

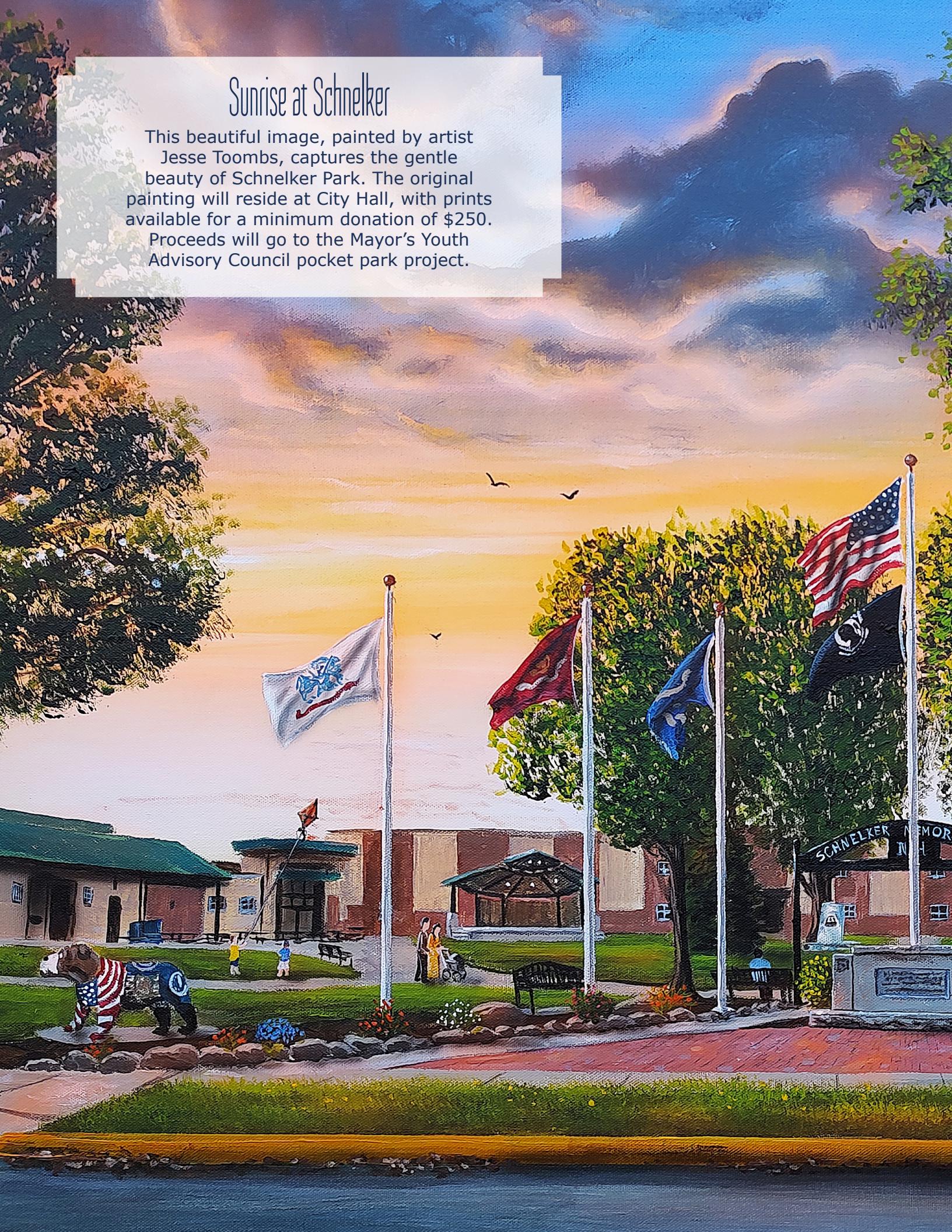
A City on the Rise



2025  
Annual Report

## Sunrise at Schnelker

This beautiful image, painted by artist Jesse Toombs, captures the gentle beauty of Schnelker Park. The original painting will reside at City Hall, with prints available for a minimum donation of \$250. Proceeds will go to the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council pocket park project.





Joe  
Trombus  
2026



*Groundbreaking for The Field House at the New Haven District*

# On the Horizon

◆————◆

Over the years, New Haven has carved out an identity of tenacity and togetherness, holding tight to its values despite and in tandem with steady growth and change. Our city has a glowing history with a bright future ahead. In 2025, the City of New Haven team worked diligently to capture that sense of identity and carry it forward in our endeavors. Whether it be a community event, infrastructure project or potential business venture, our operations were done with the spirit of New Haven top of mind. We've successfully completed or announced a number of initiatives that we envision to be a dawn on the horizon. Projects, plans and partnerships like New

Haven NExt and the New Haven District are just a couple that exemplify how New Haven is a City on the Rise.

We've continuously said we aim to make New Haven and even greater place to live, work and play. The proof is in the pudding, as we've seen marvelous growth in 2025 alone. But our efforts are only one component of what makes the city so great. Most of our greatness can be attributed to the community, the people, the families and friends that show up for one another each and every day, rain or shine. Thank you for being part of this great city! May 2026 be our year.

# Elected Officials and City Leadership

Mayor  
Steve McMichael  
smcmichael@NewHaven.IN.Gov  
260.748.7070

Clerk-Treasurer  
Angela Hamrick  
ahamrick@NewHaven.IN.Gov  
260.748.7010

Council Member  
Matt Newbauer, 1st District  
mnewbauer@NewHaven.IN.Gov

Council Member  
Jeff Turner, 2nd District  
jturner@NewHaven.IN.Gov

Council Member  
Craig Dellinger, 3rd District  
cdellinger@NewHaven.IN.Gov

Council Member  
Mike Mowery, 4th District  
mmowery@NewHaven.IN.Gov

Council Member  
Amelia Gascoigne, 5th District  
agascoigne@NewHaven.IN.Gov

Council Member  
Bob Byrd, At-Large  
bbyrd@NewHaven.IN.Gov

Council Member  
Terry Werling, At-Large  
twerling@NewHaven.IN.Gov

Economic Development Director  
Pone Vongphachanh

Planning Director  
Nathan Hooley

Community Development  
Director  
Zach Washler

Engineering and  
Project Manager  
Rick Kruchten, PMP

Public Works  
Superintendent Dave Jones

New Haven - Adams Twp. Parks  
and Recreation  
Director Nick Goranson

New Haven Police Department  
Chief James Krueger

East Central Fire & EMS  
Chief Doug Call

# From Mayor Steve



Seven years ago, when I ran for Mayor of New Haven, I promised a bold vision of progress for the community that I am proud to call home. In 2025, we continued to deliver on that promise.

This past year, we broke ground at the site of The New Haven District, which will soon be home to a field house, as well as restaurants, hotels and small businesses, inviting in thousands of families who come from around the region to participate in youth sports. Connecting the New Haven District to downtown New Haven is key to both the success of the District and our beautiful downtown area. We took one more step toward that connection with the completion of another segment of the Lincoln Highway Trail, connecting Green Street with Minnich Road. Other infrastructure improvements include the replacement of sidewalks and crosswalks to be ADA compliant, as well as the repaving of miles of streets across the city. One major project that we had to take on was the repair of the water main under the intersection of Hartzell Road and SR 930, which involved closing 930 at this intersection. I am proud to say our Public Works crews and API Construction completed the work quickly and efficiently, with minimal disruptions.

In addition to these infrastructure projects, we delivered on the administration's

promise of launching a mental health initiative with an emphasis on overall wellness and accessibility in our community. In August, we initiated a community wide survey focused on New Haven residents. Information from the survey, which was completed in October, is being utilized to guide future wellness and accessibility projects. Community engagement continues to be a priority. To that end, we hosted a number of town halls to share about infrastructure projects and continued the development of Activate New Haven to share information with the community.

In 2026, we look forward to continuing progress on The New Haven District and the Lincoln Highway Trail. But we won't stop there! Another important project in 2026 is the construction of Guardian Park, a Mayor's Youth Advisory Council project that will leave a legacy of community building for years to come.

We look forward to collaborating with residents and businesses to make New Haven an even greater place to live, work, and play. We are excited to welcome families and organizations that support our thriving community. Celebrating the hard work and accomplishments of 2025, we eagerly await the opportunities and challenges of 2026 as we continue to make New Haven a City on the Rise.

# 2025 Highlights



Culver's back to School Drive



Halloween on Broadway



Memorial Day Ceremony



Lincoln Highway Trail Ribbon Cutting



Profed Credit Union Groundbreaking



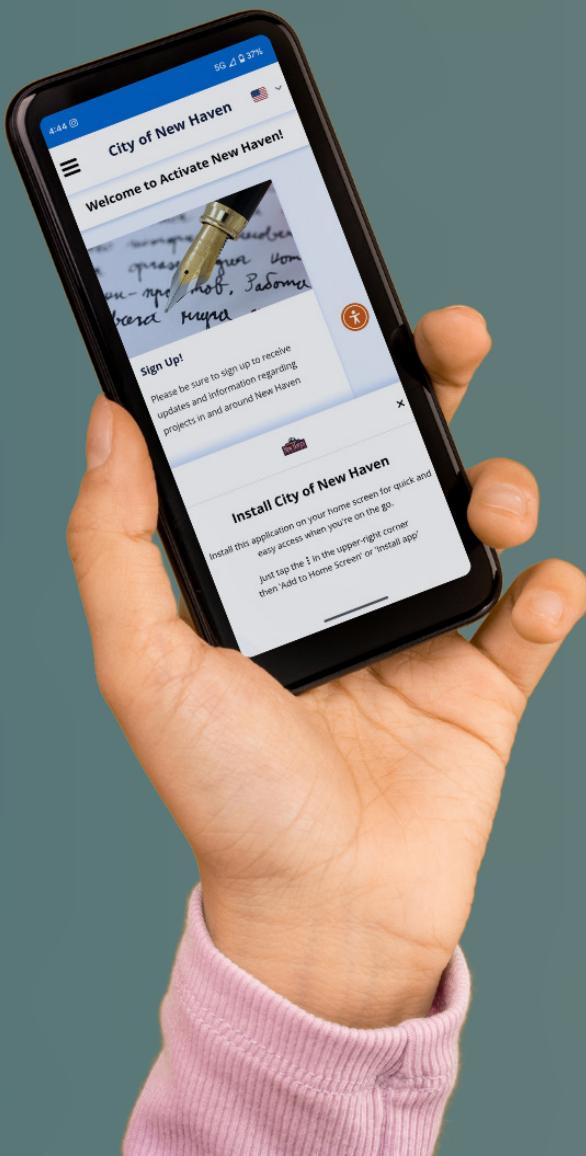
Former Clerk-Treasurer Helen Purvis' 100th Birthday



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# Our Programs

## MYAC

New Haven youth are on the move as the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) celebrates another successful year. MYAC is a non-political organization with a goal of equipping future generations with valuable life skills like public speaking, decision-making, networking, teamwork, and more. These budding changemakers were hard at work this past year, laying the foundation for a pocket park just east of New Haven City Hall.

This project, named Guardian Park, embodies all MYAC aims to do by giving students experience in fundraising, project management and government relations as they engage with several city departments.

"Getting involved in this project has given us a chance to be a part of something big in New Haven. We began this project with teen input and named the park, but there's so much more," MYAC President Arianna St. John-Jones said. "We have been working with an engineering firm, formulated a budget,

have been involved in the design process and look forward to the entire process along the way. Our goal is to create a park that belongs to the New Haven community for residents and to leave a legacy for MYAC."

That legacy is expected to include swings, slides, a jungle dome, sensory equipment, park benches, play courts, a fountain, art installations and more.

So far, MYAC members have raised nearly 25 percent of the overall \$125,000 budget for phase one, but they need the community's help as the organization plans to explore crowdfunding opportunities through the state.

In addition to launching the Guardian Park project, MYAC also:

- Networked with fellow youth to share their experience with the organization
- Organized a local food drive
- Engaged in public speaking events

## Citizens' Academy

New Haven offered this interactive course for citizens to learn first-hand how the city is structured and managed. In this six-week course, residents learned the City's relationship with Allen County and other public agencies, what services and programs are available through various city agencies, how to access needed services, and how to apply this knowledge.

The Citizens' Academy takes on a casual format that gives participants a front row seat as to how our city runs, with direct access to elected and appointed officials who know the day-to-day happenings of our government. Through presentations and

discussions, residents can learn about aspects of departments like engineering, planning, public works and more.

There's a real benefit to this program. Some participants now serve on boards and commissions and several past participants currently serve on City Council. This program was created with the belief that effective leadership with a sound understanding of community development is critical to a community's future.

Keep an eye out for our next cohort!

# Introducing Ivan



The City of New Haven is pleased to welcome Ivan Almodovar as he fills the vacant role of City Asset Manager and Chief of Staff.

Almodovar, 47, brings more than 25 years of leadership and operational experience, with a background in managing large teams, improving complex systems, overseeing major assets, and guiding organizations through growth and change. These skills are complemented by a degree in Psychology and Human Relations from Indiana Wesleyan University and years of work in the automotive industry.

He also has a history of civil service, having been involved with the Adams

Township Advisory Board, New Haven Plan Commission, and Board of Works. This opportunity comes as a natural progression to his previous experiences. "Public service has always been important to me, and I've worked hard to contribute in ways that support long-term growth, stability, and opportunity for our residents," Almodovar said. "I'm excited to step into the role ... and continue serving a community that has meant so much to my family and me."

Almodovar's hire is another example of Mayor Steve McMichael's vision to build a strong team of professionals to serve the city and its residents, all with the mission of making New Haven an even greater place to live, work and play.

# HR

From HR Director Laney Barrow

In 2025, the Human Resources Department continued our commitment to fostering a healthy, engaged, and well-supported workforce. Our wellness program saw strong participation through a variety of events, including on-site biometric screenings, financial wellness sessions, stress management callouts, and gym membership reimbursements aimed at promoting overall well-being.

A major milestone in 2025 was the launch of our new benefits portal, Employee Navigator. This platform provides employees with a modern, user-friendly experience for enrolling in benefits, reviewing coverage, accessing resources, and managing changes throughout the year. The portal has significantly

streamlined internal processes while giving staff more autonomy and clarity in navigating their benefit options.

This year has also held a strong emphasis on continuous learning and development. Throughout the year, Human Resources has participated in ongoing training opportunities covering leadership skills, compliance, communication, and workplace safety. These efforts reflect our commitment to cultivating a culture of growth, professionalism, and service excellence.

The HR Department looks forward to building on this progress in 2026, as we continue supporting our employees and enhancing organizational effectiveness.

# Clerk-Treasurer

From Clerk-Treasurer Angela Hamrick

The Clerk-Treasurer's Office enjoyed an exceptionally strong financial year in 2025, marked by sound budgeting, transparent reporting, and steady revenue growth. Strategic stewardship and careful expense management helped the office surpass its fiscal goals, reinforcing public trust and strengthening the community's financial foundation. Streamlined procedures and improved financial systems contributed to greater efficiency, while a continued commitment to accountability ensured that every dollar was managed responsibly. Overall, 2025 stands out as a year of stability, progress, and measurable financial success. Here is a look at the 2025 financials:

New Haven Adams Township Parks & Rec

Expenditures: \$2,361,717.73

Revenues: \$2,454,509.89

East Central Fire & EMS Protection Territory

Expenditures: \$6,987,044.44

Revenues: \$6,838,540.41

City of New Haven

Expenditures: \$43,891,014.82

Revenues: \$47,292,805.74

# East Central Fire and EMS



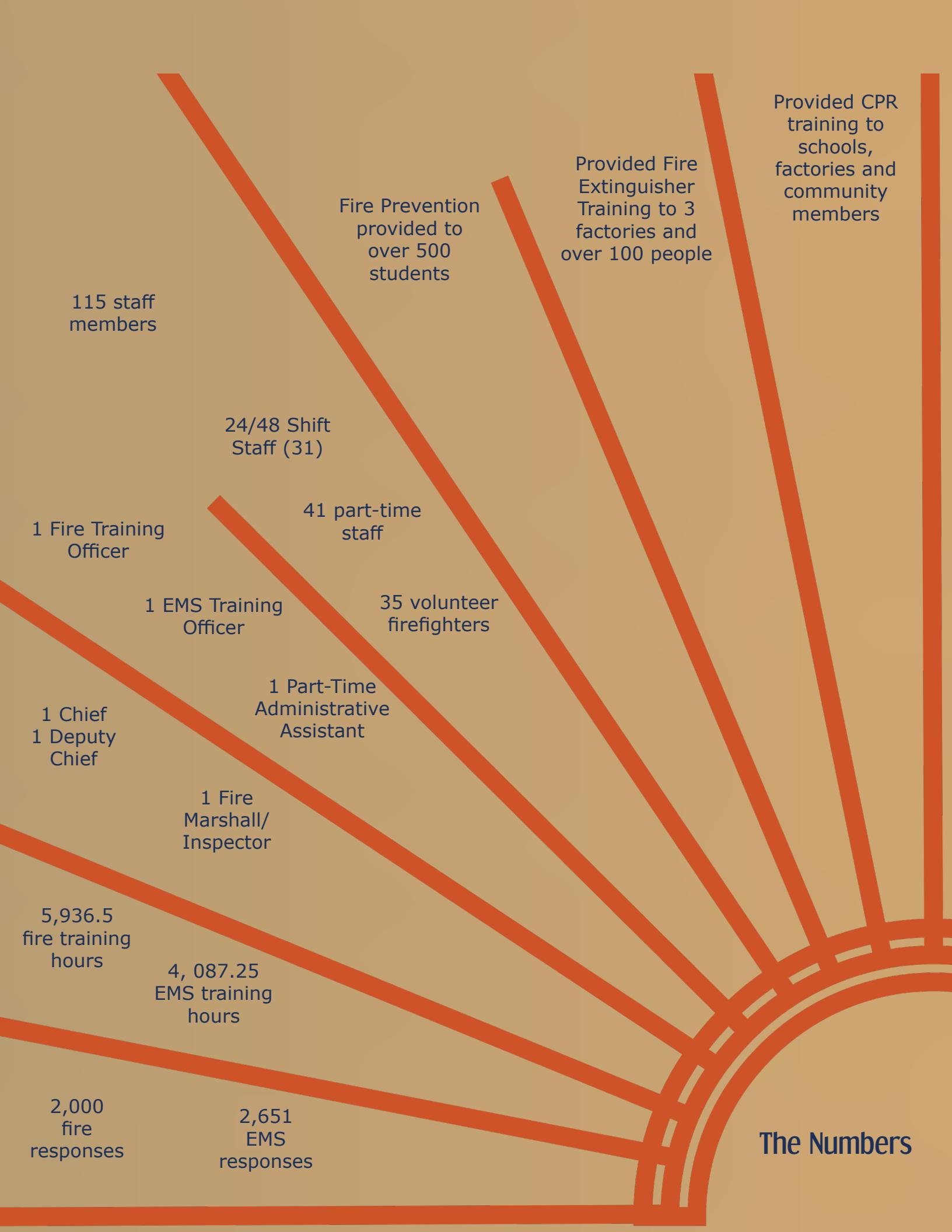
From Chief Doug Call

East Central Fire & EMS provide Paramedic-level EMS transport and Fire/Rescue Services to over 112 square miles, including the City of New Haven, City of Woodburn, and unincorporated portions of Adams, Milan, Maumee, and Jefferson Townships. Across the response area, we protect a mix of rural and suburban communities. Residential hazards range from large new-construction, single-family dwellings to mobile homes. We also protect numerous multi-occupied dwellings, including garden and mid-rise apartments. Commercial hazards include numerous strip malls, healthcare facilities, hotels, and more. We also cover a bulk chemical storage facility. These elements include electric substations, water treatment plants, water towers, phone switching stations, and high-tension electric lines. Transportation hazards include multiple

sections of the U.S. highway system with substantial daily traffic volume. We have responsibilities to cover the following critical infrastructure: 7 cell communications towers 2 electric substations (60kV) Phone switching substation High-tension power system Norfolk Southern Fort Wayne Rail yard (3rd busiest rail yard for NS) Major transportation hazards include: 13.2 miles of Interstate 469 (roughly 30-40K average daily traffic volume) 15 miles of U.S. Highway 30 (part of the National Highway System connecting Astoria, Oregon, with Atlantic City, New Jersey) (23,520 average daily traffic volume) 6 miles of U.S. Highway 24 (16,000 average daily traffic volume)



2025 Engine Push-In Ceremony



# New Haven Police Department



From Chief James Krueger

We currently have 27 full-time Law Enforcement Officers, 7 full-time Dispatchers, 2 Administrative Employees and 1 full-time Code Enforcement Officer. In addition to our full-time personnel, we have 1 part-time Code Enforcement Officer, 10 Reserve Police Officers, 8 part-time Dispatchers, and 3 School Crossing Guards. All 59 of these individuals are to be commended for their exceptional work performance.

In 2025, no officers lateralized to any other departments. We had one probationary officer who could not complete our training program, we hold high standards. In 2025, we hired Joshua Pena and Carson Shroyer, who have successfully completed all their required training and are doing a fantastic job for the City. The Position of Business Resource Officer was awarded to Officer Beard who has proven how valuable the business resource officer was to our business community. Officer Beard has done an excellent job building relationships with local businesses and has become the bridge between businesses and the Police Department. Officer Beard has also become extremely valuable to the youth in our community as he has worked with Officer Moord in the school system and successfully completed his required School Resource Officer training.

We are currently in the process of hiring 3 new Officers, and my goal is to be fully staffed with 30 Officers by April of 2026.

With their lengthy training process, they should be fully trained and released from training by this time next year. We have also expanded the Reserve Officer program and currently have 6 new Officers in training. Our Instructors and training staff have been extremely busy ensuring that every officer receives the highest level of training possible.

The New Haven Police Department K-9 team currently consists of 2 Officers who are trained dog handlers and 3 certified police dogs. We added K9 Millie to the team in July, and she has proven to be a valuable asset to the City of New Haven. Millie and Officer Moord were able to locate a missing child in the corn field in August. We have strived to improve the K9 program and to bring it back to at minimum where it was in the past. Officer Caston was awarded the open K9 position and will begin his training early next year. The K-9 Teams were responsible for 4 K9 apprehensions, 13 tracking assignments, 9 building searches, 14 narcotic searches, and multiple K9 demonstrations to improve public relations. The K9 foundation was also created as a non-profit organization in an effort to generate more income with tax benefits to local businesses or individuals.

The City of New Haven Police Department operates a 2 position 911 PSAP. Our communications center is in operation 24 hours a day and serves police, fire, and ambulance dispatching for the City of New

Haven. Our communication center also performs secondary 911 dispatching for the Consolidated Communication Partnership during high call volume events. In addition to 911 calls for the City of New Haven, we also receive rollover calls from the unincorporated areas of Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne.

In 2025, the New Haven Dispatch Center had 262 IDACS validations, and we received 6,205 (911) calls and 193 Text to (911) contacts. Our communications center had a total of 16,014 dispatch calls in 2025. Of those calls, 12,236 were Law Enforcement related and 3,778 were Fire/EMS related.

New Haven Police Detectives took in 596 items of evidence to the Evidence Room. Detectives took in 1,028 grams of Marijuana, 25.04 grams of Cocaine, 253.45 grams of Methamphetamine, 3.08 heroin items — these can be hard to measure as some are in liquid form and others in solid — 89 Narcotic related pills (many with fentanyl), and 97 pieces of Paraphernalia. New Haven Police Detectives also managed 12 crime scenes in 2025, completed 39 search warrants and completed 46 patrol related assignments. The Detectives also

assist with record requests, redacting video and providing the Allen County Prosecutors office with evidence.

As always this was another rewarding year for the New Haven Police Department. Our 3 Patrol Sergeants, 3 Patrol Corporals, Detective Supervisor and the Deputy Chief continue to do an outstanding job. I hear positive feedback from those they lead as well as citizens in the community. Our Detectives continue to do a great job and have great success in solving cases. The Business Resource Officer has also done an outstanding job and we look forward to continuing his growth.

Our Dispatch Supervisor works relentlessly to make sure we have proper staffing and will adjust his own hours when necessary to fill any voids.

I could not be prouder of our employees who continue to be engaged in the welfare of this department and the citizens we serve. I appreciate the continued support and positive relationship with the Mayor's Office, City Council, Clerk-Treasure, Board of Works & Safety, and the Police Merit Board.

	Full-Time	Reserve
Traffic Citations	1,186	4
Misdemeanors	553	3
Felonies	260	2
Written Investigations	2,295	
Assignments	10,168	185
On-Duty Miles	257,159	2,938
Patrol Hours		796.75

# Public Works



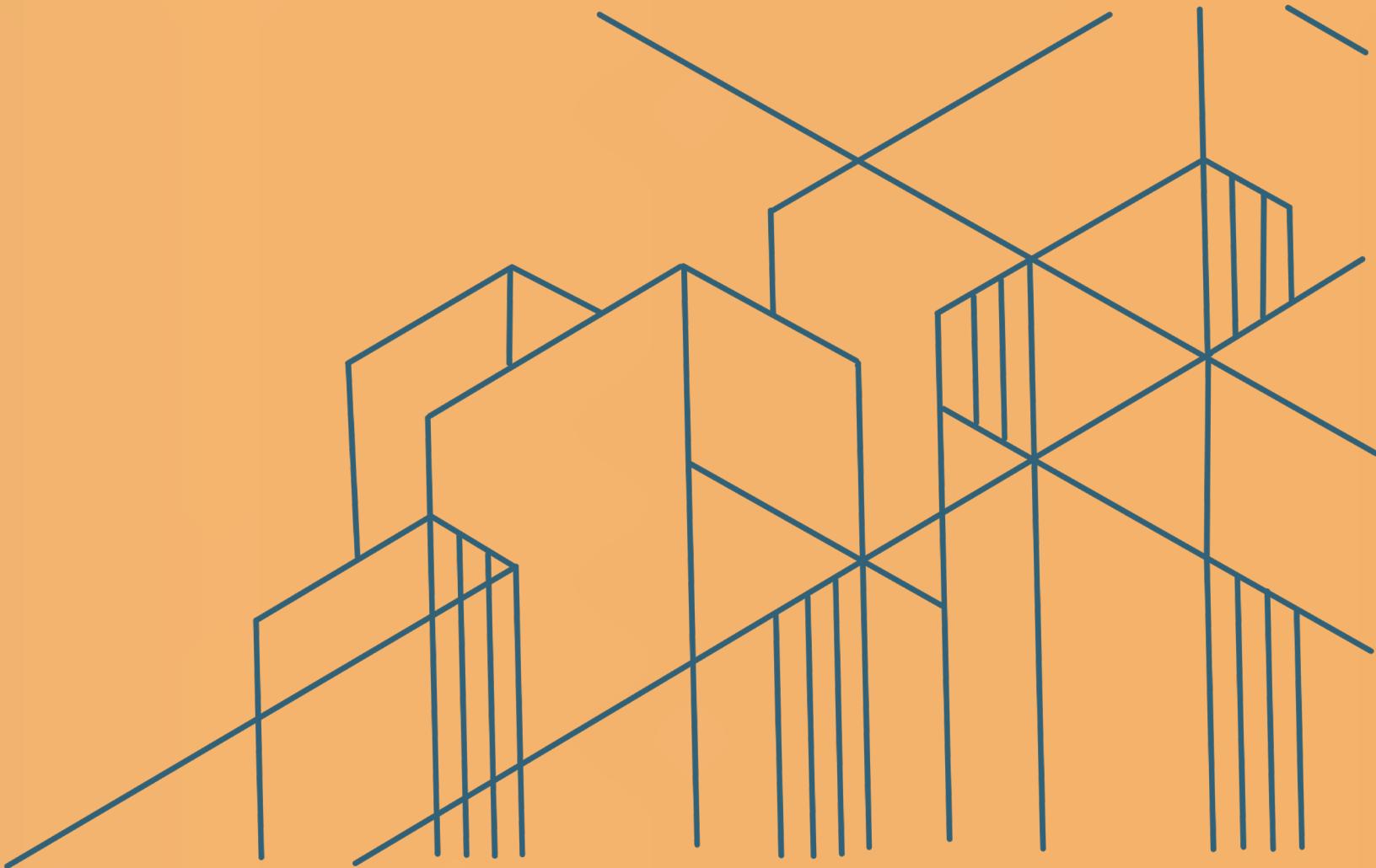
From Superintendent Dave Jones

The New Haven Public Works Department is proud to highlight several major accomplishments from the past year. One of the most significant projects was the installation of the Edgerton Road water line and booster station heading east out of New Haven. This improvement will support future city expansion while addressing low-pressure areas, ensuring reliable service for residents and businesses. In addition, new wet weather treatment facilities were completed to help reduce sanitary sewer overflows. With these facilities in place, raw sewage will now be treated rather than flowing directly into the river, representing a major step forward in protecting water quality and public health.

The department also maintained New Haven's designation as a Tree City USA community for another consecutive year, underscoring its commitment to sustainability and urban forestry. Public Works continued to oversee and maintain the water, street, sewer, and storm systems, ensuring dependable infrastructure for the community. Remarkably, all these achievements were accomplished with a dedicated team of only 15 employees, demonstrating efficiency and commitment to service. The department also achieved 100% negative results in CDL random drug testing, reflecting the professionalism and responsibility of its workforce.



*A crew repairs a water main break in Tanglewood*



213 water  
break repairs

1,127 water  
service tickets

475 tons  
of leaves collected

650 tons of salt  
on the streets

140 street signs  
installed or replaced

81 patched potholes

# Engineering



From Engineering and Project Manager Rick Kruchten

The Engineering Department experienced several personnel changes in 2025, yet through it all, we remained committed to our mission of providing timely, cost-efficient municipal engineering services to our residents, development partners, and local businesses. We were fortunate to welcome back a 30-year veteran of New Haven Engineering, Tye Campbell, who came out of retirement to help fill critical part-time staffing needs. Additionally, 2025 marked the first full year in their new roles for Jen Basting, Engineering Field Supervisor, and Brook Rutherford, Engineering Technician, following their promotions in 2024.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Engineering Department staff for rising to the challenge of managing an unprecedented number of projects this year. Their dedication ensured that all work met required specifications and aligned with our administration's commitment to delivering "government at the speed of business." The team maintained strong communication with residents affected by construction activities and ensured questions were addressed promptly and professionally.

The Engineering Department continued its close partnership with the Public Works Department to plan and perform maintenance on the city's 84 miles of streets. These efforts included asphalt resurfacing, crack sealing, sidewalk replacement, pothole repair, and lift-station maintenance, among other essential tasks.

Engineering is responsible for inspecting all new infrastructure installed within the city—sanitary sewer, storm sewer,

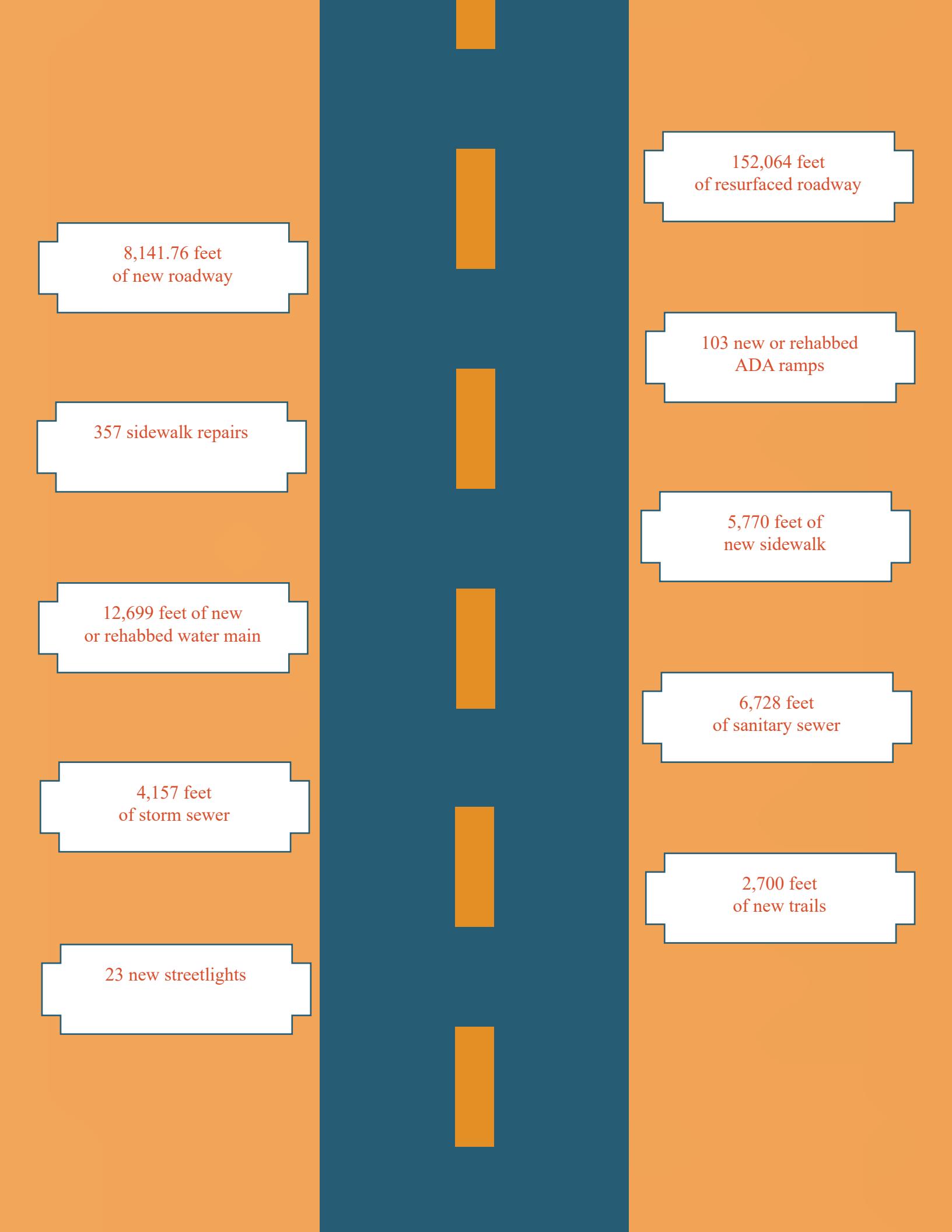
watermain, and street projects. In addition to overseeing new construction, the team conducted infrastructure testing, permit reviews, sewer tap installations, and inspections of new driveway and sidewalk work within the city's right-of-way.

The department also continued its critical role in MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) inspections. This work includes monitoring residential, commercial, and industrial sites for potential pollution sources that could enter the stormwater system and ultimately our riverways. Our city is fortunate to have two certified and highly experienced individuals leading this important inspection and enforcement program.

Significant projects undertaken in 2025 included:

- Completion of two Community Crossings resurfacing projects, covering 87 street segments (28.8 lane miles)
- Edgerton Road Watermain Extension and Booster Station
- Tanglewood Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project
- Lincoln Highway Trail & Streetscape
- A concrete sidewalk and street maintenance project, repairing 279 sidewalk panels and one street panel

Overall, 2025 was an exceptionally busy and rewarding year for the Engineering Department. We look forward to an even more productive and exciting 2026.



8,141.76 feet  
of new roadway

357 sidewalk repairs

12,699 feet of new  
or rehabbed water main

4,157 feet  
of storm sewer

23 new streetlights

152,064 feet  
of resurfaced roadway

103 new or rehabbed  
ADA ramps

5,770 feet of  
new sidewalk

6,728 feet  
of sanitary sewer

2,700 feet  
of new trails

# New Haven - Adams Twp. Parks and Rec



From Director Nick Goranson

As 2025 comes to a close, the New Haven Park Board is proud to look back on a year filled with collaboration, transformative projects, and community-driven momentum. The Parks department was approved a bond in late 2024 which will facilitate the capital funding needed to allow the park dept to update and add amenities that will enhance the spaces provided. Now the Board began the year focused on strategic planning to ensure every dollar would benefit our parks, programs, and the families we serve.

## ***A Year of Growth and Partnerships***

One of the most exciting changes this year was welcoming the 3Rivers Family YMCA into the former Parks Department fitness space. Taking over operations in late March, the YMCA has quickly become a valuable partner and asset to New Haven. We are thrilled to have them in our community.

We also completed the final installment of a \$150,000 grant from AWS, a generous contribution that continues to propel forward the vision for Maryland's Farm Park. In 2025 alone, the grant supported sensory trail development, subbase installation, new fencing, a chicken house, a duck pond, and concrete bases for future structures. Several large trees were also removed to prep the property for its next exciting stages. Our deepest thanks to AWS for their steadfast support of this project.

## ***Improving Parks for All Ages***

Big progress was made across multiple parks this year. The aging and dilapidated Meadowbrook pool house was removed to make room for a brand-new, toddler-focused and inclusive playground—creating a safe, imaginative space for our youngest visitors. Fort Wayne Trails generously funded the power-washing of all boardwalk sections along New Haven's stretch of the river greenway. Their long-standing support helps maintain one of the community's most beloved outdoor assets, and we extend heartfelt appreciation for their continued partnership.

Meanwhile, the New Haven Lions Club had an extraordinary fundraising year, collecting just over \$50,000 through community generosity and a significant contribution from AWS. The Park Board will match these funds, creating a combined total of more than \$100,000 to launch Phase 1 of a fully inclusive playground at Werling Park—our most centrally-located park and soon to be an even more welcoming destination for all.

## ***Facility Upgrades and Infrastructure Investments***

This year also brought meaningful reinvestment into our parks' infrastructure:



- Moser Park will soon receive new, energy-efficient LED baseball field lights, along with major upgrades to the outdated electrical system.
- Bond funding has supported asphalt repairs, modern security systems, and significant restroom improvements at Schnelker, Moser, Jury, Sunnymede, and Havenhurst parks.

These investments ensure our parks remain safe, accessible, and enjoyable for years to come.

### ***Programs That Bring the Community Together***

While major projects were underway, our Parks Department continued delivering the programs and experiences that make New Haven special:

- The LEARN Lunch program continued to provide youth with enriching activities and meals.
- Free crafts and games at Jury, Schnelker, and the Community Center parks remained a family favorite.
- The M3 Farmer's Market set record attendance in July, highlighting strong community engagement.
- Jury Pool enjoyed another successful season as families sought a clean, safe place to cool off throughout the summer.

### ***Navigating Challenges Ahead***

The current SEA 1 guidelines are creating several hurdles that will impact planning and operations in the coming years. However, the Park Board and staff remain committed to meeting these challenges head-on. Our mission is unwavering: to provide Safe, Clean, Fun parks and programs for all who call New Haven home.

### ***Looking Forward***

2025 was a year of energy, progress, and meaningful partnerships. As we look to 2026, we are energized by the improvements underway and deeply grateful for the community support that makes them possible. Together, we are building parks that will enrich lives for generations.

Thank you for being part of the New Haven Parks story. Here's to another great year!

# Planning



From Director Nathan Hooley

In 2025 the Planning Department saw the city expand through residential developments, new commercial, and industrial development. The city's residential growth is still going strong through our 63 new residential permits. Residents are continuing to improve their private properties as seen in the 46 new accessory structures and 13 deck permits. Fences are still a large part of our daily permitting with 65 new fence permits pulled this year.

With the record breaking new single family home permits pulled last year (101) staff has been working diligently with the builders on their occupancies. Three of our residential subdivisions have applied for the last permits within these subdivisions: Riverwalk Section 1, Lakes of Pinestone, and Arbor Park.

In November the city celebrated with Keller Development with the grand opening of Landin Pointe, introducing 50 affordable attached single family residential units. Also along Landin Road the Gateway Apartments have completed 4 of their buildings, consisting of 66 luxury apartments. Ground work has already begun on the next phase which will add 7 new buildings, totaling 112 units for rent. Just to the southeast of Gateway, Riverwalk Section 2 and Riverwalk Villas Section 2 have broken ground and will

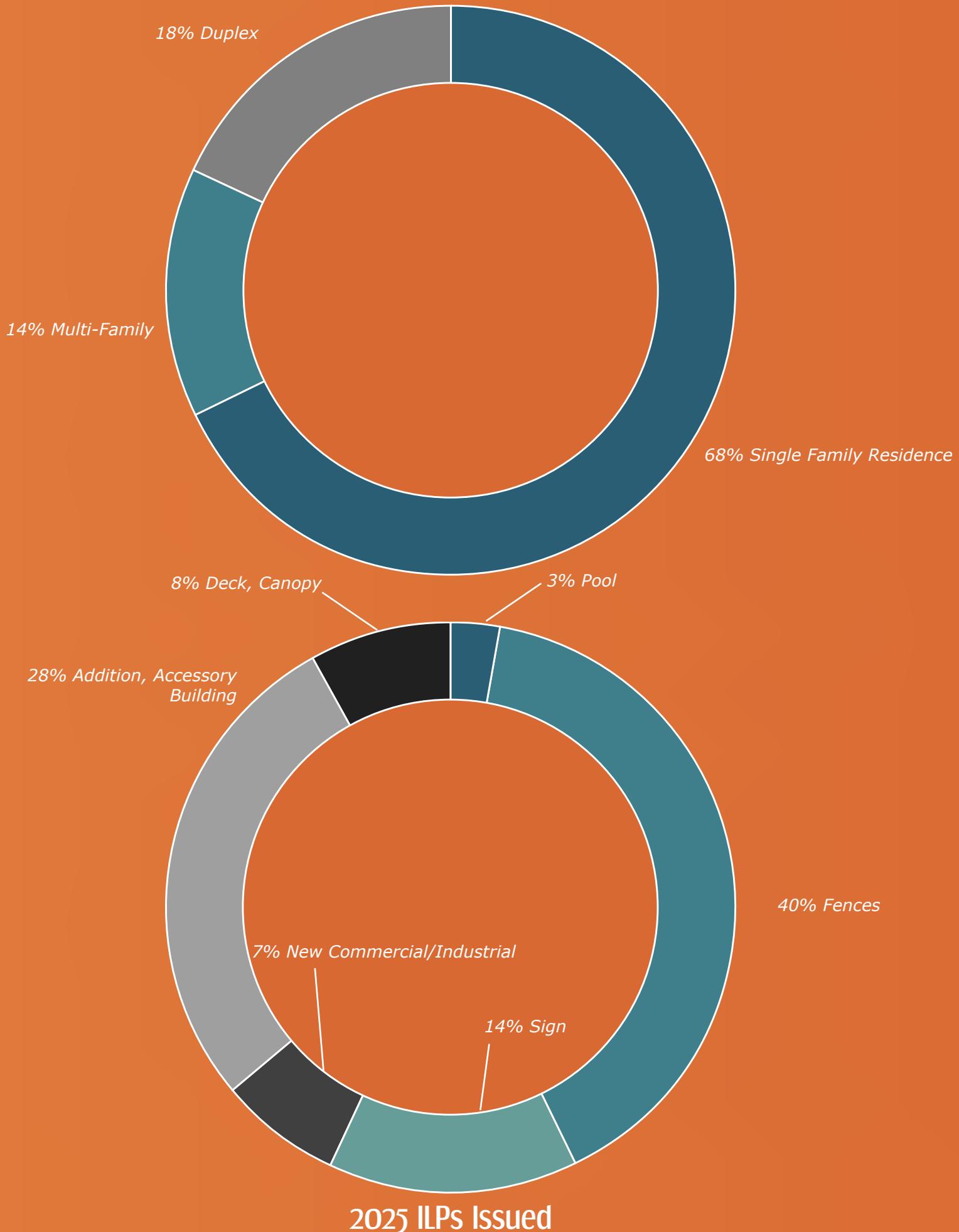
start construction in the Spring of 2026.

Outside the 469 bypass, construction on a new Speedway Truck and Fuel station is underway. This area heavily serves the trucking industry that utilizes US 30 and 469. To accommodate this traffic, the construction of a new RaceTrac Truck and Fuel Center will be breaking ground on the east side of Doyle Road. This area is also seeing industrial growth with Ruble Trucking building three new buildings.

Other big projects the city is looking forward to starting the first half of 2026 are the New Haven District field house which broke ground late 2025 and is anticipated to be open in the Spring of 2027. Along Linden Road and Rose Avenue the Plan Commission has approved three new 160,000 square foot warehouse and distribution buildings. This new development will tie into the CDT Industrial Park to the north.

In anticipation of future development and an increasing need for alternative energies, the city has adopted a new solar ordinance. This ordinance will accommodate industrial businesses that desire having solar energy for their onsite use and is designed to allow the creation of large solar field developments.

# 2025 Home Permits Issued



# Economic Development



From Director Pone Vongphachanh

The City's Economic Development Department experienced a year of remarkable momentum, growth, and strategic investment in 2025—clearly reflecting a true City on the Rise. From new construction and business expansion to transformative planning initiatives, the community demonstrated strong confidence in its future. Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025, the City recorded more than \$50.7 million in total investment, including \$21,722,388 in new residential development; \$13,186,672 in other new residential construction such as mobile homes, townhomes, and multifamily housing; \$19,201,118 in new commercial and industrial projects; and \$16,130,070 in additions and remodels. This high level of activity reflects a strong demand for housing, business space, and reinvestment in existing properties.

Several key initiatives were launched or advanced during the year, laying the groundwork for long-term success. These included the Safe Streets for All program to improve safety and accessibility, the Lincoln Highway Corridor Action Plan to guide corridor revitalization, the creation of a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) to encourage downtown vibrancy, Planner on Demand to expand access to planning expertise, Solar Initiatives to support clean energy development, and Junior Achievement Career Ignite to connect students with real-world career pathways. These efforts represent a strategic investment in infrastructure, workforce development, sustainability, and overall quality of place. The City proudly welcomed a diverse mix of new businesses and developments in 2025, strengthening both the local economy and community amenities. New additions included Baba's Steak and

Lemonade, Gateway Apartments, Keepsake Beads LLC, Landmark Roofing, Rare Plant Collective, Rival Ventures, Story Haven, the 3 Rivers Family YMCA, and 24/30 Surplus. These openings highlight growth across retail, housing, services, wellness, and entrepreneurship.

Throughout the year, the Economic Development Office maintained a high level of proactive engagement with the business community, totaling 1,311 initial contacts. These figures reflect first-point-of-contact interactions only and do not include the many follow-up conversations and ongoing communications that occur as projects and relationships progress. This consistent outreach strengthened relationships with existing businesses while actively positioning the City for new investment opportunities.

Marked by significant investment, expanding businesses, and visionary initiatives, 2025 represents a milestone year for the City's economic advancement. The Economic Development Department will continue to build on this progress through collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development.

The Economic Development Team represents New Haven both locally and beyond state lines, serving on committees and commissions including:

- Economic Development Commission
- Redevelopment Commission
- Greater Fort Wayne Advocacy and Economic Development committees
- NE Indiana Regional Partnership
- Community Development Corporation
- Citilink Board
- Coalition for Advancing Post Secondary Education and Training
- Tourism Master Plan Advisory Council

# Community Development



From Director Zach Washler

The Community Development department continued efforts to engage New Haven residents through platforms like the city website, Activate New Haven, See Click Fix, social media, and CredibleMind.

We were selected as one of six cities to participate in the National League of Cities' Cities of Opportunity Community Engagement Cohort. Through this year-long learning opportunity, we will develop a system of engagement that fosters collaboration between the city and our residents. Cohort team members include both city employees and New Haven residents.

We are collaborating with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) to secure funding for their Guardian Park Project, which seeks to create a pocket park immediately east of City Hall. Since October of 2025, we have secured \$30,000 toward the \$125,000 budget. We continue to work with MYAC and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority to secure a further \$95,000 through "crowd-granting."

In August of 2025, The Community Development Department put out a Community Needs Survey as a way for residents to provide feedback on a series of

questions and topics related to community well-being. Over 300 residents provided feedback on issues across the city including access to food, loneliness, mental health and addiction. Results of the survey will guide future wellness initiatives.

We created two new positions to address city-wide wellness. The Community Health Coordinator will work to address health and wellness issues within the city. The All-Abilities Coordinator will work to make sure that New Haven is a city where everyone can live, work and play. Further, we can now provide car seat safety inspections and instruction on car seat installation for parents, as two staff members are certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

City events were a big hit in 2025! Whether it was packing classic cars on Broadway during Summer Fest, painting the 909 Gathering Place on Patriot Day, or welcoming Santa to Canal Landing at Holiday Homecoming, none of it would have been possible without our sponsors and 34 volunteers.

In 2026, we look forward to continued engagement with the community as we work together with residents to improve the quality of life for everyone who calls New Haven home.



21% increase in the number of residents who receive notifications



**CredibleMind**

- 2344 users
- Three most clicked topics are anxiety, depression, and stress



- 7,038 Followers (+26.8%)
- 18859 Interactions, (+85%)

# Thank You



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