

INTRODUCTION

The authors of [*title here*] have all been residents of downtown Ann Arbor long enough to appreciate not only its considerable pleasures and advantages but also the problems and frustrations of living in this, or any other, vibrant urban area. This handbook, a joint venture of the Downtown Development Authority and its Citizens Advisory Council, is intended to help enhance the downtown experience on all counts.

Ann Arbor's downtown features four unique shopping areas—Main Street, State Street, South University and Kerrytown—as well as the central campus of the University of Michigan and the administrative offices of the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. Downtown is also a center for the performing and visual arts, night life, music, and wining and dining.

Downtown's approximately 3,000 residents include graduate and undergraduate students, corporate executives, educators, doctors, lawyers, artists, retirees and just plain folks, living in everything from one-room apartments to pricey lofts and condos. Many residents of the attractive nearby historic neighborhoods also consider themselves downtowners. And why not? They, too, are only a short walk from the pleasures of urban living, and we trust this handbook will assist them, as well. This handbook aims to identify and facilitate access to the downtown's services, resources and opportunities, and is intended to be selective rather than encyclopedic. We hope you find it useful, informative and enjoyable.

ESSENTIALS

Grocery, meat and produce sources include:

Ann Arbor Farmers' Market, adjacent to Kerrytown Shops, 994-3276: local produce, flowers and baked goods sold by the producers at an attractive outdoor market every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., plus Wednesdays during the growing season. On Sundays, this same location hosts a crafts bazaar.

Kerrytown Shops, bounded by North Fourth and Fifth avenues and Catherine and Kingsley streets: high-quality meat, beer and wine, produce and fish markets, with old-fashioned intimacy and service.

Knight's Market, 420 Miller Ave. at Spring Street, 665-6494: excellent meat market, now offering groceries, paper and plastic goods, produce dairy and frozen products.

Zingerman's Deli, 422 Detroit St. at Kingsley Street, 663-3354: imported cheeses, pasta, olive oil, cold cuts, and more, plus a world-famous "Ann Arbor experience."

People's Food Cooperative, 216 N. Fourth Ave., between Catherine and Ann streets, 994-9174: organic and conventional produce, groceries, bulk spices and grains, frozen foods, freshly prepared entrees at mid-day and evening daily.

South Main Market, 609 S. Main St.: a "mini-mall" whose stores offer wine, beer, cheese, produce, baked goods, bulk foods, sandwiches and a salad bar.

Village Corner, 601 S. Forest Ave., 995-1818: arguably Michigan's finest wine store, it also carries packaged grocery items, patent medicines, and newspapers and periodicals.

White Market, 609 E. William St., between State and Maynard streets, 663-4253: full line of groceries, meats, dairy and frozen foods. Delivery service is available for downtown residents.

There are also several beverage, party and deli stores that offer a limited supply of grocery items.

Pharmacies and drug stores, while not as plentiful, include:

The Prescription Shop, 423 E. Washington St., between Division and State streets, 662-3143, 663-1129 for emergencies: full prescription service, invalid supplies and a limited inventory of over-the-counter drugs and health care products.

Village Apothecary, 1112 S. University Ave., between East University and Forest Avenues, 663-5533, 769-0666: full prescription service and health care products.

AMENITIES

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., 994-8004. The third oldest arts organization in the state, the center offers hands-on art education, art appreciation programs, and exhibitions, as well as year-round programs and classes for kids and a camp program during the summer.

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave., 327-4200. Centrally located and technologically up-to-date, it features an excellent youth department, impressive video and DVD collections, many lecture series, evening programs, story hours, and the Friends of the Library's weekend used bookstore. A must-see, must-use resource. (See KID STUFF, p. xx, for information on the Youth Department and Young Adult Section.)

Ann Arbor YMCA, 350 S. Fifth Ave., corner of East William Street, 213-8582. A fabulous resource for downtown residents, the Y's offerings include yoga classes, a place to swim, and one of the community's best locations for affordable, quality child care.

Clements Library, 909 S. University Ave., 764-2347. This small, elegant building houses materials pertaining to U.S. history from the voyages of Columbus to 1950.

Exhibits are free and open to the public, but use of the collection is limited to those engaged in research.

Ecology Resource Center, 117 N. Division St., 761-3186. This specialized, non-circulating (except for videos) collection includes periodicals as well as books.

Exhibit Museum of Natural History, 1109 Geddes Ave., 764-0478. Informative displays on subjects ranging from whales to wildlife to Native American communities. Some of the shows at its planetarium (\$3 admission) are tailored, or of interest, to children.

Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, adjoining the Diag on central campus, 764-0400. This University of Michigan facility houses extraordinarily rich and diverse collections, with stacks (though not borrowing privileges) open to the public. The latest technology and a capable reference desk staff help answer all questions. Housed in the same building are rare book, map and other special collections. Next door is the ...

Harold T. and Vivian B. Shapiro Library, commonly known as the UGLI (an acronym, of sorts, for Undergraduate Library). It's also open to the public but emphasizes materials related to undergraduate courses and reserve shelves as per faculty requests.

Historical Street Exhibits, throughout downtown (see map on p. xx). Vintage photographs, complemented by informative texts and displayed in elegant frames, depict Ann Arbor's history. Let the exhibit sites determine your route or look for them as you walk around downtown.

Kelsey Museum of Archeology, 434 S. State St., 764-9304. Permanent displays of Greek, Roman, Egyptian and Near Eastern artifacts augmented by exhibits drawing on items from the Kelsey's collections or on loan from other museums.

Kempf House, 312 S. Division St., 994-4898. Built in 1853, this Greek Revival house is now a museum and local history center. Visitors are welcome to tour it with a guide and learn about Ann Arbor history and the Victorian period. Special events are scheduled throughout the year.

Law Library, 801 Monroe St., 764-9324. The older section is a medieval-style gem, and the design of the newer underground facility enables it to receive natural light and renders it a campus showpiece. The university's usual rules about open stacks and restricted borrowing privileges apply to its specialized collection.

Liberty Plaza, southwest corner of East Liberty and South Division streets. This downtown oasis is located halfway between State and Main streets. Tables, seating and a drinking fountain were installed in 2003 and make it a good place for consuming take-out sandwiches and salads, specialties from nearby vendors, or a bring-your-own lunch. (See KID STUFF, p. xx, for information on the summertime Magic Carpet Mornings program.)

Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., 763-UMMA (763-8662). The University's museum houses one of the finest university art collections in the country and the second largest art collection in the state. Its rich and diverse permanent collection is supplemented by a lively, provocative series of special exhibitions and a full complement of interpretive programs.

Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main St., 662-9092. This mid-19th century residence, maintained and operated by the Washtenaw County Historical Society, affectionately showcases articles and artifacts of everyday life 150 years ago. Themed exhibits change regularly and feature such items as wedding dresses, children's toys, and advertising posters. There's a small but pleasing gift shop. Hours are variable so it's best to check.

PERENNIALS

Ann Arbor Art Fairs: For four days in July (usually the third Wednesday through Saturday), this quartet of al fresco extravaganzas lures close to half a million visitors to a downtown that is largely reserved for them. For residents of that downtown, this necessitates patience, strategizing routine activities, and being a good sport.

Fourth of July Parade: It begins on State Street, works its way west on Liberty to Main, then south on Main to William and east on William to return to State again. Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Jaycees, it includes just what you'd expect and just what it should: clowns, floats, music, politicians, antique cars, and candies tossed to kids lining the curb.

Midnight Madness/Moonlight Madness: A remnant of the days when downtown retailers closed their doors at 5 p.m., these sales events are generally held the first Friday of December and May, and promote the opportunity to shop later in the evening.

Moving Sculpture on Main Street: Hundreds of restored classic cars and their owners take over most of the Main Street area, usually on the second Friday in July. Visit the Main Street Area Association's web site at www.mainstreetannarbor.org for more information.

Taste of Ann Arbor: Main Street becomes an outdoor food court on the first Sunday in June as restaurants and food shops in the greater Ann Arbor area share their wares in bite-size samples. Live entertainment and kids' activities are also featured. The event is free, although the food isn't.

Top of the Park, atop the Fletcher Street parking structure at the eastern terminus of Washington Street, 647-2278: Truly fun for the whole family: Music, dance and movies are offered free of charge, and plenty of food is available at concession stands operated by the best local vendors. Every evening from mid-June through early July, as part of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival.

ANNOYANCES

Abandoned bicycles: The police department may impound bicycles if they are believed to be stolen or have been left unattended for more than 48 hours in any public sidewalk, alley or street. You can call the police department at 994-2875 to request the removal of an abandoned bicycle. Police may dispose of impounded bicycles unclaimed after one month at public sale.

Dog droppings: The City Code specifies that a ticket can be issued if a dog (except for leader dogs for the blind) discharges its feces on property other than that of its owner and the owner does not immediately remove them. Contact the police department's non-emergency desk at 994-2911

Excessive noise: City ordinance prohibits “unreasonably loud, disturbing, unusual, or unnecessary noise which annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others within the limits of the City of Ann Arbor.” Additionally, between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., “activities that create clearly audible sound beyond the property line on which they are conducted” are prohibited. Don't get your hopes up, however. Current police practice is to ticket noise violations only when the decibel level exceeds the maximum prescribed in the code. This can require one call to the police (994-2911) to report a noise concern and a second call from the responding officer to headquarters to request a decibel meter. Police are also sometimes reluctant to enforce these provisions in the downtown for fear that they will be viewed as a hardship to business. It might be helpful to let them, and your elected representatives, know that enforcing the code in a way that favors business over residential needs ultimately hurts the downtown.

Impassable sidewalks: The owner of the adjacent property is the responsible party. All snow and ice which has accumulated by 6 a.m. on a public sidewalk next to a commercial enterprise must be removed by noon the same day, and any ice accumulation must be treated with sand, salt or some other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Owners of residential property get a little more slack: they have 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of more than an inch of snow to remove it; ice must be treated and removed within 24 hours of its formation. Call 994-2818 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to report violations. The city code states that “at least six feet of sidewalk space shall be kept clean and clear for the free passage of pedestrians.” If any objects (newspaper vending boxes, sidewalk tables) or persons appear to be in violation of this requirement, contact the Ann Arbor Police Department Non-Emergency Desk at 994-2911 or the City Snow Desk at 994-2359.

Panhandlers: The city has rules about this, too. Even though solicitations, including panhandling solicitations, are considered speech—and therefore entitled to protection under the First Amendment - governments are permitted to regulate such speech in time, place and manner if it is tailored to achieve a significant government interest and doesn't

ban solicitation entirely. In Ann Arbor, solicitation of any kind is banned from private property unless the owner permits it, from public transportation and facilities, from parking structures, and from a person who is in a vehicle on the street. Solicitors may not block pedestrian or vehicular traffic, solicit within 10 feet of a bank or automated teller, move to within two feet of the person solicited, follow him or her down the street, or solicit in a manner that intimidates, threatens or harasses the person being solicited. Enforcing these regulations is pretty much up to you. While police officers can act to stop panhandlers when they see them violating legal space limitations, only you can determine whether you are intimidated, threatened or harassed. You can also help by not giving them money, and donating to a social service agency instead.

Unightly property: The City Code requires all exterior property areas to be “maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free from any accumulation of rubbish, garbage, and other offensive or hazardous material.” This is the responsibility of the property owner or current occupant. The city’s “Clean Community Program” has a 24-hour phone line, 99-GREEN (994-7336). Calling to report a problem initiates an inspection from a city code enforcement officer. Violators are served a written notice and have 48 hours to correct the problem, lest the city clean up the site at a minimum cost to the offender of \$70. Any site with more than three valid Clean Community complaints within a year will be assessed a fine of \$200-500.

KID STUFF

Families with small children are scarce among downtown residents, but there’s plenty for kids to see and do here. In planning an outing, keep in mind the new “Link” downtown circulator (see page x). Service hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday. There’s a bus about every eight to 10 minutes at each of 24 stops. The fare is 25 cents for adults, 10 cents for K-12 kids, free for those younger than five, and it serves most of the locations described here.

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., 994-8004. Year-round programs and classes for kids and a camp program during the summer. (see AMENITIES, p. xx.)

Ann Arbor District Library Youth Department, 343 S. Fifth Ave., 327-4200. In addition to a large collection of books and impressive on-line resources, youngsters will enjoy an elaborate doll house, a giant aquarium, tables for quiet activities (materials are provided) and upholstered sofas. The staff is experienced and helpful. Story hours for toddlers and pre-schoolers are frequent and generally excellent.

Ann Arbor Fire Department, North Fifth Avenue Station, across from City Hall, 997-1519. Good relations with the public are a Fire Department tradition and Ann Arbor’s fire fighters go out of their way to engage kids who visit. If you are lucky enough to stop by at the right time, an impressively uniformed member of the department will show you a fire truck, oversee a climb to the driver’s seat, and explain the basics of fire safety and prevention. Tours of the fire station can be arranged by calling in advance.

Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum, 220 E. Ann St., next door to the Fire Department, 995-5437 for recorded information. The museum has three floors of interactive science exhibits to dazzle, delight and instruct. The documentation tends to be over the heads of most visitors (adults included) but pushing buttons and turning wheels as indicated bring remarkable results. There's a nice little shop with a broad range of prices, and the museum calendar includes special events, classes and exhibits. Admission is charged.

Carillon at Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave., 662-5008. At noon on market Saturdays, kids get just enough instruction to allow them to ring the bells with a sense of achievement.

Exhibit Museum of Natural History, 1109 Geddes Ave., 764-0478. (see AMENITIES, p. xx).

Historical Street Exhibits, throughout downtown (see AMENITIES, p. xx.)

Kelsey Museum of Archeology, 434 S. State St., 764-9304. (see AMENITIES, p. xx.)

Magic Carpet Mornings are held from 10 to 11 a.m. on seven consecutive Wednesdays in July and August at Liberty Plaza, southwest corner of East Liberty and South Division streets. These events feature stories, music and performances for preschoolers. There is no charge, and every family who attends gets a new, free book to take home. For information on this program, call Youth Services at 327-8301.

Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., 763-UMMA (763-8662). Not really designed for children, but that doesn't mean it can't be worthwhile. Occasionally presents kid-oriented programs—story tellers, concerts, plays—in its apse. (see AMENITIES, p. xx.)

Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main St., 662-9092. (see AMENITIES, p. xx.)

“The Cube,” located in Regents Plaza on the U-M campus, one-half block west of South State Street, between the Michigan Union and the Fleming Administration Building. This huge cube of black steel balances on one corner and responds to a gentle shove by obedient rotation. Gives kids a great sense of power!

GETTING AROUND

An excellent map of the downtown is available free of charge at the Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau, 120 W. Huron St. at North Ashley Street.

On foot

The *Washtenaw Whig* of October 20, 1847 reported that “sidewalks of major streets must have a width of 12 to 14 feet, sidewalks of lesser streets must have a width of 10 feet, and no projection may extend in to more than 1/2 the width of the walkway.” Violators were

subject to a \$25 fine (the equivalent of \$481 today!). While the penalties are less onerous now, the basic principle remains the same: You have the right to a clear sidewalk, free of snow and other obstructions (see ANNOYANCES, p. xx).

You also have the right to be safe from assault or improper advances by another, and from injury by a motor or non-automotive vehicle. Although you have the right of way over vehicles in marked crosswalks and when crossing with the light at a signaled intersection, don't lower your guard. These rules are rarely enforced and drivers routinely ignore them, just as they often fail to stop when entering a street from an alley or driveway, which is also mandatory. If you encounter a signal out of position, or any other signal defect, you are encouraged to report it to the Public Services Department Signs and Signals office at 994-1619.

By bus

The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority operates a broad network of bus routes throughout the city. The fare is \$1, but a variety of passes—Flex, Value, Liberty, go!Pass, UM/AATA and Student Semester—make taking the bus even more affordable. Discounts are also available with AATA-issued IDs for seniors and the disabled. Route maps, schedules and fare information are available at the Blake Transit Center, 331 S. Fourth Ave., or at www.aata.org.

The AATA also operates the “Link” downtown circulator, serving the Main Street, Kerrytown, State Street, South University and U-M main campus areas and their parking structures. There's a bus about every eight to 10 minutes at each of 24 stops, and it costs 25 cents (K-12 kids are a dime and under-fives are free).

The University of Michigan blue buses are free of charge for all community members—not just U-M staff or students—and serve the central, north, and south campuses, as well as the U-M Medical Center. Many blue bus stops are shared by AATA, making transfers easy.

By bicycle

Operation of non-motorized vehicles, including bicycles, is permitted on city sidewalks, except where posted. Please use care and consideration—by walking your bike, for example—in congested areas, and remember that all traffic signals and regulations apply to bicycles and motor vehicles alike.

PARKING

One of the many advantages of living downtown is that you can easily get to most of your destinations by foot, bicycle, or public transportation. Although it is possible to live

downtown without a car, most residents have them, and so do their guests, and they all need a place to park.

Alley parking: The city code makes it unlawful for a vehicle to park or stand in a public alley unless it is actively loading or unloading. In the downtown area, anyone driving a vehicle that is exiting an alley or driveway to enter a street should come to a complete stop and sound its horn before crossing the sidewalk. Call Parking Enforcement at 994-2908 to report violations.

Bicycles: These must be parked only at a bicycle rack or in a bicycle storage area and, when parked, they must not interfere with any pedestrians or with motor vehicle traffic or access to motor vehicles.

Handicapped parking: Stickers permitting access to these spaces in both parking structures and surface lots are issued by the Secretary of State's office. There is no fee, but your doctor has to complete (and sign) the application. If your disability is time-limited, so is your entitlement to the use of such spaces.

Loading zones: A curb loading zone may be used by a commercially licensed vehicle for the length of time necessary to unload and deliver or pick up and load materials, goods or merchandise, during hours when loading zones are in effect. A non-commercial vehicle not bearing a handicapped sticker that is actively loading or unloading occupants or objects may stand in a curb loading zone provided that the standing vehicle does not obstruct traffic or hinder a commercial vehicle's access to that curb loading zone. An individual with severe ambulatory disability can obtain a sticker from the city clerk to be affixed to the rear window of a vehicle owned by the disabled individual or a member of his or her immediate family, or an individual who customarily transports the disabled individual. A vehicle displaying such a sticker is allowed to park in a curb loading zone for up to 30 minutes while the impaired individual uses an adjacent establishment.

Long-term parking permits: One of these will allow you to park in a particular structure or lot but does not reserve a particular space, and you may not get into the structure nearest you. Call the Downtown Development Authority at 994-6697 to get on a waiting list for the limited number that are available. The list is long but some loft residents get priority. The current fee is \$105 a month.

Meter bags: For a fee and a deposit, metered parking spaces can be reserved for the delivery of materials or equipment at residences undergoing renovations, for the use of moving vans or trucks, and for private occasions such as weddings. Businesses can also temporarily reserve spaces for construction access or other needs. For information call Republic Parking at 761-7235.

Residential Permit Program Areas: Be careful to check for signs indicating the need to move your car on certain days of the week or on snow days. Improperly parked cars may be towed. Also, posted signs in certain neighborhoods may indicate a time limit on parking. Residents of those neighborhoods can buy permits that allow them to disregard

the limit, but cars without a permit will be ticketed. This program is designed to improve parking availability for neighborhood residents by encouraging parking turnover and eliminating all-day parking by non-residents on designated neighborhood streets. Call 994-2818 for more information.

Short-term parking: Use an attended structure or surface lot, or park at a street meter. Time limits for metered spots vary from 30 minutes to four hours. Whatever the limit is, you can't exceed it even if you deposit more money. On the other hand, meters only have to be fed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, so evenings and Sundays are free. Be careful to check the street signs if you intend to park all night. Parking on streets throughout downtown is prohibited during certain early-morning hours to allow for maintenance.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Living downtown puts you only a short walk from City Hall, at the northeast corner of North Fifth Avenue and East Huron Street, where almost all city government offices and the Police Department are located. Call 994-2700 to get departments, names and numbers. Feel free to write or, better still, visit any city office. Staffers are generally well informed and helpful, but you can also make an appointment to see anyone—including the mayor, the city administrator, city council members, and department heads. Your voice will be heard. This is a citizen-friendly city.

Ann Arbor City Council is comprised of two members from each of five wards, plus the mayor. All serve two-year terms that are staggered so that half the seats become open every year. The entire downtown is in either the First or Fifth wards. Lawmaking, policy development, taxation and budgeting are council tasks. The mayor presides over and has a vote in council meetings, has veto power on most council actions and, subject to council approval, appoints members of boards and commissions.

The Ann Arbor City Charter provides for a “strong-administrator” form of government. The mayor and council appoint a full-time city administrator who runs the day-to-day operations of the city according to policies established by council and provided for in the city charter. Among the city administrator’s duties are budget-making, coordinating the work of the various departments and developing new programs.

Council meetings are the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. on the second floor of City Hall. You can speak at scheduled public hearings, or sign up or phone the City Clerk’s Office (994-2725) at 8 a.m. on council meeting days to get one of eight four-minute spots reserved for public commentary at the beginning of each session. The public may also address council at the end of meetings without signing up in advance. You can leave questions or comments for members on the council message line at 994-3313. Meetings are telecast live on Community Access Television’s Channel 16, and repeated twice each week.

For a more personal discussion with the mayor and council as a group, attend the council caucuses at 7 p.m. on Sundays preceding Council sessions. These are held on the second floor of the Ann Arbor Fire Department station located across North Fifth Avenue from City Hall.

For concise information on all aspects of city government, and lots of other useful local lore, get a copy of *Current* magazine's Ann Arbor Guide (668-4044) or the *Ann Arbor Observer* City Guide (769-3175). Both are free to downtown residents.

ABOUT THE DDA

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was established for a 30-year term by the Ann Arbor City Council in 1982. In 2003, its mandate was extended to 2033. Its mission is to undertake public improvements that have the greatest impact in strengthening the downtown area and attracting new private investments. It works within a formally defined downtown area (See map, page x). The state legislation that created DDAs also provided for the creation of a Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) to insure that the needs of downtown residents were heard. The CAC provides feedback on DDA policies and programs. The CAC's chair attends all DDA meetings and makes sure that the DDA is informed of residents' views on matters being considered by the larger body.

CAC members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. For more information about the CAC or becoming a member, contact Ray Detter, 120 N. Division St., Ann Arbor 48104 or via e-mail to rdetter@umich.edu. Downtown residents can also get involved in issues that affect them by joining residential and business groups such as the Old Fourth Ward, Old West Side, State Street Area and Main Street Area associations.

WEB SITES

Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau (www.annarbor.org)

Ann Arbor News (www.mlive.com/aanews)

Ann Arbor Observer (www.arborweb.com)

City of Ann Arbor (www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us)

The Making of Ann Arbor (<http://moaa.aadl.org>)

Washtenaw County (www.ewashtenaw.org)