Facilities Management Newsletter

October 2026

Facilities Management District Office, Prescott Campus, Bldg 20
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 7:30am – 4:30pm, Friday by appointment
Phone: 928-776-2180 Email: facilities@yc.edu

Something Spooky Is Happening in Facilities...

October has arrived, bringing cooler mornings, shorter days, changing leaves—and a few things going bump in the night around our campuses.

Fortunately, most of those noises can probably be explained by Facilities.

While the rest of the College prepares for Halloween, our teams are busy with a different kind of seasonal transition. Grounds is preparing for colder weather, Trades is making sure building systems are ready for winter, projects continue moving forward, and our custodians are still cleaning up things far scarier than anything we'll put in this newsletter.

October also brings some treats. Building 19-147 is finally reaching completion, several projects are moving into their next phases, and we'll once again take you behind the scenes to meet some of the people responsible for keeping our campuses running.

So grab some candy, ignore that mysterious noise coming from the mechanical room, and enjoy this month's Facilities update.



Department Spotlight: The People Behind the Walls

Every building has noises you don't recognize.

A pipe knocks. Something starts humming above the ceiling. The lights flicker. A vent suddenly starts blowing cold air. Somewhere deep inside a mechanical room, a piece of equipment makes a sound that definitely wasn't there yesterday.

Before you call a paranormal investigator, call Facilities.

Our Trades team includes the skilled professionals responsible for HVAC, electrical, plumbing, building automation, and construction across the district. They spend their days—and occasionally their nights—working in mechanical rooms, above ceilings, below buildings, on rooftops, and in plenty of other places most people would probably prefer not to visit.

And they aren't just waiting for something to break. A significant portion of their work is preventative: inspecting and servicing equipment, monitoring building systems, identifying developing problems, and replacing components before a small issue turns into something considerably scarier.

When problems do arise, not all hauntings are created equal. A dripping faucet, an uncomfortable office, a failed electrical circuit, and a building-wide HVAC problem may all need attention, but safety, urgency, and operational impact help determine what gets addressed first.

There's also quite a bit happening behind the walls that most people never think about. Electrical distribution, domestic water, heating and cooling, controls, pumps, valves, motors, and miles of infrastructure all have to work together to make a building feel remarkably uneventful.



And uneventful is usually exactly what we're going for.

So this Halloween, if the lights stay on, the toilets flush, and that strange mechanical-room noise disappears, there's probably a much less supernatural explanation.

Thank your friendly neighborhood Trades team.

Did You Know? What's Behind the Window?

You may have noticed windows in office doors, interior walls, and other spaces throughout our buildings. Those windows aren't simply an architectural choice—they provide visibility that helps support a safe campus environment.

College Space Standards do not permit internal windows to be covered. Exterior-facing window coverings may be considered on a case-by-case basis, with attention given to the building's exterior appearance, uniformity, and equitable treatment of similar spaces. In many cases, a request for one office means



considering the entire building face rather than treating a single exterior-facing window independently. The written standard specifically allows employees to request adjustable blinds for exterior windows while prohibiting coverings on internal windows for safety.

That means paper, posters, fabric, decorations, or other materials shouldn't be used to block visibility through interior windows. If there's a legitimate need for privacy or additional light control, contact Facilities rather than installing or creating a covering so we can help identify an appropriate solution.

October may bring a few more decorations to campus, making this a particularly good time for the reminder: please keep interior windows clear and uncovered.

Out in the Field: Places Most People Never Go

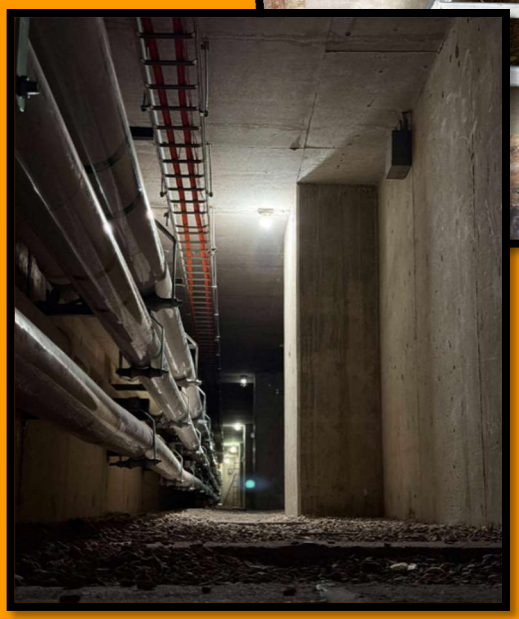
Working in Facilities means occasionally finding yourself somewhere most people don't even know exists.

Above ceilings, on rooftops, inside mechanical rooms, behind access panels, and in the less-traveled corners of our buildings, there's an entire side of our campuses that most people never see. These spaces contain the pipes, wiring, equipment, controls, and infrastructure that allow the spaces on the other side of the wall to function normally.



They're also not always the most inviting places.

A dark mechanical room can make some interesting noises. Crawlspaces have their share of unexpected residents. Rooftops look considerably different before sunrise, and opening an access panel sometimes comes with a moment of wondering exactly what might be waiting on the other side.



For Facilities employees, though, these aren't spooky places—they're workplaces. Troubleshooting a problem often means following it wherever it leads, even when that's above the ceiling or into a part of the building most people will never visit.

So, if you're walking through campus this October and hear something moving above the ceiling, don't immediately assume the worst.

There's a reasonable chance it's one of us.

Looking Ahead

With Yavapai College's first-ever fall break now behind us, we're settling back into the rhythm of the semester and looking toward the colder months ahead. Winter brings its own set of challenges across our district, and Facilities teams are preparing equipment, buildings, and grounds for whatever northern Arizona has in store.

We're also looking ahead to winter break, when reduced campus activity provides another opportunity to complete work that might otherwise disrupt classes and daily operations. Among the projects on the schedule is the refinishing of the basketball court to correct that elusive color mismatch we challenged you to find last month. Hopefully, a few sharp-eyed readers have managed to spot it!

As always, preventative maintenance, service requests, and ongoing improvements will continue alongside these seasonal preparations. We appreciate everyone who helps us plan ahead, communicates upcoming needs, and gives our teams the time and information necessary to coordinate work effectively.

And with Halloween just around the corner, we'd like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday. Whether you're handing out candy, dressing up, or simply trying to avoid whatever might be lurking in the mechanical room, we hope your Halloween is full of treats and very few tricks.

— Facilities Management