



# 2025

## CITY OF ANN ARBOR ANNUAL REPORT

**Milton Dohoney Jr.**  
City Administrator



[www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org)

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## Supplemental Reports:

- Sustainability and Innovations (OSI): attachment
- Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC) : attachment

## Dear Mayor and City Council,

It will continue to be my practice to provide you with a year-end communication to wrap up each calendar year. This document touches on a variety of topics to either provide updates or information on our current areas of focus.

**Organizational Stability.** During 2025 we continued to add and support leadership. In addition to the technical expertise these professionals bring, their service continues to enhance the diversity of our leadership structure. We successfully welcomed our new Deputy City Administrator, Communications Director, Economic Development Director, Information Technology Director, Public Services Area Administrator, Sustainable Energy Utility Director, and Transportation Manager.

I am providing you with a list of activities that I either personally led or was directly (and heavily) involved in during 2025. This is meant to provide you some relevant context when thinking about my performance over the past year. The list is not in chronological order.

- Developing a balanced budget
- Completing the hiring of the executive team positions
- Developing the improvement to our winter operations approach
- Negotiating the framework for the partnership with the Ann Arbor District Library that will ultimately yield housing on top of our Library Lane property in combination with a new main library project
- Planning for new Fire Station 4
- Introduction of drone technology into A2, including associated policy
- Negotiation of the new DDA boundary expansion, and planning for a new downtown service team
- Expanded brand exposure for A2, speaking in Milwaukee, Tampa, Grand Rapids, and Hollywood, FL
- Development of a new partnership with University of Michigan (U-M) whereby they will now directly fund City projects on an annual basis (things that we don't have the money to do)
- Planning for the launch of the Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU)
- Continuation of the Compensation Study enabling us to become more competitive in the market-place for hiring and retention

## City Administrator's Office

- Devising the process to procure a broker for Kline's Lot & 415 W. Washington and then leading the process to secure bidders for both properties
- Expanded my engagement with community groups
- Completion of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Engaging with the United Soccer League (USL) regarding their interest in expansion into A2
- Facilitating the collaboration process with U-M across multiple disciplines
- Developed a new Hybrid Policy requiring a minimum level of in-person work to strengthen our customer service for both internal and external stakeholders
- Expansion of Police involvement as a "partner" in the quest for Vision Zero
- Planning collaboration with Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) on 2026 construction projects
- Convened a new community conversation that includes AAPS, U-M, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF), Downtown Development Authority (DDA), AAHC, Avalon, Police, Fire, Public Services, Community Services, Finance, Ann Arbor District Library (AADL), Supportive Connections
- A2 Difference Maker Program providing recognition for city employee performance
- First Active Shooter Training in 15 years

Sincerely,

*Milton Dohoney Jr.*

Milton Dohoney Jr.  
City Administrator

## City of Ann Arbor 2026 and Beyond!

We look forward to continuing our progress in 2026. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let us know via City Administrator Milton Dohoney Jr.

[mdohoney@a2gov.org](mailto:mdohoney@a2gov.org), Deputy City Administrator Mariah Walton [mwalton@a2gov.org](mailto:mwalton@a2gov.org) or Director of Operations Sara Higgins [shiggins@a2gov.org](mailto:shiggins@a2gov.org).



Report Prepared By:  
Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator  
Sara Higgins, Director of Operations

## City Clerk's Office

- The Clerk's Office was awarded a national U.S. Elections Assistance Commission Clearinghouse Award for Contingency Planning: Exemplary Contingency Planning and Emergency Response Efforts for the Clerk's Office work with the city's Emergency Manager. The award highlighted the City's multiple election-related tabletop exercises and their election management planning document.
- The Clerk's Office was awarded an MI Excellence Award for Excellence in Use of Technology/Innovation by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks for the city's Elections Media Hub website. City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry accepted the award at the MAMC annual conference in Traverse City.
- The Clerk's Office, with support from the Mayor's Office, hosted an official unveiling ceremony of the city's new Michigan State Historical Society marker recognizing the City's important place in LGBTQ+ history. The marker highlights the election of Kathy Kozachenko to City Council as the nation's first openly LGBTQ+ person to run for public office. The marker also recognizes Jerry DeGriek and Nancy Wechsler who came out as LGBTQ+ while on City Council, the first elected officials in the country to come out while in office.
- The Clerk's Office partnered with the Ann Arbor Police to host our first-ever K9 Swearing-In ceremony.
- The Clerk's Office successfully conducted two special elections (August and November 2025) with early voting sites open for five days at four locations (Westgate, Malletts and Traverwood Libraries and City Hall).
- Construction began in November 2025 on the renovation of the city's new Election Building at 3021 Miller Road to include space for the new Director of Communications and CTN. The project also anticipates security and technology upgrades for the Elections space. The Clerk's Office vacated the property for the renovation.

# City Clerk's Office in Action



Residents & Visitors | Businesses | Government | Services | Events

SEARCH BY Google

## Ann Arbor Elections Media Hub

This (2025 award-winning) self-service resource features the accurate information you need and keeps your deadline top of mind

2025 **MIEXCELLENCE AWARD**  
Excellence in Use of Technology/Innovation

The City of Ann Arbor > City Clerk > Elections > Ann Arbor Elections M...

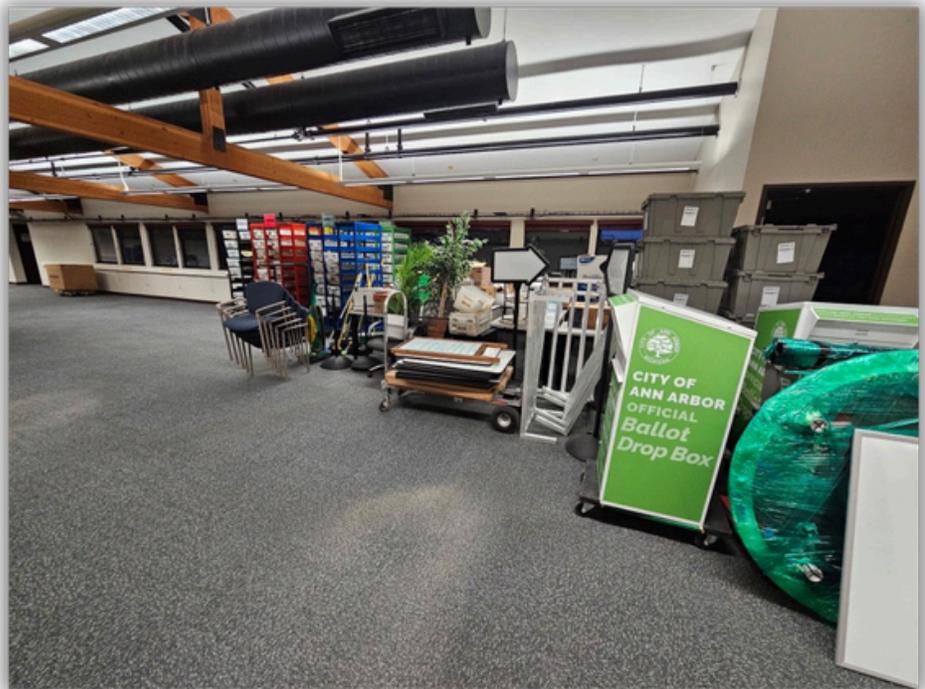
Page contents: [Elections quotes for use](#) | [Tabulation process & timeline](#) | [Pro tips for media](#) | [Current Election Day-specific stats](#) | [Recent news](#) | [Productions and coverage](#) | [Inquiry process and protocols](#) | [Guidance for filming, recording, photography](#) | [Collateral - B-roll and image catalog](#) | [Elections facts](#) | [Elections timeline](#) | [Media FAQs](#) | [Voter FAQs](#)

### Who, What, When, Where, Why, How ... It's All Here

Welcome to the **Ann Arbor Elections Media Hub**. This central resource provides accurate and current information, statistics and updates on voting activity and operations in Ann Arbor. The city thanks media representatives for working with us to combat false narratives and to relay credible, trustworthy information. We also encourage your [feedback](#) about the site, which will continue to evolve, with new resources, and updates and data, on and leading up to Election Day.

ASK ANN  
Grand Life

## City Clerk's Office in Action





## Communications

- Collaborated with city Information Technology Department to redesign and migrate a2gov.org to a new content management system, Govstack, replacing Microsoft SharePoint. This project resulted in improved experiences for the public seeking city information.
- The Ann Arbor Elections Media Hub on a2gov.org received the MiExcellence Award from the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks for Excellence in Use of Technology and Innovation. The Communications Department collaborated with the Ann Arbor City Clerk's Office to determine necessary content and then set information architecture, wrote, created/collected the featured resources and managed the review processes with the City Clerk's Office, ensuring the hub would provide media with accurate, reliable, transparent, readily available information as they are reporting on elections, assisting them to meet deadlines and reducing city staff burden to respond to inquiries.
- Community Television Network (CTN) earned four regional Philo T. Farnsworth Video Competition awards, including the top honor for Overall Excellence in Access TV.
- Designed and managed the production process for the distribution of the new ward-specific council member newsletters.
- Launched an improved, streamlined road/lane closure notification process. It offers a more consistent, clear and concise format to keep community members and stakeholders aware and informed of planned projects and events impacting city roadways.
- Developed and executed strategic communications and promotion plans to support significant city initiatives, including the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the Barton Dam embankment remediation project, the Barton-Bandemer Pedestrian Tunnel project and ribbon cutting event, the unveiling of a State of Michigan Historical Marker recognizing Ann Arbor's place in LGBTQ+ history, two elections and Ann Arbor's voter-created Sustainable Energy Utility.
- Designed and built a multiyear communications plan (now being executed with a budget of \$270,000) to educate the community about the city's revised on-street snow parking ban ordinance and to encourage people to subscribe to Everbridge emergency alerts.
- Participated in Ann Arbor's full-scale emergency operations active shooter exercise with Ann Arbor Public Schools, collaborating across several agencies to plan the communications response planning and produce communications resources.

# Communications in Action



***Community Television Network earned four regional Philo T. Farnsworth Video Competition awards, including the top honor for Overall Excellence in Access TV.***

## Community Services

### Building and Rental Housing Inspections

- Improved inspection and admin staff response times, using EnerGov notification services to alert the public of project and application status.
- Hired a dedicated Building Services Liaison to help the community navigate the permit and inspection process.
- Developed a dedicated in-house plan review team of four to meet the public demand of residential and small commercial projects.
- Improved the rate of first-time compliance for rental and trade inspections, using iPads in the field and checklists.
- Successfully closed over 20 dangerous building cases that were fire-damaged, excessive storage, or nuisance for more than 10 years, addressing both commercial and residential blight properties.
- Successfully closed one major hotel that had burdened the city for more than 20 years; this property will be demolished and rebuilt.

### Parks

- The Barton-Bandemer tunnel was completed, providing improved pedestrian and non-motorized access along the Border to Border. This major recreational amenity drew hundreds of people to the grand opening in November.

## Community Services in Action

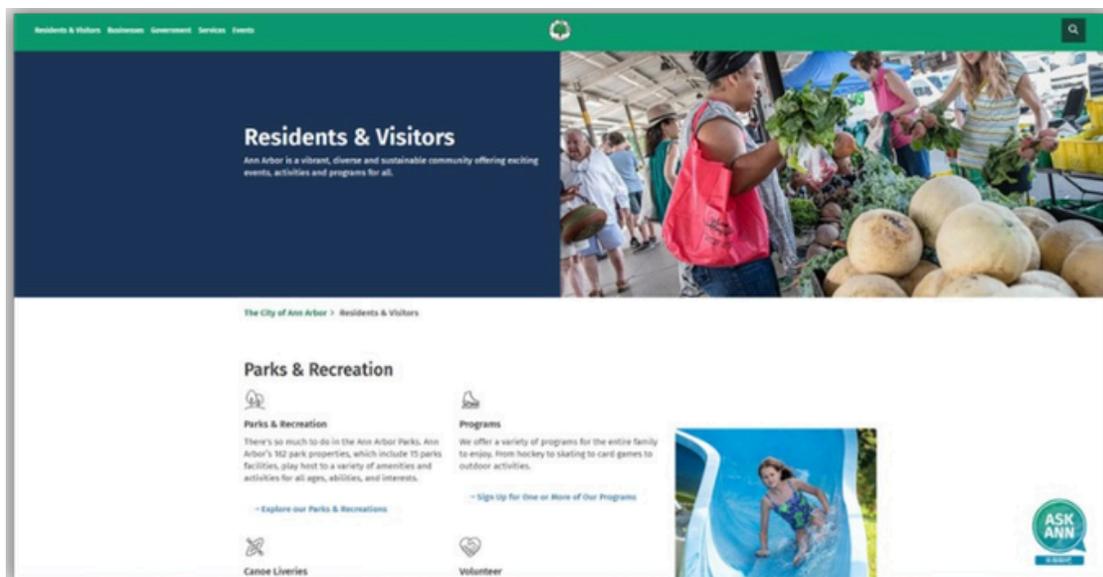


## Community Services

### Parks continued...

- The parking lot and sidewalk at Fuller Park were renovated in the fall of 2025.
- Work on the Parks capital asset management plan has been ongoing with evaluations on all park facilities and over 5,000 park amenities. The plan will evaluate the condition and projected repair and replacement costs associated with all park infrastructure.
- The mural project at Liberty Plaza has been completed. This was a joint project between Parks and DDA.
- Summer Day Camps at Gallup, Argo, Fuller and Buhr once again operated at 99% capacity.
- The Ann Arbor Octopods had a successful year both indoor, winning the SMSL league, and outdoors, placing sixth in swimming out of 18 teams at the WISC championships.
- Parks hired a new full-time employee focused on activating non-facilities parks. Some of the first-year events included Party in the Park at West, dance lessons at Liberty Plaza and Cobblestone, Boo Bash at Buhr and The Great Gingerbread Hunt at Gallup.
- Ann Arbor Senior Center was selected by Washtenaw County to be one of the 10 senior centers to receive annual funding from the Washtenaw County Older Persons Millage.
- Leslie Park Golf Course recognized for environmental excellence. Retained its designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.”

## Community Services in Action

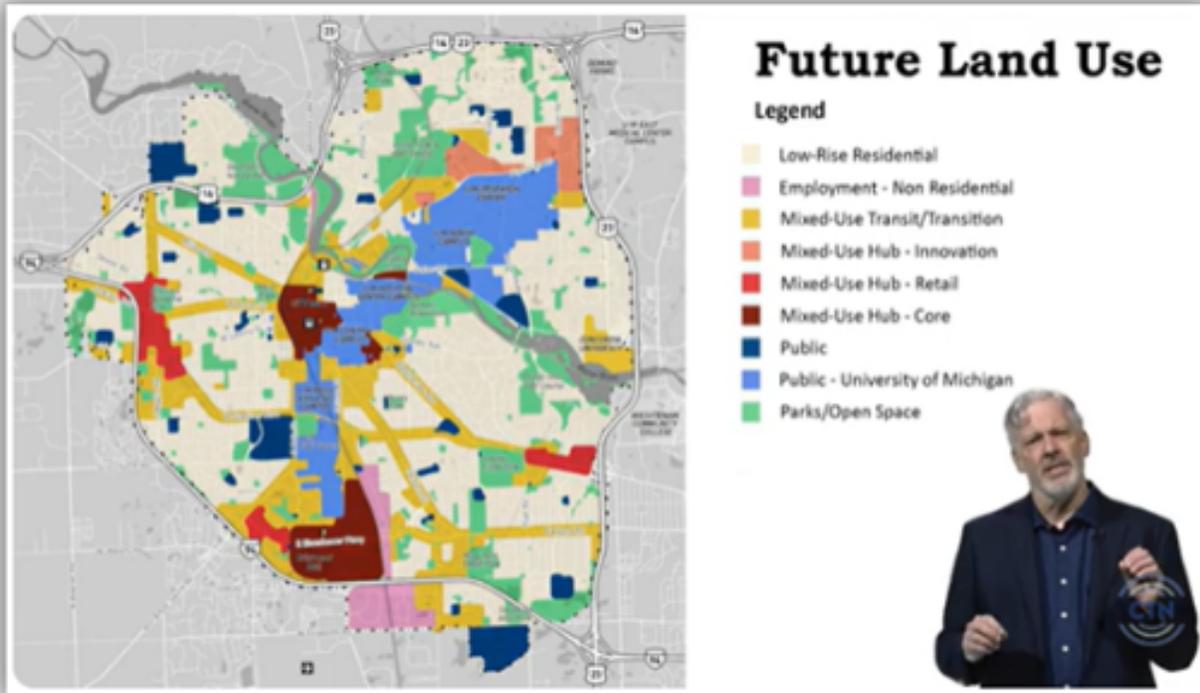


# Community Services

## Planning

- Nine sets of amendments to the Unified Development Code. These modifications were in response to 2024 Resolutions by the City Council directing changes to development processes, as well as other ordinance modernization updates.
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) review and community engagement.
- Partnered with CTN to develop “What is a Comprehensive Land Use Plan?” video that has been viewed over 1,600 times since available.

## Community Services in Action



## *Community Services in Action*



### **Special Events**

- Forty-five special events with street closures were approved by City Council for 2025.
- After the terrorist attack in New Orleans, the city made an agreement with UM to deploy more PVBs (portable vehicle barriers) to cordon off more streets for more special events.
- Permits were not issued until an approved barricade plan was in place for each event. We requested and received from the DDA the purchase of 19 Meridian barricades.
- Training was received by each of the Street Association heads as well as city staff. Police created a training video on how to deploy the Meridians. DDA is in the process of requesting more Meridians along with other barrier options.
- Conversations are happening concurrently with U-M to determine shared expenses and storage for events like football games and concerts.

# *Community Services in Action Special Events!*



***FestiFools Parade***



***Green Fair***



***Police & Fire Open House***

## ***Economic Development***

- Selected Chicago-based developer BaseBld to redevelop 415 West Washington Street into 100 new housing units.
- Selected national developer Hines to redevelop Kline’s Lot, delivering approximately 500 units of housing with activated ground-floor retail.
- Secured approval of the Brownfield Plan for Townie Homes, creating an innovative financial model to develop up to 26 new affordable “missing middle” units.
- Partnered with the DDA and AAATA to submit a Michigan Talent Partnership Grant application, positioning the city to receive several million dollars for streetscape improvements supporting the redevelopment of 350 S. Fifth Ave. into a high-rise affordable housing project.
- Built and strengthened relationships with dozens of local and national developers and businesses, and delivered presentations to numerous business and community organizations to advance shared economic development goals.
- Planning and engagement which led to City Council’s approval of Arbor South project in early 2026.

## ***Economic Development in Action***



***4<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscapes***

## *Economic Development in Action*



### ***Townie Homes***

***The Annie Model: Ann Arbor Community Land Trust***

***Rendering: Chris Allen Architect***

***Plan: Norfold Homes***

## *Economic Development in Action*



***Arbor South***

## ***2025 Financial Services***

- Awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
- Unmodified audit opinion and receipt of GGOA Certificate of Achievement Award.
- Serving the Community – Assessing volunteering at Food Gatherers (photo below).

## ***Ann Arbor Financial Services in Action***



# Ann Arbor Financial Snapshot

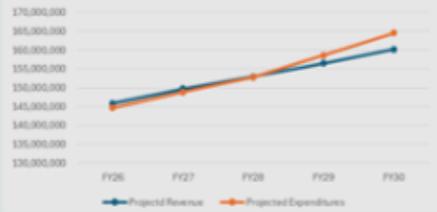


## ANNUAL BUDGET CHALLENGE! COSTS EXCEED REVENUES

The City's primary operating fund is the General Fund. Without new construction, property taxes only increase at the rate of inflation. The cost of providing General Fund services increases at a rate that exceeds inflation. The City balances its budget every year. This means that every year the City needs to either expand the tax base, cut or streamline services, or both.

## \$800K SURPLUS IN FY 2027

### FY26-FY30 FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

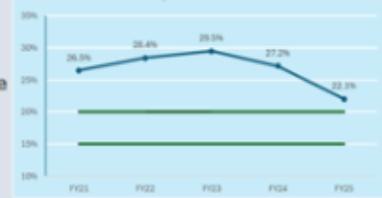


## UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE

In an effort to stabilize the budget against future unexpected costs, the City attempts to maintain General Fund reserves as a percent of annual General Fund expenditures in the range of 15%-20%. This fund balance may be higher than the required target range to save for large, planned expenditures.

## 22.1% 2025 FUND BALANCE

How does this compare to the last 5 years?



## AUDIT RESULTS

0

Material Weaknesses

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the City of Ann Arbor's internal controls.

0

Significant Deficiencies

A significant deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management of employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis.

## FUNDING OF RETIREMENT PLANS

The city contributes funds to retirement plans so that when an employee retires from providing services to the city, adequate funds are available to pay for their retirement benefit. A trust is utilized to invest all employer and employee contributions. When the value of the investments the trust are less than the value of the cost of the benefits, the fund is less than 100% funded.

### PENSION

The City has funded

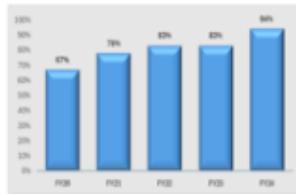
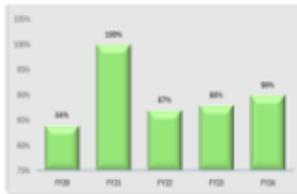
**94%**  
of current pension liability.

### HEALTH CARE

The City has funded

**99.8%**  
of its retiree health care liability.

How does this compare to the last 5 years?



## OUR BONDS WERE RATED HIGHLY BY STANDARD AND POOR'S

The city pays an independent third party (Standard & Poor's) to evaluate the credit quality of the city and publish their findings to potential investors. The rating firm considers many aspects of the city including its financial status, financial trends, management oversight, liquidity, etc. A higher credit rating results in a lower cost to the city for debt. The ratings from highest down are AAA, AA+, AA, AA-, A+, etc.



GENERAL OBLIGATION



WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM REVENUE



WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM REVENUE

## *Fire Services*

- May 20, 2025 – ground breaking for new Fire Station 4. Will be first Net Zero fire station in Michigan. Named after Mindy Kerr – first female Ann Arbor firefighter.
- Spring – A2’s first hybrid fire engine placed in-service. Has a battery pack to shut off diesel motor on medical incidents or other calls when pump is not being used.
- June 23, 2025 – Conducted large full-scale exercise with Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) to evaluate a significant range of law enforcement, medical, and school preparedness topics.
- September 27, 2025 - Provided fire stand-by for first concert at Michigan Stadium.
- November 14, 2025 – Emergency Operations Center (EOC) opening.

### **Ann Arbor Fire Department Annual Report 2025:**

<https://www.a2gov.org/media/4glhvywf/2025-aafd-annual-report.pdf>

## *Ann Arbor Fire Services in Action*



# *Ann Arbor Fire Services in Action*



# *Ann Arbor Fire Services in Action*



# Ann Arbor Fire Services in Action



**Emergency Operations Center (EOC):  
We are ready!**



## Information Technology

Information Technology focused on initiatives that improved security, modernized services, strengthened interdepartmental collaboration, made data more accessible, and enhanced the experience of both staff and residents across the city.

### **Modernizing the City's Technology Foundation**

- Successfully moved the organization to Windows 11, keeping the city on supported and secure platforms well ahead of Microsoft's deadline.
- Completed a major redesign of the city's network, improving reliability and creating stronger defensive layers against cyber threats.
- Introduced new tools to identify breached or high-risk passwords, helping staff stay protected while giving users the option of longer-lasting credentials.
- Reconfigured and upgraded several city conference rooms to simplify the meeting experience and strengthen system security, with additional rooms scheduled for improvement in FY26.
- Continued a full review of the city's server and database environment, retiring outdated systems and upgrading critical ones to keep services supported and secure.
- Shifted key administration functions into a more secure environment to reduce exposure to lateral-movement cyber threats.
- Kept city systems protected by deploying weekly security updates to more than 170 applications.

### **Supporting Organizational Growth & Citywide Operations**

- Created approximately 450 new user accounts to support onboarding activities across service areas.
- Supported AAPD and UMTRI collaboration efforts while maintaining necessary security safeguards.
- Rolled out next-generation cybersecurity tools on public-facing systems, including automated defenses that react to emerging threats.

## Information Technology

### **Improving City Services Through Better Applications, Workflows & Department Support** **Citywide Asset Management & Help Desk Improvements**

- Implemented a new enterprise inventory management system, allowing real-time tracking of all City technology assets through barcode labeling and automated check-in/check-out.
  - This system improves accuracy, forecasting, security, and cost control.
  - Finance now receives real-time notifications for chargeback processing, and inventory levels can be monitored instantly.
- Introduced notification automation so that incoming helpdesk tickets alert staff via Teams if not acknowledged within three minutes, ensuring visibility and improving response time even when technicians are assisting other employees.
- Added automated notifications for asset deployments, improving coordination between Finance and IT.
- Supported July and November elections by rebuilding the entire City Clerk election laptop fleet from Windows 10 to Windows 11, including hardware updates and improved automation logic. This work was completed ahead of the State's guidance and included on-site support for equipment disassembly, relocation, and testing.

### **Energov, Bluebeam, and Development Systems**

- Upgraded Energov to a more secure version with improved login functionality, coordinated communications with the public, and trained staff to ensure a smooth transition.
- Improved development-related workflows, including better Capital Cost Recovery tracking and a streamlined Certificate of Occupancy process.
- Designed a new online workflow for Drop Off Station recycling vouchers, making access easier for residents (pending final testing).
- Managed the transition from Trakit to A2Trak, supporting modernization of development review systems.
- Updated Bluebeam licensing and software using a phased approach that minimized disruption to nearly 100 staff.

### **Parks & Recreation Improvements**

- Expanded automated timesheet imports, saving Parks managers significant time each week.
- Created a new milage tracking tool to support accurate reporting and budgeting.
- Tested and implemented new tools for liveries rentals, golf league billing, and Farmers Market operations, helping staff streamline customer service and reduce manual work.

## Information Technology

### **New Applications & RFP Leadership**

- Led vendor evaluation processes for CityData.ai, new golf software, and a replacement for the rental housing compliance system, ensuring the city's needs and budgets were met.
- Stabilized a previously unsupported rental housing application, corrected vendor communications, and led the decision-making process to pursue a more suitable replacement.

### **Delivering Enhancements Across City Departments**

#### **Elections, Safety, and Legal**

- Implemented the Modus Election System.
- Connected Acclaimant and CompOne for improved safety and risk management reporting.
- Launched the City's new Safety Metrics Dashboard.
- Digitized the vehicle inspection process.
- Continued progress on the CityLaw replacement system.

#### **Fire & Police**

- Rolled out Adashi 6.0 and map improvements for AAFD.
- Advanced digitization of AAPD's historic microfilm records.
- Supported Council-mandated Traffic Stop Data Collection efforts.
- Enabled SSO integration for Axon/Evidence.com.
- Ensured operational readiness for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and supported multiple Records Management System (RMS) vendor demonstrations.

#### **Water Treatment Plant**

- Automated data imports and reporting processes, reducing manual labor and improving accuracy.
- Implemented barcode printing for specimens and improved workflows across multiple initiatives.
- Retired outdated systems and enhanced data delivery pipelines to better support WTP operations.

## Information Technology

### Finance, HR, and Administrative Systems

- Delivered major enhancements to payroll, billing, budgeting, online payments, custom reporting, and onboarding processes.
- Completed large system upgrades (New World ERP, BSA systems, server migrations).
- Rolled out citywide training and DEI learning systems improvements.
- Automated numerous financial integrations and compliance reports.

### Cityworks, GIS, and Public-Facing Tools

- Built improved integrations between Cityworks and payroll.
- Implemented Etch, a GIS-based web tool that provides residents with snowplow and sweeping information.
- Launched the Samsara vehicle tracking system.
- Modernized Cityworks reporting using Power BI paginated reports.
- Expanded dashboards that improve internal visibility and public transparency.

### Advancing Data, Transparency & Innovation

- Expanded the city's data use, with a 29% increase in staff users and a 13% increase in dashboard views.
- Launched new public dashboards in drinking water and sustainability, replacing manual reporting efforts.
- Secured a vendor and began implementation of the city's new Open Data Portal, which launched in early FY26.
- Built essential tools supporting the Home Energy Rating Disclosure (HERD) ordinance.
- Automated dashboards for Vision Zero, traffic stop reporting, and A2FixIt.
- Conducted AI research and deployed early production tools, including internal chatbots and automated email summarization.

### Major Public-Facing Digital Experience Projects

- Engage Ann Arbor (public engagement hub)
- Ask Ann (resident-facing AI chatbot)
- Replacement of a2gov.org's content management system
- New real-time public snowplow map

# Information Technology in Action



## Office of Organizational Equity (OOE)

In alignment with the City of Ann Arbor’s mission and values, the Office of Organizational Equity (OOE) advanced initiatives this year that strengthened equitable service delivery, accessibility, and community engagement. Through close collaboration with departments and community partners, OOE supported efforts to ensure city services remain inclusive, responsive, and grounded in continuous improvement.

### Customer Service Standards

Since late 2020, the Customer Service and Payment Center have used an email-based customer feedback survey to collect input from residents engaging digitally with the city. In 2025, OOE supported the expansion of this work to broaden accessibility and strengthen the feedback loop:

- **In-Person Feedback (June 2025):** A QR-code survey station was added at the Customer Service and Payment Center front desk.
- **Phone-Based Feedback (Fall 2025):** A post-call survey option was introduced to capture feedback from residents who primarily engage by phone.

Together, these three tools create a more holistic view of customer experience. Long-term, OOE aims to support departments citywide in adopting this multi-modal framework. Feedback from all platforms is given to Michael Pettigrew, Treasury Services Manager, and Kelly Reynolds, Data Analyst, OOE, for monitoring and reporting.

### A2 Fix It Enhancements

IT, Communications, and Public Services led a comprehensive review and improvement effort for A2 Fix It in 2025. OOE participated as a collaborating partner along with other City departments. This work focused on:

- Standardizing response times
- Refining communication templates
- Ensuring alignment with City customer service standards

Enhancements implemented in early Fall 2025 improved resident-facing communication and streamlined internal workflows. The cross-departmental team will continue monitoring platform data and user feedback to support ongoing improvements.

## Office of Organizational Equity (OOE)

### **Accessibility and ADA Compliance**

In July 2025, OOE welcomed Jenna Truong as the City's new Accessibility Coordinator. Jenna serves as a resource for employees, residents, and visitors, ensuring city programs, policies, and facilities align with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and broader accessibility best practices.

Her work includes advising leadership, training staff, partnering with departments to identify and remove accessibility barriers, and supporting proactive planning so accessibility is embedded in city decision-making. She brings extensive experience in disability advocacy and public service, with prior roles at Public Health Seattle & King County and the University of Washington.

Her addition significantly enhances the city's capacity to integrate accessibility and equity across operations.

### **Women's History Month 2025**

#### **Theme: Community**

OOE supported the Women's History Month Committee in coordinating initiatives celebrating women's leadership and service across the city organization and broader community. Key activities included:

1. **Social Media Recognition:** Highlighting biographies submitted by employees and honoring women who have served in public roles within Ann Arbor.
2. **Virtual Team Network:** A space for staff to share resources, inspiration, and connection throughout March.
3. **Networking Events:** Two in-person gatherings (March 14 and March 20) focused on relationship-building and cross-departmental engagement.
4. **Community Giving Initiative:** Collaboration with four local charities, encouraging employees and residents to contribute to wish lists that support community members.

These efforts elevated visibility, strengthened connections, and supported community well-being.

## Office of Organizational Equity in Action

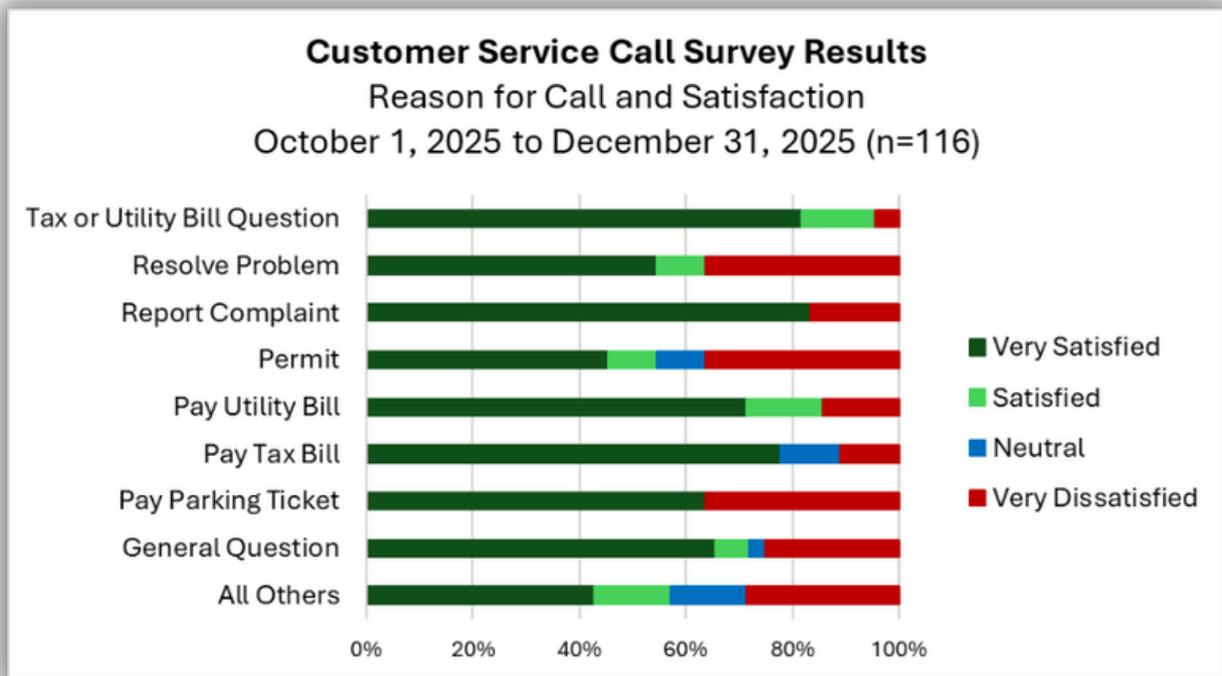


***Customer Service: Your feedback is important!***

# Office of Organizational Equity in Action

The following graph summarizes the results of responses to the Customer Service Phone Survey initiated at the conclusion of calls to the City of Ann Arbor Customer Service Desk.

The period examined was October 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. The total number of calls in this period was 2,723. The number of callers that responded to the survey request was 116. This is a response rate of 4.26%. Typical response rates are less than 8% for surveys of this type. Survey results are published quarterly.



## ***Police Department***

**Official Ann Arbor Police Crime Dashboard:** Launched in October 2025, this new online transparency dashboard is designed to give community members easier access to up-to-date crime data and information. The interactive resource allows users to explore crime trends citywide, downtown, and by ward. Community members can access the dashboard at <https://annarborpolice.org/dashboard>.

**Bike Lane Safety Enforcement Plan:** The Bike Lane Safety Plan went into effect in the summer of 2025. The plan calls for a multi-pronged approach that includes public outreach, enforcement, and education to help foster a safer culture for everyone using our bike lanes, sidewalks, and roads.

**Bike Lane Dashboard:** Launched in August 2025, the Ann Arbor Police Department Bike Lane Dashboard tracks police dispatch calls, citations, and A2 Fix It requests related to bike lane obstructions. The dashboard can be accessed either through the AAPD website or here: <https://aapd.a2gov.org/BikeLanes>.

**Vision Zero Traffic Enforcement:** Utilized social media for an educational campaign focused on the three safety corridors in the city. There were several changes to the traffic unit in 2025. Changes included moving the traffic unit to the patrol section and adding a rotational motorcycle officer to the unit.

**Office of Highway Safety Planning Grant Funded Traffic Campaigns:**

Distracted Driving, April 1 to April 30

Seatbelt Enforcement, May 19 to June 1

Speed Enforcement, July 1 to July 31

Impaired Driving, August 15 to September 1

Operation Safe Stop (school & bus enforcement), October 27 to October 31

## ***Police Department***

**Official Ann Arbor Police Crime Dashboard:** Policy Updates: More than 60 policies were published/updated in 2025. Policies updated include Driving Equality, Vehicle Pursuits, Response to Resistance, De-escalation, Field Training, and Office of Community Policing.

**Community Police Academy:** The 8-week academy was held from February to April and was designed to strengthen the relationship between our department and the community we proudly serve. The academy offered a unique opportunity for participants to gain insight into the daily operations of law enforcement. The academy will return in the winter of 2026.

**ICPOC Bi-Monthly Transparency Meeting:** To further collaboration between the Ann Arbor Police Department and the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission (ICPOC), bi-monthly meetings have been held this year to allow for ICPOC Information Managers to review complaints and BWC with members of AAPD Professional Standards.

**Alice Training:** Hosted yearly ALICE training for Ann Arbor Public Schools. This involves hundreds of teachers and staff being trained in a research-based active shooter response program.

**Stop the Bleed:** Officers trained hundreds of teachers and staff how to provide immediate care for severe bleeding to prevent death until professional help arrives.

**Blaze & Blue Camp:** Held fourth annual Blaze and Blue camp in coordination with AAFD. The four-day camp is for young women interested in public safety careers.

**We C.A.R.E:** The AAPD 'We C.A.R.E' program focuses on fostering positive relationships between young people and law enforcement while helping them develop leadership qualities. The program emphasizes four core pillars: Commitment, Accountability, Respect, and Engagement, to guide youth as they grow into responsible and compassionate leaders. The four-week program began in April and ran through May.

## *Police Department*

**Crisis Intervention/Alternative Response Coordinator:** This new position leads the development and implementation of alternative response options for individuals experiencing mental health or behavioral crises. This role works closely with community partners to ensure safe, compassionate, and effective support that connects people to appropriate services.

**Hiring:** Year to date, the department has added eight officers, three cadets, and three civilian employees to grow a more diverse agency.

### **2025 Promotions**

- Jason Forsberg promoted to Executive Deputy Chief
- John Dunlap selected as Detective Bureau Lieutenant
- Reneé Bondy promoted to Lieutenant
- Andy Vainner promoted to Lieutenant
- Grant Toth promoted to sergeant
- Alex Leathers promoted to sergeant
- Kasey Whitford selected as Crisis Intervention/Alternative Response Coordinator

**AAPS Full Scale Exercise:** On June 24, 2025, the AAPD in collaboration with Ann Arbor Public Schools, first responders and local hospitals, conducted a large-scale active assailant response training exercise at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School.

**Concert at the Big House:** On September 27, 2025, Ann Arbor welcomed more than 100,000 visitors for the first-ever major concert at Michigan Stadium. Hosting an event of this size took extraordinary planning, coordination, and dedication. Our department rose to the challenge with professionalism and teamwork and had no major issues connected to the concert.

## ***Police Department***

**Special Events:** AAPD staffed more than 300 special events in 2025 with attendance totaling more than 3 million people.

**Community Events:** The Community Engagement Unit (CEU) attended more than 60 community events in 2025. Held multiple “Coffee with a Cop” gatherings open to the public. Hosted the first-ever Fishin’ with a Cop event in May, with 20 families participating. Organized a recognition ceremony in July to honor community members who helped locate a missing resident. Held the second Community Basketball Fundraiser at Mary Beth Doyle Park in August. Coordinated National Night Out at Briarwood Mall in October.

**Chief’s Community Chat:** A bi-monthly public meeting that allows community members to directly connect with AAPD leadership.

**Safety Town:** The summer program involves officers teaching hundreds of children lessons in bike and vehicle safety, stranger awareness, pedestrian safety, and school bus safety.

**Electric Patrol Vehicle:** The Ann Arbor Police Department, with help from the Office of Sustainability and Innovations, put one of Michigan’s first electric patrol vehicles on the road in September. The performance of the 2025 Chevy Blazer E will be reviewed and evaluated to help decide what the future of electric vehicles looks like with the Ann Arbor Police Department’s fleet.

**Bicycle School:** AAPD officers held a 32-hour, in-house bicycle school. Seven officers completed the program.

**Community Policing Monthly Award:** Each month, an officer who showed outstanding service to the community was recognized as the Community Policing Officer of the Month.

**Ann Arbor Police Beat Videos:** A new video series on our AAPD social media channels was launched in October to introduce a different beat officer to the community and highlight some of the work the officers are doing in their assigned beat areas. These videos give residents a behind-the-scenes look at how officers are engaging with their communities and responding to specific needs in each beat.

**Ann Arbor Police Department Annual Report 2025:**

<https://www.a2gov.org/media/xwvpx0z1/2025-annual-report-final.pdf>

# Ann Arbor Police in Action



# Ann Arbor Police in Action



# *Ann Arbor Police in Action*



# Ann Arbor Police in Action



## *2025 Public Services Year in Review*

The Ann Arbor Public Services Area provides a variety of services to the city's residents. Here are 2025 highlights from each unit within Ann Arbor Public Services Area.

### *Public Services in Action*



# Public Services in Action

## Environmental Services

Environmental Services advanced key environmental protection efforts and supported community health initiatives throughout the year. The team provided critical updates, completed regulatory reviews, and strengthened regional partnerships.

### Highlights:

- Continued quarterly newsletters on the Gelman 1,4-dioxane contamination.
- Led the merger of the Environmental and Energy Commissions into the new Sustainability Commission, in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability and Innovation; the first meeting was held Sept. 9, 2025.
- Completed 98 wetland and environmental reviews (as of Nov. 13, 2025).
- Processed six commercial pavement sealant applicator licenses.
- Completed the second year of water quality monitoring in Ford Lake, in partnership with Ypsilanti Township, to better understand conditions contributing to harmful algal blooms.



*Water quality testing at Ford Lake*

# Public Services in Action

## Transportation

The Transportation team advanced multiple safety-focused infrastructure projects and continued implementing strategies from the city's Vision Zero transportation plans. Work emphasized traffic calming, pedestrian safety, and improved bike infrastructure.

## Neighborhood Traffic Calming

- Winewood Avenue – Bumpout installed near the park to support pedestrian crossings.
- Bird Road (Newport to Huron River) – Speed humps installed.
- Henry Street (Golden to Packard) – Speed humps installed.
- Arella Boulevard (Stadium to Pauline) – Speed humps and a bumpout installed.
- Mershon Drive (Scio Church to Delaware) – Speed humps installed.
- Worden Avenue (Jackson to Dexter) – Speed humps and a bumpout installed.
- Plan Strategy: Address dangerous behaviors using local street traffic calming interventions.

## Huron/Jackson Crosswalk Installations

- Constructed four new crosswalks at Huron near 9th; Jackson near Collingwood; Jackson near Virginia; and Jackson near Worden.
- Plan Strategy: Improve high-crash locations; Huron is a Tier 2 focus corridor.
- Fifth Avenue Contraflow Bike Lane



## *Public Services in Action*

- Installed a protected contraflow bike lane on Fifth (William to Madison), shielded by parking.
- Plan Strategy: Improve high-crash locations and strengthen bike routes; Fifth Avenue is a Tier 2 focus corridor in the proposed All Ages & Abilities network.

### **North University Crossing Signal**

- Installed new vehicle and pedestrian signals at the midblock crossing near the Central Campus Transit Center.
- Plan Strategy: Enhance safety and visibility at midblock crossings.

### **Water Treatment**

The Water Treatment team strengthened community engagement, advanced applied research, and delivered major capital improvements that enhance the reliability of the city’s drinking water system. Through tours, workforce events, research partnerships, and significant infrastructure investments, the team continues to support high-quality drinking water and long-term system optimization.

### **Highlights:**

Community Engagement & Workforce Development:

- Hosted Water Treatment Plant tours for 659 visitors, attended one career fair, and participated in two workforce development workshops, providing education and outreach on drinking water treatment and career pathways.

Applied Research Advancing System Performance:

- Completed and published collaborative research with the University of Michigan titled “Impact of UV treatment on microbial communities in a full-scale drinking water distribution system.”
- This \$439,587 project—funded by the Water Research Foundation, U-M, Trojan Technologies, and the city—provides new insight to help optimize the city’s UV treatment system and strengthen long-term water quality management.

## Public Services in Action

### Water Treatment continued...

Barton Raw Water Pump Station Valve & Transmission Main Improvements (2025):

- This multi-year project addresses critical components of the city's raw source water supply system. Work includes replacing aging and inoperable valves and associated piping at the Barton Raw Water Pump Station, along with installing new air release valves on the existing 42-inch and 24-inch raw water transmission mains. These improvements are essential to ensuring operational control and system reliability for the city's primary raw water infrastructure.
- The \$6 million project is being delivered with significant outside funding support, including a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund low-interest loan of \$3,220,000 and a Drinking Water Infrastructure (DWI) Grant of \$1,380,000.

Valve and Finished Water Reservoir Improvements Project:

- This multi-year capital improvement effort replaced several 60-plus-year-old valves, added new critical isolation valves, upgraded valve vaults, and performed miscellaneous pipe replacements and repairs. The project also included improvements to multiple finished water storage tanks to address deficiencies identified by EGLE. Successful completion required close coordination among the contractor, city staff, and the consultant to plan and operate through various system shutdowns and to complete all disinfection and return-to-service steps in accordance with regulatory requirements.



# Public Services in Action

## Public Works

Public Works' year was highlighted once again by a record-breaking Open House while also making significant progress in modernizing equipment and maintaining core infrastructure. Efforts spanned streets, sanitary and storm systems, forestry, water, and more.

## Public Works Open House

- Hosted the largest Public Works Open House to date with 700+ attendees.
- Activities included: operating a solid waste vehicle, composting and recycling education, live sewer cleaning demos, water main repair demonstrations, snowplow painting, and equipment exploration.

## Streets

- Received five new swap loader dump trucks, beginning a modernization of Public Works' equipment.
- Trucks can switch between anti-ice tanks, salt spreaders, and dump bodies, increasing operational flexibility.
- Two trucks include wing plows capable of clearing 1.5 lanes of snow in a single pass.



# Public Services in Action

## Public Works continued...

### Sanitary System

- 77.5 miles of sanitary sewer pipe inspected
- 155.8 miles of pipe cleaned
- 1,402 feet of sanitary pipelining installed

### Stormwater System

- 30.5 miles of stormwater pipe inspected
- 2,288 catch basins (storm drains) cleaned
- 35 storm separators (pretreatment units) cleaned
- 1,832 feet of stormwater pipelining installed

### Forestry

- Pruned 4,781 trees and planted another 716.
- Advancing contract finalization with PlanIT Geo for an updated canopy cover assessment to support future forestry planning.

### Water

- Replaced 68 broken water main gate valves to ensure reliable emergency shutdown capability.
- Replaced 65 private water service lines previously connected to lead, exceeding EGLE's 5% annual replacement requirement.
- Completed the multi-year Valve and Finished Water Reservoir Improvements Project, addressing aging valves, vaults, piping, and storage tank deficiencies in compliance with EGLE and AWWA standards.
- Completed the Barton Raw Water Pump Station Improvement Project, replacing aged valves, piping, and adding new air release valves on 42-inch and 24-inch mains; a \$6M project funded by a DWRSF loan (\$3.22M) and a DWI grant (\$1.38M).



# Public Services in Action

## Water Resource Recovery

Water Resource Recovery continued to meet stringent regulatory standards while upgrading critical treatment infrastructure. The team also advanced tools that will improve long-term planning and operational efficiency.

### Highlights:

- Complied with 4,191 NPDES permit effluent limits, with only two exceptions due to operational, equipment, or sample issues.
- Continued development and calibration of a digital twin model to project treatment efficiency and identify potential upsets.
- Ongoing roof repair and recoating for the Equalization/Retention Building, with solar installation to follow.
- Began design work for replacement of screw pumps #1–3 (Raw Sewage Lift Station) and #6–8 (Equalization/Retention Building).
- Completed preventive maintenance on screw pumps #4–5 to extend service life.
- Completed the UV disinfection project.
- Completed Motor Control Center E & F replacements.



# Public Services in Action

## Engineering

Engineering advanced core infrastructure maintenance, private development review, and multimodal mobility improvements throughout 2025. The team supported safe, reliable public infrastructure through extensive plan review, roadway renewal, sidewalk improvements, and sewer rehabilitation.

## Highlights:

- Completed 97 site plan reviews for private development (as of Nov. 18, 2025).
- Reviewed 1,324 right-of-way permit applications (as of Nov. 18, 2025).
- Completed 93 construction plan reviews for private development (as of Nov. 18, 2025).
- Lined 10,558 feet of sewer pipe (as of Nov. 13, 2025).
- Repaired or replaced 5,957 sidewalk panels.
- Resurfaced 14.2 lane miles of roadway.
- Applied preventative maintenance treatments to 35.5 lane miles of roadway.
- Constructed 0.8 miles of new sidewalk.
- 27 crosswalks improved and 8 new crosswalks installed.
- Added or enhanced 5.7 miles of on-street bike facilities.



# Public Services in Action

## Systems Planning

- Systems Planning advanced long-range infrastructure planning, stormwater regulatory compliance, and community engagement tools while supporting environmental stewardship.

## Highlights:

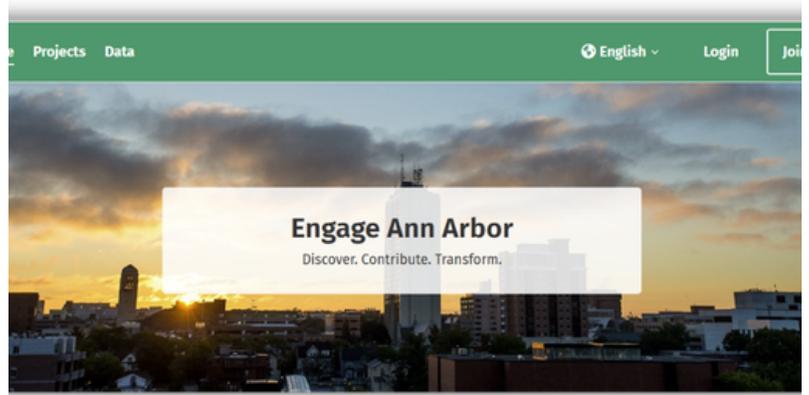
- Coordinated with more than 50 internal staff and external partners to update the six-year Capital Improvements Plan (FY2026–2031), approved by the Planning Commission in September 2025. Secured a new NPDES MS4 permit, ensuring the city can continue managing stormwater discharges to the Huron River in compliance with federal and state requirements.
- Developed a new Middle Huron Partners TMDL Implementation Plan with regional partners to reduce phosphorus, improve biota health, and address E. coli throughout the watershed.
- Completed Phases 1 and 2 of a four-year study of drainage patterns along 13 miles of gravel roads, producing recommendations for regional storage, enhanced maintenance, and improved conveyance; Phase 3 began in November 2025.



# Public Services in Action

## Systems Planning continued...

- Advanced comprehensive utility planning for stormwater, sanitary sewer, and drinking water systems, with major deliverables anticipated in 2026.
- Installed more than 90 sidewalk decals across the Allen Creek watershed to celebrate the historic creek and increase public awareness through QR-linked educational content.
- Uploaded more than 30 datasets, maps, and dashboards to the city’s newly launched **Open Data Portal**, easing accessibility and enhancing transparency and public awareness of infrastructure assets and asset management activities.
- Launched **Engage Ann Arbor** in February 2025, a citywide online engagement hub created in partnership with Social Pinpoint, and the city’s Information Technology and Communications staff, providing a centralized location for all project-related public information and engagement opportunities. Since its launch, the site has seen:
  - 103 projects added (11 currently open for feedback, 64 are active with 28 completed and closed as of December 1st)
  - Engage Ann Arbor has had more than 100,000 views and 50,000 unique visitors



# Public Services in Action

## Solid Waste

The Solid Waste team advanced key waste-reduction initiatives, strengthened community education efforts, modernized collection equipment, and updated regulatory frameworks to support long-term operational effectiveness. Work centered on expanding circular-economy outreach, improving collection efficiency, and enhancing safety for both staff and the public.

### Highlights:

- Received a Washtenaw County Waste Reduction Sponsorship to support Move Out Ann Arbor (MOAA) activities in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.
- Presented at two major conferences: the Michigan Recycling Coalition annual conference (Move Out Ann Arbor initiative) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Municipal Waste Management Association annual conference (food waste reduction and compost programs).
- Introduced compost carts with a new green lid to improve identification of food-scrap and yard-waste carts, supporting both resident use and safer, more efficient collection, particularly in low-light conditions.
- Added two fully electric automated side-load collection vehicles to the fleet. Driver feedback has been highly positive, noting quieter operation, reduced stress, and improved safety, although some mechanical malfunction issues persist.



## Public Services in Action

### Solid Waste continued...

- Updated the Solid Waste Regulations for the first time since 2011. Updates to City Code Chapter 26 presented to City Council in December 2025 and January 2026, accompanied by complementary revisions to the Solid Waste Regulations.

Participation in 14 community events to raise awareness of circular-economy efforts.

- Two youth education programs on zero waste and circular economy for all 2nd and 7th grade classrooms in Ann Arbor Public Schools.
- Collaboration on the More Life, Less Stuff campaign, which shared monthly circular-economy stories across multiple media platforms, including social media, a dedicated website, Google Ads, email marketing, billboards, radio, bus ads, and an animated commercial on YouTube, Amazon Prime, Hulu, and cable TV.

Delivered extensive waste-reduction and circular-economy education through the Ecology Center, including:

- Site visits to 56 Ann Arbor businesses to document waste practices and provide recycling and waste-reduction guidance.



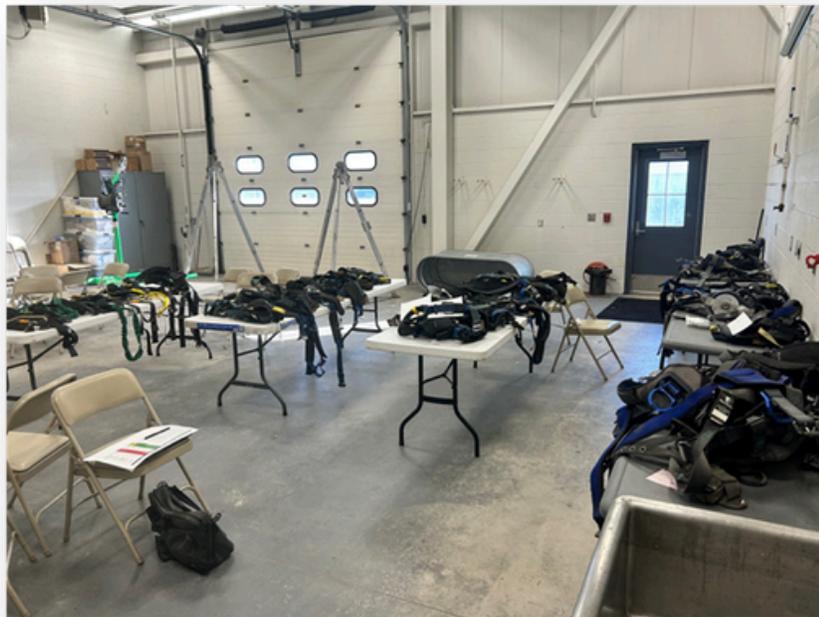
## Safety Unit

- Implemented a new heat injury and illness prevention program and trained all city employees subject to high heat in the workplace.
- Hosted 24 in-person safety courses with more than 250 participants focused on hands-on training to address a variety of workplace hazards. The city also achieved a greater than 90% completion rate for all assigned safety training.
- Provided annual medical surveillance testing services to more than 450 city employees.
- Hosted a Take a Stand for Safety event in partnership with MIOSHA at the Wheeler Center.
- Assisted with planning and coordination to remediate hazardous building materials and demolish several city facilities, including 415 W. Washington, 721 N. Main, Veteran's Memorial Park Shelter, and Farmers Market Office.
- Responded to employee concerns by updating and implementing changes to APP 303 (City Hall Building Security) and 304 (Trespass and Malicious Use of Telecommunications Devices).
- Hosted a HAZWOPER training attended by several service units to better prepare them for emergencies involved hazardous chemicals.
- Reviewed and updated emergency action plans for all city facilities.
- Continued to refine a metrics dashboard for the city's incident management system to better track trends
- Completed risk analysis of work activities in the Streets, Storm Water and Water Utilities, Solid Waste, and Natural Areas Preservation areas. The goal of the program is to evaluate, quantify, and, when necessary, develop efficient risk mitigation strategies for routine and irregular work tasks.
- Facilitated health and safety committees and training activities throughout the city resulting in multiple improvements to workplace safety, communication and culture.

## *Safety in Action*



***Demolition of 721 N. Main***



***Fall Protection Equipment Inspection at Wheeler Center***

# *Safety in Action*



*Thank you for making A2 safe!*

## *Supportive Connections/Deflection*

What an exciting year 2025 has been for Supportive Connections! It was been a year for growth and evolution for the program. The team expanded, we launched a new record management program for client records, and we added a new outreach team, and a mobile outreach van, to the program. So many great changes!

This year we not only brought on a new Case Manager Monica Hicks but added two new Outreach Case Managers, Christian Roberson and Shanon Williams, to the program. This new expanded team will be able to get deeper into the community and follow up with a greater depth of calls from the community. They will be addressing not only individuals who come into contact with the Ann Arbor Police and Fire departments, but also be providing resources and connections into the community through direct outreach and engagement with the unhoused community throughout the City. Be on the look out for them in the New Supportive Connections Mobile Outreach Van. It's big, it's beautiful, and it's got all the resources.

This year we launched a new client record system, Julota. This system helps us to ensure that all of our client data remains secure but also will allow for the Team to collect vital background information through one-way data sharing from the police RMS and Fire records systems, making it easier for us to be notified when members of our community are in need of support. Working as an informational hub, Julota has truly opened up the ways that Supportive Connections will be able to connect with the community and communicate with our partners in the community.

We continue to provide support and referral resources to community agencies such as Dawn Farm, Home of New Vision, SOS Community Services, A Brighter Way, and many others. Supportive Connections has received 157 unique referrals from across the community this year. Through those referrals, we have been able to impact the community in the following ways:

- Helped to house 64 individuals and their families in the Ann Arbor Metro area
- Provided for 79 months of Transitional Housing at Dawn Farm and Home of New Vision
- Provided for 6 months of inpatient treatment at Dawn Farm
- Supported 59 weeks of outpatient treatment and therapy at Dawn Farm and Home of New Vision

# Supportive Connections/Deflection in Action



## ***Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU)***

Following voters' authorization in November 2024, Council created the Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) via ordinance in April 2025. The city then completed a search and hired the inaugural Executive Director, and first official employee of the SEU, in August 2025. Some highlights of the SEU's progress and accomplishments in fall 2025 include:

- Invested significant time in community engagement, outreach, and communications, to build awareness among potential customers and collaborators. This includes participation in public and community events such as the Ann Arbor Green Fair and Bryant Geothermal Celebration, speaking at conferences and forums (including four keynote presentations), benchmarking with peer cities and community organizations around the country, and telling our story on social and traditional media. With support from the city's Communications Office, the SEU is beginning to develop its unique brand identity within the City of Ann Arbor landscape.
- On-boarded consultants to support staff and resource highly specialized and essential SEU start-up activities, including experts in utility cost-of-service ratemaking and virtual power plant program design. The SEU also launched engagement activities with the broader contractor/vendor community that may support SEU operations, to help them understand our story and how to participate in the city's procurement process if they have services to offer to the SEU.
- Partnered with the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) to advance the geothermal energy system in the Bryant neighborhood, as well as prepare for extensive solar and battery deployment in the neighborhood in 2026. These operations and assets will become part of the SEU, and the SEU is deeply involved in the strategy and management of their design and deployment.
- Identified critical information technology (IT) systems for SEU operations and worked closely with city IT staff to evaluate potential solutions. IT built an interested-customer intake form and a map to geographically display potential customer locations. IT and the SEU jointly developed and launched a request for proposals for a billing/customer information system.

The SEU is working toward additional critical strategic decisions and operational milestones in early-mid 2026 that will allow us to officially begin service to a small group of pilot, grant-funded customers before the end of 2026, and that will enable expansion to customers throughout the City in 2027.

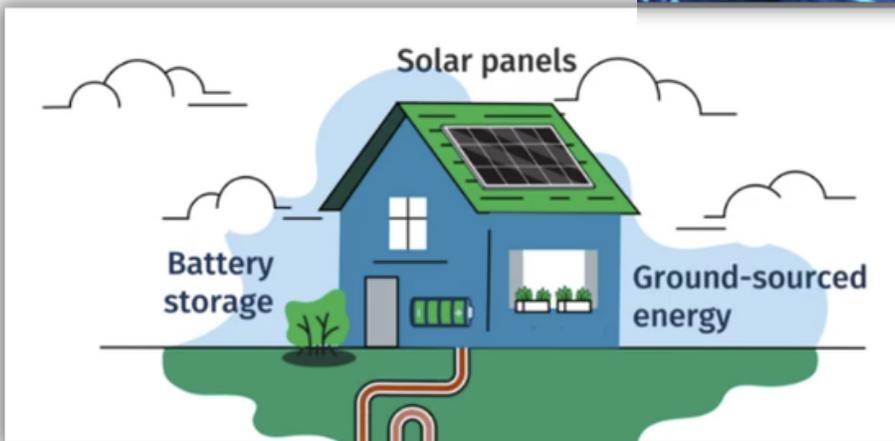
**[A2SEU.com](http://A2SEU.com)**

# SEU in Action

## Ann Arbor Sustainable Energy Utility

The future of energy lives here.

Renewable | Reliable | Affordable



**Office of Sustainability & Innovations (OSI)**  
*[See Attached Supplemental 2025 OSI report]*



**Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC)**  
*[See Attached Supplemental 2025 AAHC report]*



**Report Prepared By:**  
**Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator**  
**Sara Higgins, Director of Operations**

# THE CHARGING STATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF A<sup>2</sup>ZERO AND  
THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS



## IN THIS ISSUE:

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## ABOUT THE EDITOR



This edition of the Charging Station is brought to you by the staff of the Office of the Sustainability and Innovations.

Thank you for a fantastic 2025! Have a restful and joyful holiday season, and we'll see you in 2026.



*City of Ann Arbor staff documenting the district geothermal project in the Bryant Neighborhood, November 2025.*

## WELCOME

Welcome from the City of Ann Arbor’s Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI). This month, OSI is delighted to share a look back at major sustainability activities in 2025. If you’re interested in learning more about any of the activities or organizations featured in this issue and getting involved, please visit our website: [www.a2gov.org/sustainability](http://www.a2gov.org/sustainability). As always, thank you for your interest in sustainability activities in Ann Arbor!

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Equity and justice are at the center of A<sup>2</sup>ZERO and staff in OSI are continuing to ground our work in these critical principles. In that light, we’d like to take a moment to honor the geographic and historic space we share. We acknowledge that the land the City of Ann Arbor occupies is the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe and Wyandot peoples. We further acknowledge that our city stands, like almost all property in the United States, on lands obtained, generally in unconscionable ways, from indigenous peoples. The taking of this land was formalized by the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Knowing where we live, work, study, and recreate does not change the past, but a thorough understanding of the ongoing consequences of this past can empower us in our work to create a future that supports human flourishing and justice for all individuals.

# PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

WHAT A<sup>2</sup>ZERO HAS BEEN UP TO SINCE THE ANNUAL REPORT IN JULY

The second half of 2025 was just as busy as the first half, filled with accomplishments across every team at the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI). Detailed in the following pages are these chapters of progress in the story of our transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by the year 2030, made possible by and dedicated to the residents and organizations who have supported and contributed. We are grateful for your collaboration and look forward to everything we'll be able to achieve, together, in 2026!

## Strategy 1: Power our electrical grid with 100% renewable energy

- **Solarize** is closing out another strong year. While the federal tax credit for residential solar and battery storage is phasing out on December 31 2025, Solarize will continue in 2026 and is open to residents throughout Washtenaw County. OSI will continue to run Solarize groups, offering bulk-buy discounts to participants, connecting them with neighbors, and helping participants move toward their own energy independence.
- City Council voted unanimously in October to accept \$10.8 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to implement a **district-scale geothermal heating and cooling system in the Bryant neighborhood**. This is the second phase of the funding opportunity, with the first phase supporting engagement and the design of a system capable of providing nearly all of the heating and cooling needs for the 262 homes there, along with the local elementary school and community center. Upon approval, OSI has continued to move forward with its collaborators to finalize the design and prepare to start construction on the system in 2026.
- OSI has been working with an engineering contractor and internal departments to identify additional areas in Ann Arbor to begin exploring geothermal potential. Through a pre-feasibility review, the team has identified three additional areas for a deeper analysis. The team will spend 2026 diving further into those areas to determine the feasibility of district geothermal there while supporting the SEU's work to evaluate the best way to deploy geothermal assets.



*Drilling for the geothermal system at the Bryant Community Center.*

- The City broke ground on its largest onsite solar system, a 480 kW system at the Ann Arbor municipal airport connected to the Steere Farm water well, where water is pumped to the Water Treatment Plant. Construction also began on rooftop solar systems at City Hall, Ann Arbor Justice Center, and Fire Station 1.
- The City received its Direct Pay: Clean Energy payment from the federal government for sustainability work, including solar and battery storage systems at City sites and electric vehicles (EVs) purchased for the City fleet, for over \$430,000. This brings total reimbursements to around \$750,000 for 10 solar installations, 29 vehicles, and 1 energy storage system.

# PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

WHAT A<sup>2</sup>ZERO HAS BEEN UP TO SINCE THE ANNUAL REPORT IN JULY

**A<sup>2</sup>ZERO** Powered by Pearl Edison Sign

**Welcome to A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Heat Pump Concierge!**

You could be eligible for \$15,000 or more in A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Home Energy Rebates for efficient heating and cooling and weatherization - plus additional state, city, and utility rebates and tax incentives. Reserve funds today - it only takes five minutes.

[Learn More](#)

**Today you can:**

- Get an instant estimate**  
Takes about 5 minutes.  
We use details about your project, home, and goals to give you an instant estimate, including rebates, so you can decide if you're interested.  
[See A Sample](#)
- Connect with a Pearl Edison Advisor**  
Usually scheduled in one day.  
An energy efficiency expert certified by the Building Performance Institute will support you.  
[Meet An Advisor](#)

**Then, when you're ready, you can:**

- Schedule a free home assessment**  
Usually scheduled within one week.  
We'll perform a home assessment to finalize your system design options. After that, your price and scope are guaranteed.
- Approve your project**  
Move at your pace.  
Your Pearl Edison Advisor will help you select the right system for your unique home and goals.

[Start Your Estimate](#)

*The home page of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Heat Pump Concierge.*

## Strategy 2: Switch our Appliances and Vehicles from Gas to Electric

- The **Heat Pump Concierge** is assisting dozens of Ann Arbor residents in switching from fossil gas furnaces to clean heat pumps. Approximately 10% of new HVAC installations in Ann Arbor are now heat pumps!
- **Four electric refuse trucks and the Ann Arbor Police Department's first electric patrol car** are now in operation. The City has electrified most easily electrifiable fleet vehicles, and is working to develop potential solutions for the remaining vehicles.
- Stephen Janoyan has joined OSI to lead EV work, including the implementation of a Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant for the expansion of public EV charging in Ann Arbor. Site identification and NEPA reviews are in progress. The City also funded 2 publicly accessible EV chargers installed by MAVD through OSI's Commercial EV Charger Program.

## Strategy 3: Improve the Energy Efficiency of our buildings

- The **Green Rental Housing Ordinance** was passed by Council in June and since then OSI has been working to prepare for when it becomes effective in January 2026. During the past few months, OSI has updated the Green Rental Housing resource hubs – one for landlords and one for renters – to help everyone work towards more comfortable, affordable, and healthier rental housing in Ann Arbor, and is preparing the backend systems for when the ordinance goes into effect.
- The **A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Home Energy Advisor** has now helped over 480 people obtain "Path to Zero" decarbonization plans, understand their home energy use, evaluate bids and estimates, and plan projects.
- In accordance with the **Home Energy Rating Disclosure**, we have completed over 800 Home Energy Assessments, and began outreach with new wrap-around services to help new homeowners improve the efficiency of their home.
- OSI is proud to collaborate with DTE to fund over \$1.2 million in comprehensive weatherization work now underway at Colonial Square Cooperative. This important work lowers energy bills, makes homes more comfortable, and helps set up homes for future electrification. If your community is considering weatherization, electrification, or renewables, OSI is happy to discuss opportunities with you. Contact us at [sustainability@a2gov.org](mailto:sustainability@a2gov.org).
- This year, **rebates for more than 80 electric leaf blowers** were provided to local businesses providing lawn care and landscaping services.
- 988 **A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Home Energy Rebates** have been claimed with \$1.6 million committed to residents since the program launch in 2024. And more are available!



*Stephen Janoyan, latest addition to the OSI team and leader of EV work.*

# PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

WHAT A<sup>2</sup>ZERO HAS BEEN UP TO SINCE THE ANNUAL REPORT IN JULY

Attendees of the 4th Annual Local Food Festival enjoy samples after the Local Chef Cooking Demonstration.



## Strategy 5: Change the way we use, reuse, and dispose of materials to be more circular.

### A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Swaps

- OSI hosted 21 swaps, many of which are the monthly swaps taking place the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at City Hall from 4PM - 7PM. OSI collaborated with Ann Arbor Pride, Green Apple Play Schools, the University of Michigan, Marquee Arts, & more to host swaps across the City.
- **A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Swaps** recirculated more than 600 pounds of clothing, keeping textile pollution out of landfills and our local waterways.

### Circular Economy Action Planning (CEAP)

- CEAP is Ann Arbor's Strategy to Promote a thriving local Circular Economy, crafted by residents, businesses, & circular economy experts. Phase 1 of resident engagement was completed and business and institutional engagement will begin soon. Drafts of the Circular Economy Action Plan will be shared for review and feedback.

### Returnable Containers

- OSI partnered with the Guild of Artists and Artisans to offer returnable cups during A2 Artoberfest where we achieved a 98% return rate for 9oz cups and a 92% return rate for 16 oz cups.

### Electronics Collections

- OSI hosted 4 **Electronics Collections** events and around 61,000 pounds of electronics were diverted as a result.
- These four events reduced greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 90,000 pounds. That is equivalent to avoiding 100,800 miles driven by passenger vehicles or 48.5 acres of forest sequestering carbon.
- This program has successfully graduated from its pilot phase and will be expanding in 2026.

### Air Quality Monitoring

- OSI deployed a full network of **10 air quality sensors** across the city, measuring particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone.
- We launched an **air quality map**, in collaboration with Clarity Movement, which shows the current Air Quality Index (AQI) at each of the ten monitoring sites. This map also allows community members to sign up for alerts when AQI reaches the 'unhealthy' level at specific sites. There is also a dashboard showing AQI data over time and data on individual pollutant concentrations.

# PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

WHAT A<sup>2</sup>ZERO HAS BEEN UP TO SINCE THE ANNUAL REPORT IN JULY

## Strategy 5 (Continued)

### 10,000 Trees

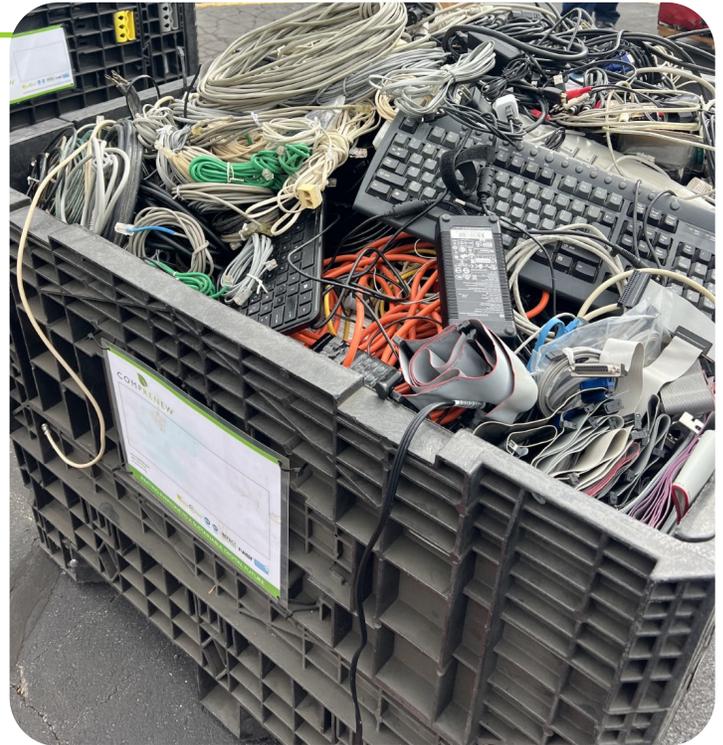
- 11,151 trees have been distributed through the program.
- OSI distributed a survey to everyone who has received a tree so far to gather data on the status of their trees. Information on approximately 18% of the trees distributed was collected – and of those, approximately 47% are still alive.
- OSI created a program and selected a vendor to perform tree maintenance work on private property for residents in need. In addition, OSI has issued a request for proposals for a vendor to plant trees on private property in under canopied areas of the city. Both of these contracts will be funded under a \$1,000,000 IRA Urban and Community Forestry grant from the USFS, with American Forests as a pass-through partner.

### Pollinator-Aware Yard Care

- The program now has 547 participants.
- OSI piloted a coupon code program in conjunction with the Washtenaw County Conservation District to offer \$3,000 in discounts on native trees & plants purchased through their annual Fall Tree and Native Plant Sale. Exploration is underway to expand reach of the program.

### Sustainable Food

- OSI completed and published [the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Community Cookbook](#), a practical guide to sustainable eating in the Ann Arbor area, featuring 70+ recipes and 20 inspiring stories from local farmers, chefs, and community leaders working to make our food system more sustainable and equitable. The cookbook can be viewed and downloaded at [osi.a2gov.org/cookbook](http://osi.a2gov.org/cookbook).
- We hosted [the 4th annual Ann Arbor Local Food Festival](#) in August, featuring live chef demonstrations, local produce sampling, a storytelling circle, live music from Community High Jazz Band, games, prizes, and more! This year, participation was robust, with over 50 businesses and organizations represented.
- Through a contract with local nonprofit, VegMichigan, we have engaged over 700 people to share the benefits of eating a more plant rich diet to reduce one's climate impact!



- Through [the 30-Day Plant-Based Pledge Program](#), offered in collaboration with VegMichigan, 240 Ann Arbor residents tried plant-based eating for the first time and received a free bag of plant-based food, along with information about how incorporating more plant foods can reduce a household's carbon impact. 97% of Pledge program participants reported that they will continue to eat a more plant-forward diet after completing the program! To learn more about our collaboration with VegMichigan, visit [vegmichigan.org/climate](http://vegmichigan.org/climate).
- In collaboration with VegMichigan, we continue to host monthly climate-friendly meal clubs, having supported four local businesses and introduced 37 attendees to delicious plant-based options in the Ann Arbor area.
- Since July, the [Ann Arbor Sustainable Food Business Coalition](#) has gathered to discuss strategies, barriers, and opportunities to integrate sustainable practices into operations. Topics included Food Safety and Sustainability and developing a set of Sustainable Dining Standards for the City of Ann Arbor's Sustainable Food Purchasing Program.
- OSI is proud to be an inaugural member of the [MI 2030 Food Waste Coalition](#), a statewide network of businesses, organizations, governments, and individuals dedicated to the goal of reducing food waste in Michigan landfills by 50% by the year 2030.

# PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

WHAT A<sup>2</sup>ZERO HAS BEEN UP TO SINCE THE ANNUAL REPORT IN JULY

*A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassadors listen to a presentation on the Sustainable Energy Utility given by its Director, Shoshannah Lenski, at the 2025 A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassador Summit.*

## STRATEGY 6: Enhancing the resilience of our people, natural systems, and institutions.

### Resilience Hubs

- In 2025, Peace Neighborhood Center and Green Baxter Court Community Center received grants of \$250,000 and \$180,000, respectively. These funds, provided by the Community Climate Action Millage, will support the ongoing efforts to designate these important sites as two of Ann Arbor's Resilience Hubs.
- This summer, Peace Neighborhood Center completed an LED lighting retrofit, installing lighting controls that will result in energy savings over the system's lifespan. These savings will be reinvested into programs and services that benefit our community. Additionally, Peace Neighborhood Center successfully raised \$250,000 to match the investment from the Office of Sustainability and Innovations for their Resilience Hub work, paving the way for deeper efficiency and electrification work and the eventual adoption of renewable energy systems and battery storage.
- Green Baxter Court Community Center is preparing to adopt solar energy and battery storage systems, which are expected to be operational by 2026. In the interim, the Community Action Network staff who implement programs and services at Green Baxter will utilize a \$10,000 Sustaining Ann Arbor Together Grant (SA2T) to enhance the Community Center's resilience programming. Learn more about these two Resilience Hub sites in September's issue of [The Charging Station](#).



### A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassadors

- In 2025, the [A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassador Program](#) graduated its 7th Cohort of Ambassadors, bringing the total number of Ambassadors to 149.
- The [Ambassador Impact Map](#) was launched to illustrate the achievements, dedication, and reach of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassadors.
- A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassadors rounded out 2025 with attending the annual **A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassador Summit** where Ambassadors were able to be in community, learn about exciting upcoming sustainability initiatives, and set goals for the next year.

### Household Preparedness

- In partnership with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), OSI distributed 83 emergency kits to community members who participated in household preparedness seminars.
- In September, to celebrate National Preparedness Month, OEM and OSI hosted preparedness forward events for the greater Ann Arbor community and for internal city staff, fostering a learning space where households were able to craft a unique household preparedness plan to fit their needs.

## STRATEGY 7: Community engagement, metrics tracking, reporting, and relationship building

- Our [A2Zero Facebook](#) page received 103.1k views, 2.7k link clicks, and a 52% follower increase, with 291 followers.
- Our [@a2zero2030 Instagram](#) page received 75,8k views, 1,7k interactions, and 244 new followers (16% increase). Page now at 854 followers.
- We created a [LinkedIn](#) page September 3 and in the past two months, gained 220 followers and 7,281 views.
- OSI filmed 4 episodes of [Green Light](#), with 300 total views.
- OSI published 19 press releases, staff conducted over 30 media interviews.
- Dr. Missy Stults appeared on NPR Marketplace: [As the job market slows inflation speeds up](#)

# PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

WHAT A<sup>2</sup>ZERO HAS BEEN UP TO SINCE THE ANNUAL REPORT IN JULY

*The start of Green Fair 2025 on a very sunny September day.*



## STRATEGY 7 (Continued)

- Our office appeared in Fast Company: [Ann Arbor is Reinventing the Power Company](#)
- 1,071 subscribers were added to our [newsletters](#) – 781 to our main newsletter, the Charging Station, with overall open rates averaging 68%.
- Contractors were selected to do \$3.1 million worth of home energy upgrades in the Bryant neighborhood through the Michigan Public Service Commission's Renewable Energy and Electrification Infrastructure and Development Grant and construction began for the first 15 households. Through this grant, more than 50 homes in total will be able to receive insulation, new windows, drainage remediation, electrified appliances, and solar.
- Regarding geothermal, the Bryant Community Center's system was installed in July and is now providing 100% of the building's heating and cooling! See energy team section for Bryant district geothermal update.
- In September the [BBC released a video](#) highlighting the work we're supporting in Bryant.
- OSI collaborated with the leadership of Pittsfield Village to pursue a DTE multi-family weatherization assistance program that could provide impactful air sealing and insulation upgrades to all 400+ units in the community. The community is also collaborating with OSI to schedule and complete a test bore to assess the feasibility of a future district geothermal project in the neighborhood.
- More than 80 exhibitors and thousands of visitors showed up and showed out for the [2025 A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Green Fair](#) on September 19th! Highlights from this year's event include the unveiling of the City's new mobile solar trailer, downtown tree tours, a clothing swap, an electric school bus, and a heat pump giveaway prize!
- For a second year, OSI is sponsoring a [Cinema & Sustainability series](#) with Marquee Arts, a monthly mini-series showcasing films and documentaries that educate and inspire around sustainability and climate action! Through the support of a Sustaining Ann Arbor Together Grant, the 2025 series is free for the general public, and has attracted more than 450 attendees over the first three screenings September – November.
- The [Sustaining Ann Arbor Together](#) community grant program hosted an award ceremony and celebration to recognize the program's recent grantees. Nine organizations attended, shared inspiring stories and updates about their projects, and took photos with Mayor Christopher Taylor and City Administrator Milton Dohoney Jr. The review committee continues to review applications as they are submitted for the funding still available for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.



*Staff from Zingerman's Roadhouse join Green Light to talk about the sustainability work they're doing.*

# COLLABORATOR SPOTLIGHT

THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD BUSINESS COALITION FACILITATES COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION



Two years since the first gathering of the Ann Arbor Sustainable Food Business Coalition (SFBC), the network remains a vibrant forum for sustainable collaboration among local food system businesses.

Now entering its third year, the SFBC convenes members quarterly to address common challenges related to sustainability in the food system. Sourcing local and sustainable ingredients, reducing waste, improving facility efficiency, and fostering a sustainable workplace culture are just a few of the topics discussed during the group's 2025 gatherings.

The SFBC not only provides a vehicle for increasing connection and collaboration among members but also an opportunity for business leaders to get together and "talk shop," as one SFBC member reflected during a recent event. During gatherings, members trade stories of sustainability successes and tribulations, swap tips and resources, and troubleshoot shared challenges through group dialogue. At each meeting, ample time is allocated for unstructured networking and community building.

Each SFBC event is an opportunity for a business with expertise in a topic to share their insights and showcase their efforts, while pulling back the curtain on their implementation process and lessons learned. Additionally, the SFBC invites outside experts to present to the group, building members' collective knowledge and highlighting new opportunities for growth.

Another unique element of the group is the opportunity to collaborate on and provide insight into upcoming City sustainable food policies and programs. Participation in the SFBC by City staff ensures that new programming is responsive to business needs and priorities. The City also partners with local non-profit resource providers, such as the Ann Arbor-Washtenaw 2030 District, to offer technical assistance and funding for sustainability initiatives. Additionally, staff provide administrative support, ensure regular communication, share funding opportunities, and broadcast upcoming events and trainings of interest to the group.

During the most recent SFBC gathering at Argus Farm Stop, Kristen Schweighoefer and Dainna Raye from the Washtenaw County Department of Environmental Health shared insights about navigating food safety regulations while implementing sustainability initiatives. The meeting was attended by 15 local restaurants, entrepreneurs, and non-profit representatives. Participants had an opportunity to ask questions and share their perspectives on how current Michigan food law has affected their ability to implement sustainability initiatives, like reducing their use of single-use plastics or switching to electric appliances.

Looking ahead to 2026, the SFBC looks forward to taking on new projects to increase local sourcing, reduce food waste, and increase the amount of surplus food redistributed to community members in need. Additionally, they are seeking to expand the network with new members and leadership! If you're a food or hospitality business owner, or have a suggestion of a business who you think should be in the SFBC, please reach out to Azella Markgraf, Sustainable Food Coordinator, at [amarkgraf@a2gov.org](mailto:amarkgraf@a2gov.org).

Business representatives are invited to join the SFBC for their **2026 Kickoff, a Food & Hospitality Sustainability Social, on January 12th, 2026, from 2:00 - 3:30 pm at Cobblestone Farm!** Connect with peers, resources, and support to kickstart your sustainability journey in the new year and learn about opportunities to engage in Ann Arbor's growing sustainable food ecosystem. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP at [osi.a2gov.org/sfbc2026kickoff](https://osi.a2gov.org/sfbc2026kickoff).

# TIS THE SEASON: HOLIDAY RECIPE

A RECIPE FROM THE A<sup>2</sup>ZERO COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

## CREAMY BUTTERNUT SQUASH & SAGE PASTA

From the Kitchen of: Shanel DeWalt, Chef, Make Food Not Waste



**Preparation Time:** 20 minutes | **Cook Time:** 45 minutes | **Servings:** 4 bowls  
**Common Allergens:** Wheat (Optional), Tree Nuts (Optional)

"This dish is a cozy, plant-based take on a creamy pasta, with the natural sweetness of the roasted butternut squash paired with the earthy aroma of sage and garlic. I love how the velvety sauce feels indulgent yet wholesome, transforming simple ingredients into something elegant and comforting. It's flavorful, satisfying, and a crowd-pleaser!" says Chef Shanel.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

#### PREPARE THE SAUCE:

- Preheat the oven to 400°F.
- Toss the cubed butternut squash and unpeeled garlic cloves with 1 Tablespoon olive oil, a pinch of salt, and black pepper. Spread the squash and garlic onto a baking sheet in a single layer.
- Roast the squash and garlic for 25-30 minutes, until the squash is tender and slightly caramelized, and the garlic is soft.
- While the squash roasts, heat 1 Tablespoon of olive oil in a skillet over medium heat.
- Sauté the diced onion until it is translucent, about 5-7 minutes.
- Add the dried sage (or fresh sage leaves) and smoked paprika to the onion, cooking for another minute to bloom the flavors.
- Peel the roasted garlic. Transfer the roasted squash, peeled roasted garlic, sautéed onion mixture, miso paste, nutritional yeast, and 1 cup of plant-based milk to a blender.
- Blend the sauce until it is smooth, adding more plant-based milk as needed to reach your desired sauce consistency. Taste and adjust the seasoning with salt and black pepper.

#### MAKE THE PASTA:

- Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and cook the pasta according to the package instructions. Reserve about 1/2 cup of pasta water before draining the pasta.
- Return the drained pasta to the pot or a large skillet. Pour the butternut squash sauce over the pasta, tossing to coat it evenly. Add the reserved pasta water as needed to loosen the sauce and make it cling perfectly to the noodles. Serve the pasta hot, garnished with fresh parsley and optional toasted walnuts or pumpkin seeds for crunch.

### INGREDIENTS:

#### FOR THE SAUCE:

- 1 medium butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cubed
- 6 cloves garlic, with skins left on for roasting
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 Tablespoon white or yellow miso paste
- 2 Tablespoons nutritional yeast
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon dried sage, or 4-5 fresh sage leaves
- 1-2 cups unsweetened plant-based milk, like oat or almond
- Salt and pepper, to taste

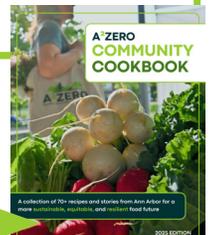
#### FOR THE PASTA:

- 12 ounces pasta of choice, such as fettuccine, penne, or spaghetti
- Fresh parsley (for garnish)

#### OPTIONAL:

- Toasted walnuts or pumpkin seeds

This recipe and more in the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Community Cookbook at [osi.a2gov.org/cookbook](https://osi.a2gov.org/cookbook).



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW Residential Rebates for Leaf-Blowers.** The City of Ann Arbor just launched [a new rebate program specifically for rakes and electric leaf blowers](#) beginning November 21, 2025, through the end of the year, or until funding is expended. Designed to help lower the cost of transitioning from gas to electric leaf blowers in accordance with Ann Arbor's leaf blower ordinance, these rebates will be available to all Ann Arbor residents.

**Business Rebates for Electric Leaf Blowers** – Business rebates for electric leaf blowers have been reinstated through September 30, 2026, or until funding is expended. Designed to help lower the cost of transitioning from gas to electric leaf blowers in accordance with Ann Arbor's leaf blower ordinance, these rebates will be available to businesses that provide lawn care or landscaping services to properties located in Ann Arbor.

**Ann Arbor City Council Votes Unanimously to Accept Nearly \$11 Million for District Geothermal System** – Ann Arbor City Council on October 7, 2025, voted unanimously to accept nearly \$11 million (\$10,788,167) from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to implement a district-scale geothermal heating and cooling system in the Bryant neighborhood. To learn more about this project, visit the City's geothermal heating and cooling website.

**Ann Arbor Awarded \$250,000 Grant to Advance Sustainable Energy Utility** – The City of Ann Arbor has been selected to receive a \$250,000 grant from the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) to advance its newly created Sustainable Energy Utility. The City of Ann Arbor will use the MIF grant to prepare an operational plan and financial strategy to launch a newly created, innovative and renewable energy-centered Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) that accelerates the city's clean energy transformation while simultaneously fostering economic development and enhancing climate resilience. To learn more about the SEU, please visit [a2gov.org/a2seu](https://a2gov.org/a2seu).

**City of Ann Arbor Recognized as Sustainable Public Entity of the Year by Michigan Sustainable Business Forum.** The City of Ann Arbor was awarded the 2025 Sustainable Business of the Year: Public Sector Award from the Michigan Sustainable Business Forum on November 13 at their Triple Bottom Line Bash. The award recognizes a local or regional government for its efforts to advance community sustainability and sustainable business practices in their community and operations. It was awarded to the City of Ann Arbor for their work under A<sup>2</sup>ZERO, the City's plan, vision, framework, and associated actions to achieve a just and equitable transition to carbon neutrality, community-wide, by the year 2030.

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit [www.a2gov.org/sustainability/events](https://www.a2gov.org/sustainability/events).



*Residents of the Bryant Community join for a celebration of the \$11 million grant for the district geothermal system, to learn from the team working on the project and hear from Mayor Taylor on the importance of the project.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ANN ARBOR SOLAR STORIES Dec. 4, 7PM - 8PM | Virtual

One-hour virtual event hosted by the GLREA. Come hear from Ann Arborites who have gone solar, and have a chance to ask them all your questions! [Register at GLREA's website](#) for "Thursday Night Energy Events" to receive meeting links.

## MIDNIGHT MADNESS: A²ZERO WINTER GEAR SWAP Dec. 4, 7PM - 10PM | Main Street, Ann Arbor

Come find new-to-you winter gear and/or donate cold weather clothes that you no longer want at the A²ZERO Midnight Madness Winter Gear Swap! Everyone is welcome to participate; you do not have to donate to take items. Participants who donate items will to be entered in a prize drawing for a \$100 gift card to a downtown business of your choice, provided by the Main Street Ann Arbor Association. [Visit the Swap's website to learn more and RSVP.](#)

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY UTILITY CONTRACTOR WORKSHOP Dec. 9, 10 AM - 11 AM | Virtual

Event open to contractors interested in learning more about the Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU). The SEU was authorized by Ann Arbor voters in November, 2024 to be a 100% renewable, clean, resilient, reliable, opt-in utility and has since hired Shoshannah Lenski as its Executive Director. Email [seu@a2gov.org](mailto:seu@a2gov.org) for details to join.

## CINEMA AND SUSTAINABILITY: CATCHING THE SUN Dec. 10, 7PM - 9:30PM | State Theater

Following an unemployed American worker, a Tea Party activist, and a Chinese solar entrepreneur as they race to lead the clean-energy future. This documentary explores the worldwide economics of the burgeoning solar energy industry and its impact on hopeful job seekers in the United States. [Free admission - Please reserve tickets in advance for an accurate attendance.](#)

## MONTHLY CLOTHING SWAP Dec. 18, 4PM - 7PM | Council Chambers, City Hall

Join the Office of Sustainability and Innovations for monthly clothing swaps on the third Thursday of each month! These are a perfect way to give your gently used clothes a new home. And you might just find an item of clothing you have been looking for, without having to buy it new. How it works: Each person can bring up to 5 items of clothing in good condition (no rips, holes, stains, or unwashed items please!). Accessories are also welcome. You can take clothing without bringing anything, or bring clothing without taking anything. This is a completely free event.

# CONNECT WITH A²ZERO

Click the tiles below to see the latest updates, events, and more!



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90 likes • 160 followers  
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**A²ZERO**  
211 posts    424 followers    121 following  
A2ZERO: Community-Wide Carbon Neutrality by 2030  
Government organization  
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**Green Light**  
by CTN Ann Arbor • Playlist • 10 videos  
Presented by City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability  
[Play all](#)  
Green Light Episode 1 - Missy Stuitts  
CTN Ann Arbor • 234 views • 11 months ago  
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**Sustainability & Innovations Home**  
Achieving a just transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030 through the A²ZERO Plan  
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FEBRUARY 2025 | ISSUE NO. 31: GREEN BUSINESS CHALLENGE & COMMERCIAL DECARBONIZATION  
**THE CHARGING STATION**  
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF A²ZERO AND THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS  
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# Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC)

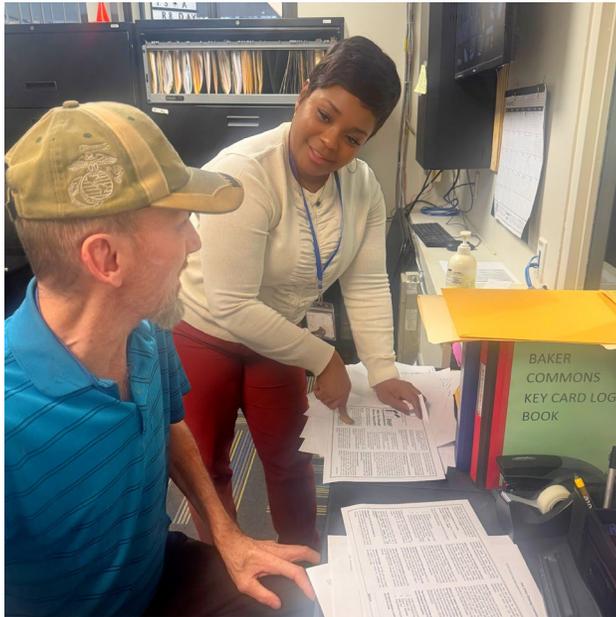
## Accomplishments

Prepared by: Jennifer Hall, Executive Director

### PROGRAMS

- 234 new households were provided housing in AAHC apartments and through the voucher program and a total of 1,902 households received housing through AAHC's housing and voucher programs
- 5 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental households purchased homes through the HCV Homeownership program for a total of 22 homeowners in the program
- 5 Families graduated from the Family-Self Sufficiency (FSS) program and the AAHC paid an average of \$18,283 to the graduating families. A total of 101 households currently participate in the FSS program.
- 10 contracts were executed for \$3.2M with nonprofits to provide eviction prevention, youth and family services, and trauma informed case management services to low-income residents
- Produced "A Letter to the West Side" documentary with multiple local screenings and panel discussions
- Partnered with U-M & Washtenaw County to bring the documentary "Beyond the Bridge" to the MI Theater for a community discussion on housing and homelessness
- Electric Vehicle PILOT program underway for residents at Baker Commons
- 144 project-based vouchers were awarded to 6 affordable housing developments in Ann Arbor & the City of Ypsilanti

- 41 New VASH vouchers for homeless veterans awarded
- Partnered with Washtenaw Housing Alliance to hold Landlord workshops
- Partnered with Local lenders and realtors and to hold homebuyer work shops for low-income residents



LaTonya Brown, Property & Compliance Specialist, working with a resident at Baker Commons



Mindy Dolan, Family Self-Sufficiency Specialist, working with a FSS participant



Resident at Lurie Terrace helping to serve lunch for seniors

# Housing Commission

## Accomplishments

### RENOVATIONS and MAINTENANCE

- Baker Commons installed fire suppression into every apartment and insulated attic
- 1504 and 1506 Broadway completed renovations of 11 units and installed 3 rooftop solar arrays & consolidated meters
- West Arbor installed solar arrays, completed meter consolidation at 3 buildings, added acoustic insulation in community center
- Lurie Terrace hired contractor and started preparation of elevator modernization
- Lurie Terrace hired contractors to complete electrical upgrades and install fire suppression in the apartments
- Lurie Terrace hired architect and engineer to complete renovation designs on the exterior and interior
- Green Baxter Court, partnered with OSI to award contracts for meter consolidation, solar installation for resiliency hub
- Travis Ransom completed CAMT course (Certified Apartment Maintenance Technician)
- Travis Ransom and Joe Kennedy passed managing maintenance course
- TJ Irvine took managing maintenance course to renew Certified Maintenance Manager for Public Housing certification
- 4 maintenance techs and construction project manager completed 16-hour ACM training (Eric Sexton, Greg Walker, Joe Kennedy, Travis Ransom, Tom Pierce)

# Housing Commission Accomplishments

## DEVELOPMENT

- 350 S 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue site plan approved.. Secured \$180M of \$213M budget for 330 affordable rental apartments & commercial space
- Dunbar Tower at 121 Catherine construction near completion
  - Worked with Community Leadership Council (CLC) to design first floor community space at Dunbar.
  - Hired 9 artists to complete murals and plaques celebrating Black Ann Arborite's history and accomplishments
  - Topping Out Ceremony – lifting the final beam
  - Conducted 7 tours for over 90 community members



# Housing Commission

## Accomplishments

### ADMINISTRATIVE

- \$54 million operating budget adopted for 10 legal entities
- Unmodified audit opinion for seven legal entities: AAHC, Maple Tower, River Run, West Arbor, Swift Lane, Lurie Terrace, Siller Terrace
- Digitalization efforts to reduce hard copy paperwork and to increase on-line participation by residents and landlords
  - Rent Café used by 161 households
  - 123 households making direct deposits of rent
  - 11% of residents enter maintenance work orders on-line
  - Initiatives to send documents by email instead of hard copy by mail
    - Lease amendments
    - Inspection notices
    - Tenant ledgers
  - 75% of vendor invoices uploaded electronically into payment system
  - 95% of payments to landlords and program participants are through direct deposit
- Agency-wide Fair Housing Training

# HOUSING COMMISSION

## Accomplishments

### Grant Awards

Grantor	Use	Amount
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation	Lurie Tenant Services & Technology	\$15,000
HUD	Family Self-Sufficiency Program	\$241,584
HUD	Rental Vouchers for Low-Income Households	\$29,368,607
Michigan State Housing Development Authority	350 S 5 <sup>th</sup> Affordable Housing Development	\$8,000,000
Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity	Housing support for justice involved individuals	\$414,813
Federal Home Loan Bank	Lurie Terrace Renovations	\$1,000,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$39,040,004</b>



**THANK YOU, ANN ARBOR!**

