to internalize how much tenacity *everything* requires. That hotel, that park, that railway. The world is a museum of passion projects.

5:20 AM · May 25, 2022 · Twitter Web App

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The Garden was my grandparents' Passion Project. We lived just a block away from my grandparents, and many days I was sent to work in The Garden. Nothing but sagebrush will grow in the sun baked desert clay soils, without pouring a river of sweat into the ground. Early spring my Saturdays were spent helping till the ground with a shovel and break up the dirt clods. We would haul truckloads of sand and manure to spread over the garden and then till it in a second time. Grandpa had a cool push plow for forming the irrigation rows. However, as a young boy, I could never get the rows straight, so Grandpa would re-do my work. Planting seeds was Grandma's job, while Grandpa and I had to spend many summer days irrigating and digging, or pulling the endless supply of weeds. My favorite memory is enjoying Sunday dinners at my grandparents' house with all you can eat sweet corn and summer squash.

My Grandparents kept The Garden going long after I left to go to college and then came to Alaska. I recall one discussion my Uncle was having with my Grandparents about The Garden in their later years of life. He said, "With all the time and money you put into The Garden, you could just go to the store and buy 10-times the

amount of fruit and vegetables.” However, The Garden was my grandparents’ Passion Project and they kept it going until the day they left this world.

Every job in my life and every year I log has helped me learn that the world is a museum of Passion Projects. For everything, we see around us, there is someone who has made it happen. Our new Auke Bay Integrated Science Building has hundreds of people working to make this new building happen. Architects, engineers, planners, accountants, managers, clerks, carpenters, welders, plumbers, electricians, operators, administrators, regulators, inspectors, scientists, teachers, vendors, and on and on.



I often like to play a thought game by picking something up and trying to figure out who was involved in getting that in my hand. For example, the bowl of cereal I ate for breakfast this morning. My wife bought the cereal and put it in the cupboard. The store manager ordered the cereal for their stocker to put on the shelf. The barge captain transported it from Seattle to Juneau so the truck driver could take it to the store. The cereal factory who worked with farmers to grow the wheat, oats, raisins, and honey to produce the cereal. The oilrig worker who drills a hole in the ground for oil / gas that the farmer can use in his tractor and for fertilizer of his crops, and on and on.

I play this game to help me realize that my life depends on thousands of people who each have their own Passion Projects and that my Passion Project of tracking numbers in Excel sheets plays an important part of a larger Passion Project of our Facilities Services team to keep our UAS facilities running smoothly.

I encourage you to play this thought game sometime when you are sitting in class staring out the window. Ask yourself:

“Who was involved in getting me to UAS and sit in this chair?”

I promise you that you will be surprised at how many people are there helping you succeed at your education Passion Project: Parents, friends, high school teachers, mechanic who keeps the heat on in the building, cook who made breakfast, legislator who approved school funding, roommate who got you up, and on and on.



Nathan Leigh P.E.
UAS Facilities Director

QR CODES



Facilities services had the pleasure of [collaborating](#) with the campus kickoff event. Kristin Reynolds, one of our new project managers helped students make Tie-Dye T-shirts and provided QR codes to the new Campus Bus tracking app. The app can be downloaded to androids and iPhones alike to get real time tracking of where the bus is on its route.

You may also notice the Campus Kick off Banner flying above Spike the Whale and flags hanging from light poles in celebration of students coming back to campus. You can thank the Facilities crew for putting those up in the wind and rain.

Other QR codes provided a link to the Campus Map and the work order form.



Thank you for helping us keep this campus a beautiful place to learn.

Kristin Reynolds

FP&C Project Manager

If you see something that needs to be repaired or replaced, you can [access](#) our work order form to get facilities attention on the issue.



Reporting Facility Problems

With fall semester in full swing, and a bunch of new people on campus, I thought I would take the opportunity to remind everyone that Facilities Services is here to provide responsible [stewardship](#) for our buildings, grounds and utilities. Since we do not always notice everything that goes wrong with our buildings and grounds, we often rely on students, staff, and faculty to notify us when something is broken on campus. We appreciate your help with this, and have a few ways for you to contact us.



The first way is via our front desk telephone, which is staffed from 8-5 weekdays. Our phone number at Facilities Services is 907-796-6496. For after-hours and weekend emergencies not requiring fire service, EMS, or police, we use an answering service called Doctors Exchange. Their number is 1-866-999-1822, and they will contact our team.

We also have a Facilities Services e-mail address uas.facilities@alaska.edu that can be used to report problems. You can also fill out our online [Service Request](#) found on our Facilities Services home page.

At Facilities Services, we look forward to serving the campus community every day, and enjoy the challenges of the job. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or deficiencies to report.

Thank You,

Adam Zenger

UAS Facilities M&O Manager:

Working Remote

Our current Facilities Services Administrative Assistant, **Sarah Dutton** is now working remote. She has moved down to the lower 48 to make sure her grandkids are being raised properly. Sarah has been strong presence here in the Facilities Services main office making sure we all play nicely and obey all the rules. We will miss her great sense of humor and no-nonsense attitude. Sarah will still be helping with the many tasks assigned to Facilities Services that can be [accessed](#) thru a computer.



Welcome to our New Electrician



Please welcome Mark Bunes who has joined our Facilities Services crew as the Electrician. Mark grew up in Wrangell Alaska and has almost three decades of experience in Southeast Alaska. He has worked for several contractors installing electrical systems in buildings such as; Thunder Mountain High school, Juneau International Airport terminal SREF buildings, Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff State Library Archives and Museum buildings and our own Egan Library and Classroom wing. This summer Mark worked for Alaska Electric installing the new fire alarm system in the Egan Building. He has a broad background of experience in building automation systems, fire alarm systems, door access systems and building lighting systems. Mark brings another layer of [diversity](#) to our small Facilities Services team that will help us complete in-house projects that are more complex.

Welcome to our New Facilities Project Manager

Please welcome Timothy Eby as our newest Project Manager who joined the Facilities Planning and Construction team in June of 2022. Timothy has an Engineering Degree from UAA with a minor in dance. He has a wealth of experience working on the engineering side of projects in Rural Alaska all across the state. His project team earned the DHHS Green Champion award for the remote monitoring program that allows access to information about rural sanitation facilities and provides automated alerts to the local staff to prevent critical failures. Timothy is pleased to be working in the beautiful Southeast and is eager to work on projects that enrich the student experience here on all three of UAS campuses.

Timothy is new to Juneau, but not Southeast Alaska. He grew up in Anchorage and Sitka and is still exploring what the capital city has to offer. So far, he has enjoyed the local pizza parlors, discovered the local tabletop games store, and explored some of the walking trails. He looks forward to exploring the trails further this winter. We are excited that Timothy has joined our FP&C team is doing great managing a large number of projects as you will see in the FP&C section of this newsletter.



Dan Garcia & Confined Space Training



One of the more dangerous duties of our Facilities Services crew is entering a confined space. OSHA gives the follow description for confined spaces: *Many workplaces contain areas that are considered "confined spaces" because while they are not necessarily designed for people, they are large enough for workers to enter and perform certain jobs. A confined space also has limited or restricted means for entry or exit and is not designed for continuous occupancy. Confined spaces include, but are not limited to, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, pits, manholes, tunnels, equipment housings, ductwork, pipelines, etc.*

One of the safety measures UAS uses when entering a confined space is to attach the worker to a life line, so in the event the worker becomes unconscious, his fellow workers on the outside can pull him to safety. Dan Garcia is shown here conducting confined space training in our Anderson salt-water vault. He provided [access](#) for everyone to don the safety gear and be lowered and extracted thru an opening in the vault. Dan Garcia retired early this year after working for more than 17 years here at UAS. We miss his smiling face and willingness to

help with anything here at Facilities Services. He has a long list of things to do in retirement and we wish him all the best. *Nathan Leigh*

Iron Man – UAS Support Team

Facilities Services was glad to be one of the many people on the Iron Man Support Team. The UAS Support Team [collaborated](#) with CBJ and Iron Man for more than a year for this world-class event. Facilities Services helped with; space planning,

approvals, site setup and getting our grounds looking their best so everyone could see spike the whale rising up out of the landscaping every time someone crossed the finish line.



Ray Roberts adopted a new ADA parking logo more fitting for the event.



UAS and the Alaska Department of Transportation entered into an agreement to make the landscaping inside the Back Loop roundabout [sustainable](#). DOT&PF has funds to install the landscaping and UAS community has the labor to maintain the landscaping. Our own David Lendrum helped design the landscaping in the roundabout and we have maintained it since construction. We would like to thank the UAS alumni Association and other community conscious people for volunteering one of their Saturdays to weed and care for the roundabout this spring. It looks Great.



This is a great time to reflect on how we are all connected to our environment, community and the world. UAS value #5 is Sustainability. Check out our [Sustainability Web Page](#) to see what things UAS is doing to strengthen our sustainability. Connect with our [Sustainability Committee](#) for additional ideas to improve our sustainability. Remember, your own actions can make the largest impact on our sustainability. This month keep this in mind when you make your next purchase, decide what to eat, throw something out, choose your entertainment and programs you support.

William McDonough



Greetings from Sitka

We are very happy to have faculty, staff, students, and the community back on campus. As your Facilities crew, we would like to thank everyone for their kind words of appreciation, diligent eyes, and of course for their understanding when things are amiss.

We have a lot of new faces on campus and in town this fall and not everyone knows that the Sitka campus was originally built at the beginning of WWII as a seaplane hangar for Naval Air station Sitka. Immediately next-door is the fraternal twin to our building, which is Mt Edgecumbe High School's Field House. If you are ever curious about some of the history of our building feel free to ask.

Pictured is a nighttime photo of Consolidated PBY Catalina with a partially open hangar door to our building in the background



We have been working on improvements that you can see this year. If you have been outside in the dark, you will notice our greatly improved LED lights on the ends of the building and in the parking lot.



Photos of Alcan Electrical installing outdoor fixtures and both ends of the building lit up,



We've also added a couple door windows to allow better visibility and light transfer into the building. The Welding Lab has a new fume extractor that is in the process of being installed. This will help keep air quality in check when working in the back of the lab.

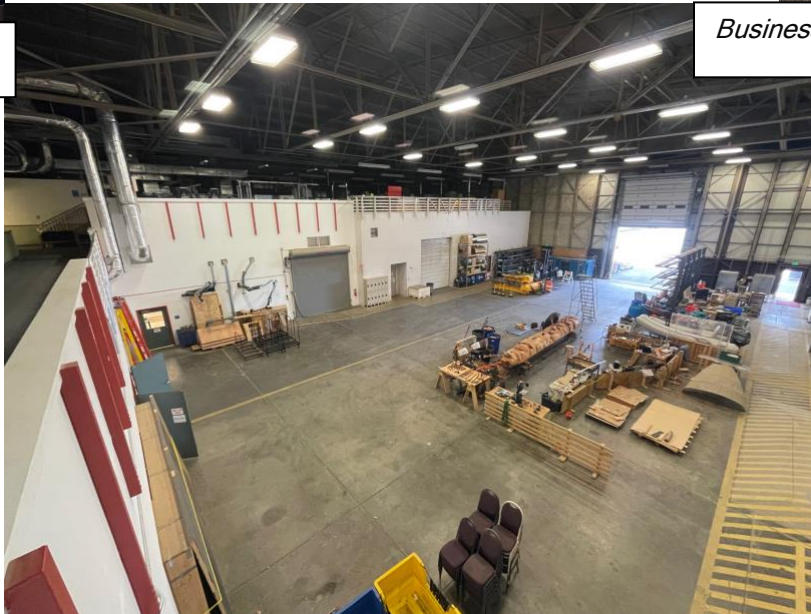


New welding lab fume extractor

Lastly, we have been busy with community events, [collaborative](#) sessions, and partnership uses of our various rooms and spaces. COVID greatly reduced our activities and we are happy to be setting up our lecture hall again. We welcome the activities and events for the upcoming Indigenous Peoples Day on October 10. It has also given us ample motivation to clear out some floor space on the hangar deck.

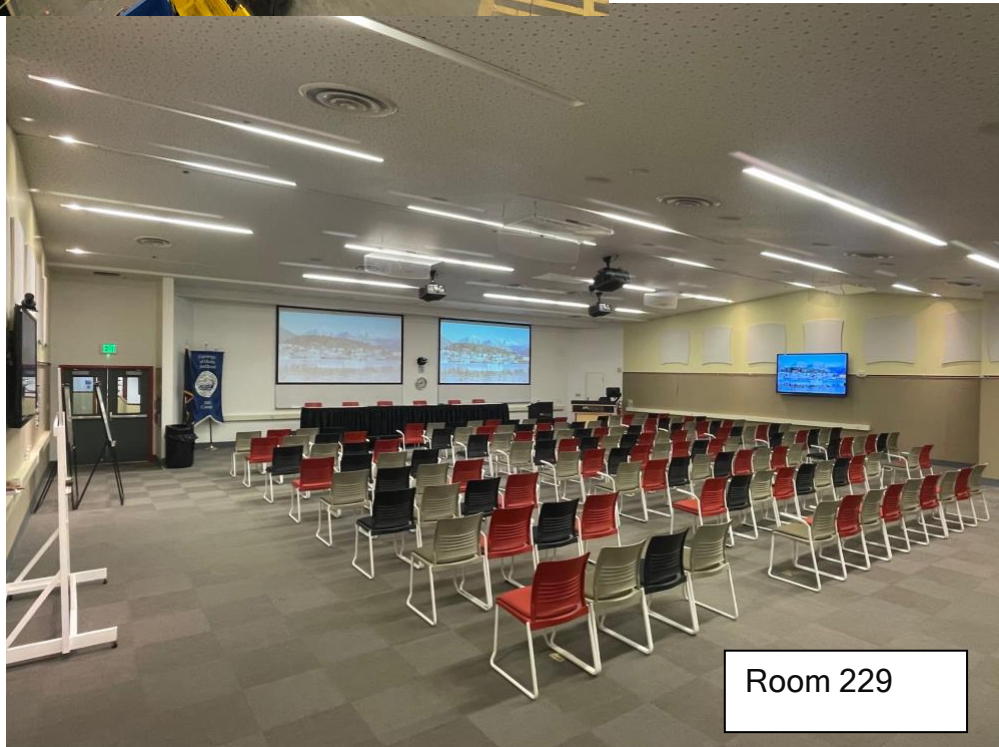


Business Office door with a new window



We have a variety of other projects and tasks that are underway or in the planning stages so stay tuned for more information coming in the near future. Like so many others, we are at the mercy of availability through our supply chains. Some of these projects have a longer time line than others because of that. As always, please reach out to Austin for IT, or Sean and myself for Facilities needs or concerns. We are here for you.

Greg George
Operations Supervisor
UAS Sitka Campus



Room 229

Tree Planting with Volunteers

September 30, 2022, was a United Way “Day of Caring” and UAS was the recipient of a great gift of valuable assistance. We had over 20 helpful individuals and with their assistance, we were able to do some needed tasks.



One group worked on the trail to our small Lakeside Pavilion, carrying and spreading gravel, and power washing the structure, under the direction of Adam Zenger, UAS Facilities Operation Manager.



The other group worked with Ray Roberts and myself planting ornamental trees along the “De Hart’s Trail.” This is the zigzag paved pathway that leads from the Auke Bay roundabout up the hill to the campus.

To say it was a rainy day is an understatement. We had at least 3 inches of rain and a good Southeast Alaskan breeze. Even as the holes filled up with water and we had to cut drainage channels to let the water escape, the air was filled with good humor and real fun.



*This project is a great example of our community **collaborating** between business, government, education and good people to make Juneau even better.*





The trees are part of our ongoing program to increase the public presence of the campus by surrounding the campus with beautiful early spring flowering “Accolade” cherry trees and brilliant “Princeton Gold” Norway maples.



“Accolade” Cherry Tree



“Princeton Gold” Norway Maple

The last two years we focused on the entries with the cherries where they bloomed beautifully with their pale pink semi-double flowers. They are the first things to bloom each spring and combined with the bright gold maples they will indicate a special zone, the zone of UAS. (*Passion Project*)

Again - A big round of thanks to all who helped on either project.

David Lendrum

UAS Landscape Superintendent

Email: dwlendrum@alaska.edu

UAS Property Disposal:

UAS is required to follow a multitude of regulations when purchasing and disposing of UAS property like furniture, equipment, and materials. UAS [Business Services Department](#) will help you follow the regulations when purchasing things and UAS Facilities Services will help you follow the disposal regulations. Please contact our [Property Manager](#), Eric Boone, anytime you need to dispose of some UAS property.



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FP&C Project Updates

Auke Bay Integrated Science Building

The Auke Bay Integrated Science Building (ABISB) construction is underway, and the foundation is nearing completion. Blazy Construction has been providing UAS with [excellent](#) construction services including those in this photo, taken while they address a 29-yard concrete pour for the west and north foundation walls on the 1st of September. When the project is complete, the space they are standing in will be the Field Workshop and adjacent Field Research Staging. Soon the structural steel will be on site and the two-story building will begin to show a three-dimensional shape.



UAS Juneau Campus Auke Bay Integrated Science Building construction crew during a concrete pour in the north west corner on September 1st.

Several people have been observing the nearby eagle nest. The eagle pair does continue to visit their nest, but the nest did not have any eaglets this year. We look forward to watching for future eaglets in 2023. – *Kristin Reynolds, FP&C Project Manager*

Egan Exterior Painting

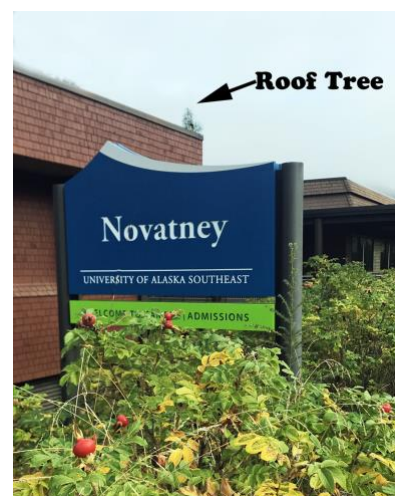
We picked the perfect summer to paint UAS's largest building. The contractor had one or two men working on this project most of the summer. They first power washed off all the dirt and moss, then primed the base, and finally placed two coats of heavy-duty exterior paint. This painting project has brought new life to the Egan Building, and increases our campus [sustainability](#) by making our buildings last longer. – *Nathan Leigh*



Novatney Roof

The Novatney roof is being replaced soon. We are in the process of bidding and selecting a construction contractor. The exact schedule has not yet been determined, but our goal is to minimize any disruptions to folks inside of Novatney. Once the schedule is finalized, we will put up notices around the Novatney building about any expected disturbances. – *Timothy Eby*

Yes, we will remove the Roof Trees ☺



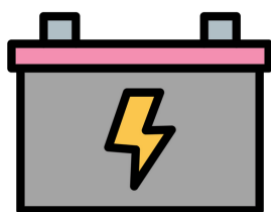


Housing Concrete Sidewalk Repair

After several setbacks, this project is again moving forward. This is project to replace some of the most deteriorated sidewalks around housing. Construction expected spring 2023. – *Nathan Leigh*

Mourant Window Replacement Phase 3

This project is on hold until we can confirm funding. – *PM Pending*



IT - UPS Replacement

This project will replace the Uninterruptable Power Service (UPS) for the UAS server. We have ordered a few parts that will allow the

server to work for several more months. The Engineer is close to finishing the design so we can hire a contractor. This project will not disrupt our campus community, if everything goes as planned – *Nathan Leigh*

Egan Fire Alarm Replacement

This project replaced the fire alarm panel and all of the smoke detectors and alarms in the Egan Library and Classroom Wing. This week the Engineer completed the final inspection and we expect the project will be completed in the next few days. We are glad that no classes were disrupted and had limited disruptions to library patrons this summer. ... – *Nathan Leigh*

Native and Rural Student Center - Lights & Flooring

We finally got one contractor to install new flooring and paint in the Native and Rural Student Center [NRSC](#). Come in for a visit, it looks great.



We found an electrical contractor to remove and replace the existing lighting. The plan to start and complete their work this month. The NRSC will be open all of this time, but it will cause some disruption. One of our goals is to brighten up the NRSC with the new paint, flooring, and lights. This project has been in the process for more than a year and we appreciate NRSC staff for their understanding and patience – *Adam Zenger*

Sitka DM/RR projects

In Sitka, we are working on a variety of Deferred Maintenance / Renovation Renewal (DM/RR) improvements that include upgrading the lighting in the welding lab, upgrading the HVAC controls in the building, installing a few cameras to increase security and constructing canopies over the emergency exits to keep them free of snow falling off the roof. – *Timothy Eby*



Sitka Mariculture Improvements

UAS – Sitka campus was excited to receive a portion of the grant UA received to expand Mariculture programs. We are looking into several options to increase the capacity of the Mariculture program in Sitka. A consultant will be assisting us with evaluating all of the options and picking what best suits the University's goals and vision... – Timothy Eby

Ketchikan Mansard Replacement

This project will replace the mansards on the Paul Building. Mansard roof is also called French roof or a curb roof. The material originally used for this

roof could not withstand all the Ketchikan rain. This project will be advertised this winter and constructed in the summer. – Kristin Reynolds



Campus Safety and Security - Consultant

Campus safety and security is one of the Universities top priorities. UAS administration has requested additional funds from the Alaska Legislator for many years to improve the safety and security on campus. They have not provided those funds, yet. In an effort to support our request to the legislator, we will be hiring a safety and security consultant. This consultant will first review our current safety and security measures like door locking procedures, lighting, cameras, university ID's, policies and training of our students, staff and faculty. They will then conduct interviews of students, staff, and faculty to see where we think safety and security can be improved. The consultant will then provide UAS with a report recommending improvements along with a cost/benefit analysis so that when UAS does received additional funding we can use it to make the greatest improvements to our campus safety and security.

We plan to have a consultant under contract by the end October with site visits and interviews being conducted in November. Please contact our project manager, Timothy Eby, or our emergency management planner, Ryan Sand, if you would like to take part in this project.

Timothy Eby

Project Manager

UAS - Juneau

P: 907.796.6480 | email: tjeby@alaska.edu



Greg is not too sure what he got himself into when Ryan asked him for some help in personal defense training of our Sitka Campus

If you missed this training or would like to take it again, please contact **Ryan Sand** our UAS Emergency Management Planner.

Come Join our Grounds Crew

Walk around our beautiful campus and look at the lovely landscape. I know you see Head Groundskeeper Ray Roberts and his helpers mowing and trimming, planting and grooming, seeding and pruning, and many of you think “That looks like fun”, well it is. There is little in the world that gives more joy and personal satisfaction than looking back over your shoulder and seeing what a difference you have made, changing an unruly mess into a tidy and delightful arrangement, or planting a couple of trees that will grow and flourish and be big powerful specimens many years from now. One of the nicest things about our campus landscape is that most of it was done by members of the student body.

The shrubbery planted around the sculpture in the library plaza was planted by students, the landscape around the John Pugh Hall was planted by students, the flowering bushes on the slope by the end of Egan were planted by students, the native landscape around Anderson Science Building was also planted by students.



No experience was needed by these young people, they learned their skills on the job, taught by experienced landscapers, and these skills will never be forgotten. No matter where you go and what you do, the joy of growing things will travel with you, and like dancing, singing, painting, and cooking, there will always be more to learn.

This is an invitation to join us, to be part of the dedicated lovers of the natural world, and to take part in the ongoing project of integrating our built environment into the living fabric of this majestic setting. We want student workers as an integral part of our crew, we pay well and we can arrange your work schedule to integrate with your school classes. Reach out to the student employment office, or contact the facilities office to learn how to apply.



Winter is another season and our facility folks keep on working, snow and ice control keeps the campus manageable and safe, and just imagine getting up in housing, pulling on your boots and woolies buttoning up, and zipping into, and stepping outside, and already being at work. Getting into a rhythm and clearing a set of stairs or a walkway so everybody can get around easily, making cash while doing good. Doesn't that sound fine?

Join us, be part of the Facilities Department, where nice people have a good time, and we have awesome potluck lunches..

David Lendrum

Grounds Superintendent

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