



**T** FACILITIES SERVICES

FACILITIES AROUND CAMPUS

# JUST THE FACs

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE FACILITIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**T** FACILITIES SERVICES

**WINTER 2026**

**T** FACILITIES SERVICES

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TENNESSEE**  
KNOXVILLE

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FACILITIES SERVICES

# Spotlight Stories

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## One Team, One Direction: Our Updated Mission & Vision

*With cutting-edge research, top-tier academic experiences, and incredible athletics programs, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is undoubtedly a university on the rise. We're experiencing record growth in enrollment, and Facilities Services recognizes that the campus experience is a contributing factor in recruitment and retainment of students. We consider it an honor and a privilege to manage an ever-changing campus, and with that in mind, we have adjusted our Mission and Vision Statements to better align with the goals of the university.*

*The updated mission of UT Facilities Services is as follows:*

*As the university's dedicated facilities stewards, our mission is to plan, construct, and maintain its physical resources and environments to fully support and promote the University of Tennessee's Vol Vision, implement its long-range Master Plan, and embody the attributes of a modern R1 land-grant university.*

*So what does this mean? Let's look at the statement piece by piece.*

*"As the university's dedicated facilities stewards..." - Facilities Services is made up of essential personnel working around the clock to care for our campus. This includes everything from landscaping to custodial needs to design and construction project management. You won't find a more dedicated team of Vols who take pride in their work and give their all for the good of those we serve.*

*"...our mission is to plan, construct, and maintain its physical resources and environments..." - From the planning of new or renovated spaces to the care and keeping of each campus building, we take ownership and lead in our respective areas with integrity and creativity. With more than 290 buildings and 900 acres to manage, we recognize the importance of attention to detail, continuous improvement, and consistent service.*

*"...to fully support and promote the University of Tennessee's Vol Vision, implement its long-range Master Plan, and embody the attributes of a modern R1 land-grant university." - In*

*order for the university to reach the top, it takes everyone working together with these common goals in mind. Whether it's the long-range Master Plan for the campus of the future, the university's strategic vision and five-year goals, or the embodiment of a modern R1 land-grant university today, we encourage innovation and collaboration knowing that we're at our best when we're all moving in the same direction.*

*All of this helps set the tone for our new vision, which now reads:*

*Our vision is to be recognized as a model facilities services department comprised of personnel dedicated to each other and our mission, and who are proud to be a part of the Facilities team. This will be accomplished by promoting an environment that:*

- *Focuses on quality service*
- *Seeks constant improvement*
- *Develops staff professionally and personally*
- *Integrates technology and innovative work practices into its daily routine*
- *Integrates technology and innovative work practices into its daily routine*

*Our desire is that other institutions would look to the UT Facilities Services team as a trusted partner and leader in facilities management - not just for experience, but for our culture as well. In order to truly carry out our mission statement, we have to build trust in one another and in departmental leadership as we strive to maintain integrity and transparency with one another and the campus at large. We welcome employee*

## Spotlight Stories (cont.)

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*feedback as an opportunity for conversation, clarification, and cohesion at all levels, and we are focused on building and maintaining a team that finds satisfaction in knowing how their career contributes to the betterment of students, staff, faculty, and fans.*

*We know this doesn't happen overnight, but we are committed to focusing on providing quality support to all of our customers, listening for and implementing ways we can improve, pouring into our team to expand skill-sets and create experts in our field, and integrating advanced technology and innovative practices into all we do for the good of those we serve.*

*As we look to the future of UT Facilities Services, we maintain ever-focused on creating and caring for spaces that inspire innovation and lead to world-changing conversations. We recognize that this begins with a unified vision and an achievable mission, and we look forward to embracing this approach at every level.*



## Spotlight Stories

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### TVA and KUB Present \$500,000 in Energy Incentives to the University of Tennessee for Campuswide Efficiency Achievements

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville celebrated a major milestone in its sustainability journey on Saturday as representatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) presented the university with an energy efficiency incentive check during the Tennessee vs. Vanderbilt football game at Neyland Stadium. The recognition highlights UT's remarkable progress in reducing energy use, lowering operational costs, and strengthening partnerships that support long-term campus sustainability.

Since January, UT has achieved an estimated 3.37 gigawatt hours (GWh) in energy savings through a series of strategic efficiency upgrades. This is equivalent to the annual electricity use of hundreds of Tennessee homes. These improvements stem from a range of campuswide projects, including standard and FastTrack LED lighting upgrades, HVAC enhancements, and significant progress in building automation and controls.

These energy saving efforts have been supported through TVA EnergyRight's Business and Industrial Incentive program, which provides funding to organizations that implement impactful energy efficiency projects. UT currently has an estimated \$500,000 in incentives in the payment pipeline, with additional projects completing verification soon.

"This partnership is a perfect example of what can happen when a university, a local power company, and a regional utility work together toward innovation," said Wes Willoughby, Director of Energy and Utilities for UT Facilities Services. "These savings do not just reduce UT's environmental footprint. They strengthen the university's operational resilience and free up resources that can be reinvested into our campus community."

The collaboration among UT, TVA, and KUB has become a model for other organizations across the region. UT's streamlined project identification and submission process, now guided by the university's newly established Energy Innovation and Efficiency Task Force, has created an efficient and repeatable framework for securing incentives and



maximizing energy reductions. TVA and KUB have recognized UT's approach as a best practice template for other Local Power Companies hoping to replicate similar results.

"As long-time proponents of energy efficiency and partners of TVA, we're excited to see UT benefit from a TVA EnergyRight program in this way," Gabriel J. Bolas II, KUB President & CEO, said. "Energy efficiency improvements like the ones implemented on campus help save money while supporting a cleaner, more resilient energy future."

The incentive funding supports ongoing reinvestment in energy savings initiatives, helping UT continue its mission to operate as efficiently and responsibly as possible. Beyond the financial impact, these projects demonstrate UT's commitment to leading sustainability practices and setting a high standard for campus operations across the region.

As the university looks ahead to additional opportunities through TVA EnergyRight, both KUB and TVA have reaffirmed their support for UT's growing portfolio of energy efficiency projects.

## Spotlight Stories (cont.)

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*“The University of Tennessee is setting a powerful example of how innovation and collaboration can drive real progress in energy efficiency and sustainability,” TVA President and CEO Don Moul said. “By embracing smart technologies and working closely with TVA and KUB, UT is not only reducing its energy use, it’s creating a more resilient, future-ready campus. We’re proud to support their efforts and look forward to continuing this partnership as a model for institutions and industry partners across the region.”*

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## FS Staff Take on COAA Connect in Fort Worth, TX



Members of our Facilities Services team traveled to Fort Worth in November for COAA Connect, joining campus and facilities leaders from across the country to share what's working, what's next, and how higher ed continues to evolve. From sessions on operational best practices to conversations about customer service, staffing, and smarter ways to plan and deliver work, our team came back energized and full of practical takeaways. The real value of COAA Connect is the chance to step out of the day-to-day and learn directly from peers facing similar challenges, then bring those insights home to strengthen how we support campus. We're grateful for the ways they're already utilizing these insights for the good of all Vols!

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## First Load of Compost Delivered to UT Organic Crops Unit

During the fall semester, our first load of compost was officially delivered to the UT Organic Crops Unit, marking an exciting milestone for our sustainability efforts on Rocky Top. With our brand-new dump truck, funded through the TDEC Compost Grant, we can move compost more efficiently and reliably while supporting the important work happening at the Organic Crops Unit. This first delivery is more than a successful haul. It represents a growing campus commitment to reducing waste, putting resources to better use, and building practical systems that support research, agriculture, and long-term environmental stewardship at UT.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## Laurel Hall Takes Crown in fall Residence Hall EcoChallenge



Laurel Hall took the crown in this year's Residence Hall EcoChallenge, showing what sustainable living can look like when a community commits to small, everyday choices that add up to real impact. To celebrate the win, the Office of Sustainability partnered with UT Housing to offer a pop-up event featuring a Free Store, music, a popcorn bar, and hot chocolate, creating a space where students could connect, celebrate, and keep the sustainability momentum going.

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## Jerry Lethco Retires from Maintenance & Repair



On December 4th, we tipped our hard hats to Jerry Lethco as he officially retired from UT Facilities Services. Jerry's known for getting the job done, telling it like it is, and keeping us all on our toes, and honestly, we wouldn't have it any other way.

We already miss his one-liners, his no-nonsense approach, and the way he always showed up when it mattered. We continue to wish Jerry a well-earned retirement and thank him for leaving his mark on our team.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## Larry Shoopman Retires from Building Services

On December 5th, we wished a happy retirement to Larry Shoopman, who has dedicated 50 years to the University of Tennessee. Larry's commitment shaped Facilities Services in ways that will last long after he hangs up his hat.

We're grateful for his decades of service, his reliability, and the pride he took in his work. Help us congratulate Larry on an extraordinary career and wish him all the best in this next chapter.



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## Leaf it to the Pros: How UT's Turf Team Tackles Fall



As fall settles over the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the campus fills with orange-and-gold leaves, and UT Facilities Services shifts into a new seasonal rhythm to keep walkways safe and the landscape looking its best. The same Turf Management team that focuses on mowing in summer pivots to leaf work as autumn ramps up, starting by mulching early layers of leaves into the soil to reduce waste and enrich the ground. When leaf fall peaks, the work becomes a coordinated effort as crews communicate and move in unison to guide leaves into “wind rows” along curbs and sidewalks for faster pickup. Those piles are then suctioned up using a vacuum loader and transported to the UT Compost Facility, where the leaves are composted and later returned to campus landscape beds. Read the full story: [Leaf it to the Pros: How UT's Turf Team Tackles Fall](#)

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## Donnie Lowery Retires from Maintenance & Repair

After 23 years of dedicated service with our Maintenance and Repair team, we were proud to celebrate Donnie as he stepped into a well-earned retirement in December. Throughout his time with Facilities Services, Donnie brought a steady presence, a solution-oriented mindset, and a deep commitment to the behind-the-scenes work that kept campus operating day after day. His reliability, willingness to jump in, and ability to troubleshoot just about anything made a lasting difference for our team and the Vol community. While we missed his stories and the experience he brought to every job, we remained grateful for the years he gave to UT and wished him all the best in what came next.



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## 3rd Shift Holiday Party Features 2nd Annual Gingerbread Competition



On December 10th, our third shift holiday party was all about gratitude—creating a space for our overnight crew to relax, laugh, and enjoy time together. These folks keep our campus running while most of us sleep, and it was a joy to celebrate them. We wrapped up the night with a fiercely competitive (and unbelievably fun!) gingerbread house showdown that brought out everyone’s creativity and holiday spirit. Thank you, third shift, for all you do. You make UT shine—day and night.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## Trinity Miller Earns MBA from UT Chattanooga



Trinity Miller, our Assistant HR Manager, earned her MBA with a concentration in Human Resources from UT Martin in December. This achievement reflected Trinity's dedication, discipline, and commitment to professional excellence, and it was a milestone worth celebrating across our Facilities Services team. We were grateful for the leadership, insight, and steady support she brought to her work each day, and proud to recognize the time and effort she invested to reach this goal. Congratulations, Trinity. Your hard work continued to inspire our entire team.

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## Capital Construction Uses Volunteer Hours for Habitat ReStore

In December, our Capital Construction team spent a few hours volunteering at the Habitat ReStore, using their skills to build furniture, create display items, and jump in wherever extra hands were needed. It was a simple, meaningful way to support the work happening in our community and to put craftsmanship and teamwork to use outside of campus. The season emphasized generosity, service, and connection, and we were grateful to see our team show up with steady effort, helping hands, and big hearts.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Facilities Services Gives Back with Holiday Food Boxes

The Vol Spirit is not in short supply around here! Yesterday afternoon, a couple dozen of our amazing Facilities Services team members came together to pack holiday food boxes for our own teammates and those in campus housing who could use a little extra help this season. It's such a joy to be able to support and give back to our own community, making sure everyone feels cared for and celebrated during the holidays.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## FS Celebrates with Annual Holiday Party

Our annual Facilities Services holiday party offered a welcome pause in a busy season and a meaningful chance to come together as a team. With so much of our work focused on keeping campus running, it was special to step away from the daily pace, reconnect, and enjoy time with the people who make this operation possible. Throughout the event, teammates caught up on life and work, shared plenty of laughs, and took a well-deserved moment to rest and celebrate what we have accomplished together.

More than anything, the gathering was a reminder of the pride, care, and camaraderie that define Facilities Services. The joy in the room was unmistakable, and it reflected the strength of a team that shows up for Rocky Top every day, often behind the scenes. We are grateful for each person who makes up Facilities Services and for the opportunity to celebrate the season side by side.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## Facilities Staff Provide Important Support During Winter Weather

In January, Facilities Services teams provided critical winter weather support by clearing roadways and walkways and continuously monitoring campus conditions as storms moved through the area. This work helps keep essential routes open for emergency response, maintains safer access to residence halls and academic buildings, and reduces slip hazards in high-traffic areas. Behind the scenes, condition checks and real-time decision-making allowed crews to prioritize the right areas at the right time as temperatures, precipitation, and refreeze conditions changed.

This kind of winter response protects more than pavement. It supports continuity for campus operations, helps students and employees move around more safely, and gives the university the situational awareness needed to make informed decisions during severe weather. Whether it meant early-morning clearing, repeat passes as conditions shifted, or ongoing monitoring to catch trouble spots before they worsened, Facilities Services helped campus stay safer, more accessible, and better prepared throughout each winter weather event.



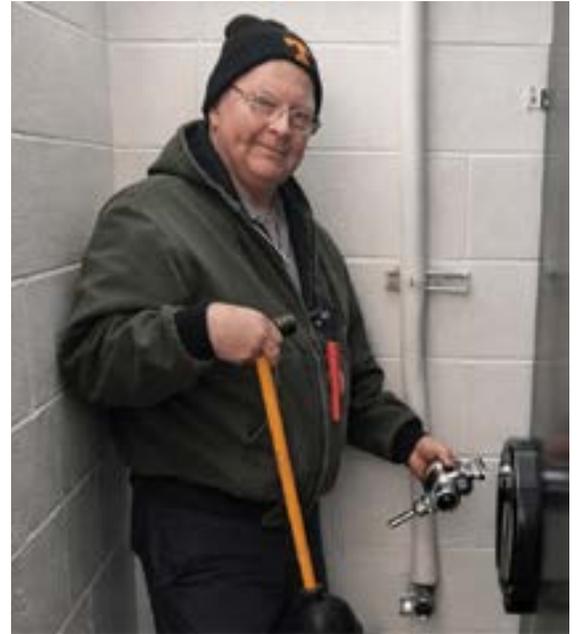
# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## The Offseason Guardians of Neyland Stadium

When Neyland Stadium quiets down after football season and winter weather moves in, a small Facilities Services crew steps in to winterize the stadium and protect its massive internal plumbing system that spans roughly ten acres, three floors, and the areas underneath. With about 50,000 gallons of water in the building at any given time, the team follows a careful, week-long process that includes draining more than 43,000 gallons from sinks, toilets, and fountains to reduce the risk of freezing pipes, bursts, and costly damage that could impact operations when fans return. Working sector by sector with limited manpower, they coordinate shutoffs and checks inside and outside the stadium to safeguard critical infrastructure, prevent avoidable repairs, and help ensure restrooms, concessions, and water systems function reliably when Neyland fills again. Read the full story: [The Offseason Guardians of Neyland Stadium](#)



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## Building Belonging Beyond the Walls of the Student Union

We're expanding the Student Union's East Plaza to create even more welcoming outdoor spaces for everyone. With new seating, a community stage, pedestrian-friendly design, food truck spots, and cozy gathering areas, this project is all about connection, community, and Volunteer spirit. Read the full story and see how UT is making space for people to relax, connect, and thrive. Read about it [here](#).



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## How GIS Helps Facilities Services Build a Smarter Campus

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are doing far more than helping people navigate campus at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Within Facilities Services, GIS supports day-to-day operations across campus by organizing and visualizing location-based information that teams can use for smarter planning and faster decision-making, from grounds work to broader infrastructure needs. A key part of this work includes collecting highly accurate “ortho” (orthomosaic) imagery using drones flown at least 200 feet high with the camera aimed straight down, creating reliable 2D maps built from overlapping photos to reduce errors. As GIS Coordinator Adam Trent notes, the goal is not only accuracy in a single map, but precision that can be repeated over time, helping UT track changes, coordinate work, and keep Rocky Top running efficiently. Read the full story: [How GIS Helps Facilities Services Build a Smarter Campus](#)



# STAFF APPRECIATION NOTES

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I want to extend my sincere thanks to you and the entire UTFS team for your support on the project to replace the stone pavers with a new cement sidewalk at the McClung Museum's front entrance. This area has posed an ongoing safety risk for students attending classes and for our museum visitors, and we are grateful for the improvement.

Randy, Dustin, Rick, Mike, and the rest of the team were wonderful partners throughout the process. Your flexibility in coordinating timing and phasing the work, as well as helping us maintain access for students, visitors, and staff, allowed the museum to remain open and fully functional. I have taken the liberty of including them in this message to acknowledge their efforts directly.

We truly appreciate the care, attention, and resources dedicated to creating a safer and more welcoming entrance for everyone who visits the museum. Thank you again for your collaboration and outstanding work.

Best,  
Claudio Gómez

Jefferson Chapman Executive Director  
McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture

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## Employee Comment Box Locations:

- Facilities Services Complex Break Room
- Facilities Services Shop Area
- Hodges Library outside room 171a
- Steam Plant (near time clock)
- Landscape Trailer Breakroom
- The electronic employee comment box can be found at [tiny.utk.edu/fscommentbox](https://tiny.utk.edu/fscommentbox).



## FEBRUARY

Paulette Prinston	2/1	Tom McConnell	3/11	Ella Dohrmann	4/18
Maria Martinez	2/2	Gordon Nelson	3/12	Randy Hamilton	4/18
Ryan Carpenter	2/2	JJ Orr	3/12	Tracy Walker	4/19
Alyssa Antal	2/3	Michael Capps	3/13	Teresa Davis	4/19
Stacey Kitts	2/4	Lauren Colato de Posantes	3/13	Jesse Lawson	4/19
David McGill	2/5	Jonathan Christmas	3/13	Tony Harris	4/20
Todd Molter	2/5	Mike Materna	3/15	Val Brooks	4/20
Adam Trent	2/7	Terry Ledford	3/16	Cory Cox	4/20
Randy Love	2/8	Dwight Cullom	3/17	Alberto De La Garza	4/22
Jason Carringer	2/9	Michael Hastie	3/18	Toni Adams	4/22
Charles Bryson Hill	2/10	Rick Caldwell	3/19	Bill Hutchins	4/23
Perry Longmire	2/10	James Rowland	3/19	Shannon Nason	4/23
Michael Atkinson	2/11	Melvin Godfrey	3/19	Wes Cook	4/24
Johnny Robinson	2/11	Tommy Staley	3/20	Britt Hancock	4/24
Eric Ducote	2/11	Jacob Jordan	3/20	Mike Brady	4/26
Sylvena Mattress	2/12	Riley Hutchins	3/20	Samuel Walker-Boley	4/27
Scottie Davis	2/13	Todd Curnutt	3/20	Cale Clemmer	4/27
Adam Cain	2/13	Todd Curnutt	3/21	Jairus Miller	4/28
Jeff Talley	2/14	Kevin Ammons	3/21	Radovan Psar	4/29
Trinity Miller	2/15	Steve Long	3/21	Wayne Palmer	4/29
Sheldon Graham	2/15	Steve Kerley	3/23		
Rob Frick	2/15	Ashley Watts	3/24		
Kelsey Cox	2/16	Richard Shackelford	3/25		
Benji Strobel	2/16	Jeff Chance	3/26		
Dennis Frank	2/16	Tony Dixon	3/27		
Jonas Johnson	2/16	Marie Lemons	3/27		
Nikki Woolsey	2/17	Wayne Cowden	3/27		
Aiden Wright	2/19	Raven McBurney	3/30		
Sheena Rhea	2/19	Gage Murphy	3/31		
Kevin Jones	2/20	Jeff Hopper	3/31		
David Ridings	2/20				
Ted Murphy	2/20				
Matt Motsko	2/21	Verna Spencer	4/1		
Joel Rummage	2/22	Patricia Curtis	4/2		
Roger Norris	2/23	Daniel Lufkin	4/3		
Taylor Headrick	2/25	Alex Savage	4/3		
Jacky Palmer	2/25	Donnie Patterson	4/3		
Ryan Alexander	2/26	Edward Alley	4/4		
Gary Haggard	2/26	Clinton Graham	4/6		
Sam Shiflett	2/27	James Faulkner	4/6		
Ronnie Couch	2/27	Robert Clark	4/8		
Maria Zambrano Anchico	2/27	Chris Mireles	4/8		
Jacob Capps	2/27	Robby Huggins	4/8		
Rick Johnson	2/28	Charlie Anderson	4/9		
Ghenadi Popescul	2/28	Chris Webb	4/9		
Tim Faulkner	2/29	Denny Gann	4/10		
		Geoff McMahan	4/10		
		Steve Bradford	4/12		
		Johnathan Sawyer	4/13		
		Wayne Stalans	4/13		
		Aws Hussein	4/14		
		Susan Gibson	4/14		
		Jim Moore	4/14		
		Connor Wright	4/14		
		Robert Jones	4/15		
		Lala Henderson	4/17		
		Cedric Kashindi	4/18		
		Erick Beal	4/18		

## APRIL

## MARCH

Cristina McNish	3/1				
Ana Gomez Galeano	3/1				
Jeff Rentsch	3/1				
Raymond Barclay	3/2				
Jordan Maples	3/3				
Maurice Dempsey	3/10				
Josh Chapin	3/10				
Nadia Moreno Toro	3/11				
Tony Bunner	3/11				