

September/October 2026

Just The Dirt

Custodial & Grounds Newsletter



CUSTODIAL & GROUNDS SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



A Quick Note from Hayley

As we move further into the fall semester, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work happening across our department.

Every day, our teams play an important role in creating and maintaining a safe, beautiful, and clean environment for our university community. Much of that work happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt across campus every single day.

One thing I continue to emphasize is that every person and every position matters. Our success depends on working together, communicating openly, taking ownership of our responsibilities, and supporting one another.

Communication continues to be a priority for me. I will continue sharing department updates and important information through email, so please make it a habit to check your university email regularly. I want everyone to stay informed about what is happening across our department and the initiatives we are working on.

As we prepare for the winter season, we are actively building our snow team! Please keep an eye on your Portal messages for information and opportunities to get involved. If you have questions or are interested in joining the snow team, please reach out to Ron.

We also have several job openings throughout our department. I encourage you to share these opportunities with friends, family, and others who may be interested in joining our team. Our employees are some of our best recruiters, and your help in spreading the word is greatly appreciated!

As I continue settling into this role, I look forward to spending more time with our teams, hearing your ideas, recognizing your accomplishments, and finding ways we can continue improving together.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and the pride you take in serving the University of Michigan. I appreciate all that you do!

~Hayley

Beyond the Office

Gunther and Bruno are soaking up as much of the fall sunshine as they can before the Michigan winter settles in! I have a feeling they're going to miss these sunny afternoons just as much as I will.



CUSTODIAL & GROUNDS SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Spotlight

Happy Custodial Appreciation Day!

Each year, October 2nd marks National Custodial Appreciation Day, an opportunity to celebrate the people whose dedication helps keep our campus clean, safe, and welcoming. This year, departments across campus recognized their custodial teams with gatherings, meals, gifts, and other expressions of appreciation.

As part of that recognition, we are highlighting a few of our Custodians:



Elijah McLean

Elijah McLean, CI, has worked at the University of Michigan for 3 years. His duties rotate among three assignments:

- Light duty consists of emptying trash, recycling, dusting, wiping countertops, cleaning sinks, and disinfecting high-touch areas.
- Restroom duty consists of cleaning and disinfecting restrooms, replenishing toilet paper and paper towels.



**A Celebration on Custodial Appreciation Day
Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!**

Elijah continued...

- Utility consists of transporting recycling gondolas to the dock, cleaning hallways, laboratory floors, the use of large and compact floor-cleaning machines.

Elijah explains, “Custodial work is essential. If we didn’t show up for two days, people would notice immediately.”

He says, “My favorite part of the job is that I enjoy working as a team to accomplish our daily tasks. It feels good to put everything away at the end of the night, knowing you did a fine job.”



CUSTODIAL & GROUNDS SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Jamaarh has been a Custodian II for 4 years and 8 months. His responsibilities include:

- Completing special projects
- Maintaining storage closets
- Cleaning and maintaining equipment
- Inspecting laboratory flooring
- Assisting coworkers with various tasks

“I believe great customer service starts with teamwork. One of the most rewarding parts of my job is completing a project and seeing the customer’s appreciation for the results.” Outside of work, Jamaarh enjoys spending time with his daughters, watching football, and sharing good barbecue with family and friends.



Jamaarh Ward

Brandon has worked as a Custodian II with Custodial Services for four years. His responsibilities include general cleaning, floor care, trash removal, and special projects, such as carpet cleaning and cleaning locker rooms and restrooms using Kaivac equipment.

Before joining Custodial Services, Brandon worked in a kitchen, where he learned firsthand how challenging it can be to maintain a clean workplace without a dedicated team. He understands that custodians play an essential role in keeping buildings safe, sanitary, and welcoming.

One of his favorite benefits is paid time off, which allows him to spend time with family and take care of personal needs without losing income. Outside of work, Brandon enjoys gaming, movies, anime, comics, and fishing. Having weekends off also gives him time to attend church and participate in community charity activities.



Brandon Deventer

“I believe the University of Michigan is a great place to work, offering good pay, supportive supervisors, and excellent benefits. Custodial staff make a meaningful difference every day by helping create a clean, safe, and healthy environment for everyone.”



October is Mental and Emotional Health Month

What is mental and emotional health?

Mental & Emotional Wellness:

Mental and emotional health affects how we think, feel, and handle life's challenges. Just as we care for our physical health, taking care of our emotional well-being helps us manage stress, build healthy relationships, and navigate change. Small daily habits can make a big difference!

Wellness Tip: Take five minutes today to pause, take a few deep breaths, stretch, or connect with someone you trust. A small moment of self-care can help you feel refreshed and ready to take on the day.

Campus employees can contact the Faculty and Staff Counseling and Consultation Office at (734) 936-8660 or email fascoco@umich.edu

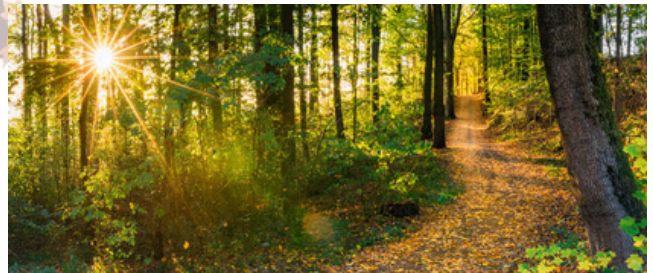
or

Scan this QR Code to for more information.



CUSTODIAL & GROUNDS SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Register for the Reconnect and Recharge: Nature's Role in Mental Health Webinar



Join Dr. Todd Sevig for an interactive 30-minute presentation on practical ways to bring nature into your life.

- Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026
- Time: 12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.
- Location: Free Virtual Webinar via Zoom

Can the QR Code for more information.



There are Nature RX Day Events:

In-person Events:

- Nature Walk: The Resiliency of Oaks in the Nichols Arboretum
- Outdoor Nature Activity with Adventure Leadership
- Afternoon Fika with Marsal Family School of Education
- Panel on Reducing Stress & Restoring Attention
- Art in the Arb



CGS Connect presents: The Maize & Blue Cupboard Food Drive!

This year, CGS Connect is hosting a food drive to support community members experiencing food insecurity throughout the year. Please consider donating items from the list below to support Maize and Blue Cupboard, which serves U-M students with a valid U-M ID.

Most-Needed Items:

- Canned fruits and vegetables (low-sodium or no added sugar)
- Canned meats, seafood, beans, and hearty soups
- Dried pasta, rice, oatmeal, and whole grains
- Cooking sauces, broth, and baking supplies
- Cereal, nondairy milk, and culturally inclusive foods
- Herbs, spices, and shelf-stable cooking oils

Donation Guidelines: All donations must be unopened, in their original packaging, properly labeled, and in good condition. Fresh produce should be whole and free of mold or spoilage. Expired items cannot be accepted.

Want to Help More? To learn about volunteer opportunities or other ways to support Maize and Blue Cupboard, email maize.blue.cupboard@umich.edu or visit mbc.studentlife.umich.edu.

Every donation makes a difference.
Thank you for helping support our U-M community!



CUSTODIAL & GROUNDS SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Food Drive

**November 30th -
December 10th**

Please take your donation of food items to your supervisor's office between **November 30, 2026 - December 10, 2026**.
The day of our Holiday event.

CGS Connect Welcomes New Members!

**Dawn Schulz
Francy Cuellar Miller
Jose Zavala
Eric Oaks
Tammy Chapman
Natacha Tosta Castillo
Tatiana Herrera**

Earthfest Celebrates Sustainability During Climate Week



Each year during Climate Week, Earthfest is a highlight! This year, attendees enjoyed a variety of activities featuring 45 student groups, University of Michigan departments, and community participants.

Activities ranged from meeting animal ambassadors to planting trees, with plenty of opportunities to learn about sustainability. Guests also enjoyed seed giveaways and compost to help get their gardens started.

Our Grounds Department played an active role this year by planting a tree in the Diag and distributing seed packets featuring Michigan-native grasses and flowers. The team also demonstrated the autonomous mower, showcasing how this innovative tool helps maintain challenging areas that can be difficult for team members to access.

Climate Week united the U-M campus and local community to exchange ideas, discover solutions, and showcase sustainability efforts. The week highlighted the university's wide-ranging initiatives and the collaboration driving positive environmental change.

Earthfest is organized by the Office of Campus Sustainability and Innovation.



Safety In 60 Seconds: Stay Aware, Stay Safe!

Whether you're cleaning a building, maintaining our grounds, responding to pest concerns, or walking between meetings, staying aware of your surroundings is one of the simplest ways to prevent injuries.

As the seasons change, so do the hazards around us. Wet leaves, slippery surfaces, changing weather conditions, equipment, and even everyday distractions can create unexpected risks.

A few seconds of awareness can prevent an injury:

- Look ahead: Watch for changing surfaces, obstacles, and potential hazards.
- Stay focused: Avoid distractions, especially when walking, driving, or operating equipment.
- Speak up: Report unsafe conditions and address hazards when it is safe to do so.
- Look out for one another: If you see something that could put a coworker or member of our university community at risk, take action.

Safety isn't just something we practice while performing our jobs. It's a responsibility we share every day.

Remember: Take a moment. Recognize the risk. Make the safe choice.



Custodian II Job #284298

Custodian I Job # 272485

Pest Management Supervisor Job #280943

Compliance Coordinator Job # 284538

Custodial Senior Supervisor Job #284044



CUSTODIAL & GROUNDS SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1, 2026.

- When: Saturday night, October 31, before you go to bed.
- What to do: Turn your clocks back one hour.
- At 2:00 a.m. Sunday, the time changes back to 1:00 a.m.
- The good news: You get an extra hour of sleep!
- The downside: It will get darker earlier in the evening.

Your phones and computers should update automatically, but you may need to adjust clocks on appliances, cars, and older watches manually.

So remember:
Fall back on November 1! 

SAVE THE DATE

FLANNEL FEST

DECEMBER 10, 2026

6:30AM–8:30AM

10:30AM–12:30PM

6:30PM–8:30PM



CUSTODIAL & GROUNDS SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN





CGS Anniversaries



40-45 Years of Service

GLUSKI, MARY
THOMPSON, JEFFREY
WILLIAMS, CHARLEAN

30-35 Years of Service

CROSS, WILLIAM
DONNER, COLETTE
RAYMOND, NITA

25-30 Years of Service

BLACK, CHARISSE
DOLETZKY, ROBERT
FUQUA, GREGORY
STILTNER, DARRYL

20-25 Years of Service

ANDERSON, LINDA
CARPENTER, DERRICK
GEY, GAIL
GRIEVE, MICHELLE
NEWSOM, ERIC

15-20 Years of Service

MILLER, VERSHAWN
PRIVETT, RICHARD
SCHWANNEKE, JOHN
WELLS, DENNIS
MULLALLY, PENNY
CASTILLO TERRAZA,
MAYRA
TILLISON, EMANUEL
ZIELINSKI, DEBRA

10-15 Years of Service

ACUNA, DANILO
BROOKS, PATRICK
BUTLER, LILIAN CANDY,
JOHN
CATT, DENISE
CHRISTENSEN, VERONIC
MILES, DONOVAN
VICTORIO, ROGELIO

5-10 Years of Service

ENGLISH JR, ROBERT
GRANT, JAMES

5-10 Years of Service continued

HOWELL, STEVEN
MEREDITH, ANDREW
SUTPHIN, JONATHAN
THOMPSON, DOROTHY
VILLALOBOS, WILLIAM
ATTIA, WAFIK
BILE, HALIMA
BROWN, DANYELLE
BROWN, GERMAIN
COOPER, MEGAN
DENSKI, DEREK
GRAY, DONALD
HONEYCUTT, GARY
LARA-MARTINEZ, VIRIDIANA
MCGEE, QUANTINA NAVARRETE,
DIGNA
WADE, DARIUS
WARD, AMELITA

5 Years of Service and Under

ALBAUGH, REBECCA ALDRIDGE,
MARIAH
ALLEN, BLAISE
ANGALIA, CHIMENE
BELYEW, DONALD
BOMBACH, JASON
BRIEGER, JOSHUA
BROWN, KYNTHEA
BUKASA, JOYEUX
CHANDLER, ZACHARY
CROWDER, THERESA
DAVIS, JONATHAN
DEDNAM, SAMUEL
DEVENTER, BRANDON
DEVER, BRET
EDWARDS, MICHAEL ENRIQUEZ,
JANET
FORTSON, MARKELL
FRAZIER, MATTHEW
GARNICA AGUILERA, JUANA
GIBSON, ALEXIS
GLASPIE, CARL

5 Years of Service and Under

HERNANDEZ, MARITZA
HUTTON, TYJUANTAY INGRAM
II, ANTHONY
IROHA, PETER
ISMAIL, FADUMO
JACKSON, DWIGHT JACKSON,
SHANIQUEA JONES, TIFFANY
KAUFFMAN, MITCHELL KLEIN,
MATTHEW
LANGAN, RYAN
LAPINSKI, ZACHARY
LEE, TAI-TSENG
LEWIS, JADE
LUNA, ANDERSON
MARTIN, SHAWN
MAYRA, SEAN
MCQUEEN, MILEDIS
MINER, BYRON
MOON, JAMES
MOSSING, NICHOLAS
NELSON, KASEY
NIKODEM, KAREN
OPSOMMER, ROBERT PAILAN,
JEJASMIN PAREDES, DIEGO
RAMEY, CHRISTOPHER
RUSSELL, SELINA
SAVILLE, RYAN
SELM, SEAN
STOVALL, RAVEN
SUTTON, KRISTINA
SWANIGAN, TERRY
SZYDLOWSKI, CATHLEEN
WILLIAMS, KAREN (WARREN)
WILLIAMS, TAYLOR WILLINGS,
HANNAH WOODRUFF,
WILLIAM WRIGHT-JONES,
JASON

