

Facilities Management Newsletter

September 2026

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Keeping Things Moving

A month into the fall semester, our campuses are busy—and so are our Facilities teams. With classrooms, offices, event spaces, and common areas in full use, our focus shifts from preparing for the semester to keeping everything moving throughout it.

That work takes many forms. Some of it is highly visible, like construction and campus improvements. Much of it is less noticeable: preventative maintenance, repairs, custodial services, grounds care, building systems, and the steady stream of daily requests that come with operating facilities across the district.

This month, we'll share a few of the projects and efforts underway, some recent milestones, and another look at the work happening across Facilities.

Department Spotlight: Custodial Services

A clean campus is one of those things that's easiest to notice when something isn't right. Behind the scenes, our Custodial team cares for classrooms, offices, restrooms, common areas, and public spaces across the district—but their work involves much more than cleaning.

Custodial schedules vary based on the use and function of each building. In some spaces, the goal is for much of the work to happen quietly outside of normal activity. In others, having custodial staff available while a building is active allows them to respond quickly as needs arise. Those schedules are intentionally different because our buildings—and the people who use them—have different needs.

The team is also responsible for room setups across the district, supporting meetings, events, trainings, and other activities by arranging spaces and returning them to their standard configurations. They help keep our buildings prepared in other less-visible ways as well, including restocking first aid kits and routinely checking fire extinguishers.



With the semester in full swing, all of this becomes a constant balancing act. Routine cleaning, room setups, events, safety checks, unexpected needs, and changing building activity all compete for attention. Our custodians continually adjust to those demands while keeping spaces ready for the students, employees, and community members who use them.

Thank you to our Custodial team for the work you do every day—and often at hours when most of us never see it.

Project Updates

Student Housing: Chino Valley & Verde Valley

After a busy summer—and a few unexpected tests from monsoon weather—our new student housing communities at Chino Valley and Verde Valley are complete and ready for occupants. Most of the new spaces are already occupied, marking the transition of both projects from construction sites to active campus communities.

These projects have been a significant effort involving teams across the College, and it's exciting to see students beginning to make these new spaces their own.

19-147

19-147 is coming together nicely, with installation of the theatrical seating providing the final touch to a significant transformation of the space. When complete, the room will provide a flexible environment supported by specialized technology, retractable seating, and multiple room configurations.

Plans are underway for a grand opening during the Arizona Community College Administrators Conference (ACCAC) in early October, giving us an opportunity to showcase the completed space and officially put it to use.

Looking Further Ahead: Buildings 2 & 3

Planning is underway for two future renovations on the Prescott Campus: the Building 3 Student Services area and Building 2 locker rooms. Both projects remain in the planning and design stages, with construction not expected to begin until later in 2027.

There's still plenty of work ahead before either project reaches construction, but beginning that planning early gives the College time to coordinate needs, develop the designs, and prepare for the work with as little disruption to campus operations as possible.

Gym Floor: Can You Spot It?

The basketball court will be refinished again over winter break to correct a subtle color mismatch from the previous vendor work. It's not easy to spot, so we're making a game of it.



The first person to find the color mismatch and tell Facilities Management gets first dibs in the Facilities trick-or-treat basket next month.

No hints. Happy hunting.

Did You Know?

Did you know you can include coworkers or other interested parties on a YC FMX work order?

There are two ways to do it:

- **Submit on behalf of someone else.** This works just like it sounds—you can create the request for another person rather than having them submit a separate work order.
- **Add followers.** If others need to stay informed, add them as followers to the request. Followers receive the same updates and have access to the work order information, and you can add as many as needed.

The only requirement is that the person you're adding has an FMX account. If they haven't created one yet, getting started is easy—simply sign in to FMX using your College SSO credentials.

This can be especially useful when a request affects an entire department, shared space, or multiple people. Rather than submitting duplicate requests or forwarding updates separately, everyone who needs to know can follow the same work order from start to finish.

One request, one conversation, and everyone stays informed.

Out in the Field: Sam Johnson, Grounds Manager

If you've been reading *Out in the Field*, you've already gotten to know a little of Sam Johnson's personality. This month, instead of another lesson from Sam about the strange things growing, crawling, or burrowing around our campuses, we thought we'd tell you a little about what he actually does.

Sam has been with Yavapai College for more than 15 years and, as Grounds Manager, is responsible for the grounds across all seven of our campuses and centers. After that much time caring for College properties, he has developed an incredible amount of institutional knowledge—not just about our landscapes, but about how they respond to the seasons, weather, and changing conditions of northern Arizona.

Keeping our campuses attractive is certainly part of the job, but Grounds also manages many of the less-visible challenges that come with maintaining properties across the district. That includes water conservation and irrigation, FireWise practices and vegetation management, insects and pests, and monitoring weather conditions that can bring flooding, wind damage, or snow.

When winter weather arrives, Grounds is also the team coming in to plow and clear campus roads so the rest of us can safely



get where we need to go. During monsoon season, they're watching drainage and responding to storm damage. During dry periods, attention shifts toward water use and wildfire risk. The work changes with the season, the weather, and sometimes the hour.

Managing Grounds across seven very different locations means paying attention to much more than whether the grass is green or the flower beds look good. Sometimes the most important parts of the job are the things most of us never notice.

So, while we enjoy giving Sam a hard time about how much time he spends studying frogs, bugs, trees, and whatever else he finds out there, there's a reason he knows so much about them. Knowing what's happening on the ground is quite literally his job, and he sure is good at it.

Looking Ahead

October will bring another busy stretch for Facilities, beginning with the anticipated grand opening of Building 19-147 during the Arizona Community College Administrators Conference (ACCAC). After months of construction and coordination, we're looking forward to seeing the space transition from a project into a working part of campus.

Fall also means it's time to start looking toward winter. Grounds and Trades teams will begin preparing equipment and building systems for colder weather, while projects and preventative maintenance continue alongside the everyday needs of our campuses. Planning ahead for seasonal work helps us address needs before they become urgent and keeps our teams available to respond when the unexpected happens.

FMX will continue to evolve as well. Thank you to everyone who has been using the system and sharing feedback with us. Those questions and suggestions continue to help us refine how requests are submitted, communicated, and managed.

And, of course, October means Halloween. Keep an eye out for next month's newsletter—and in the meantime, you still have a basketball court mystery to solve.

-Facilities Management