



POPULATION:
23,187 (2020 CENSUS)

**ADVANCED METERING
INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI)**

Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Georgia  CITY-COUNTY
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

1



Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

- Replaced 34,000 manually read meters with advanced AMI meters to improve utility accuracy, efficiency, and reliability for water, gas, and electric services.
- Enabled remote meter monitoring, with real-time flow, leak, outage, and pressure detection, improving response times and service reliability.






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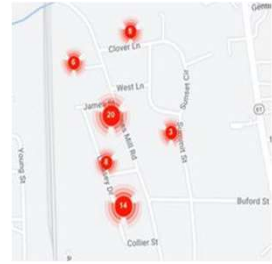
Georgia  CITY-COUNTY
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

2



Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

- Electric Department Control Center receives notifications when we have power outages and isolates the impacted customer locations.



3



Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

- Attributed to the identification of an average of 120% more electric tampering and theft cases than pre-AMI.

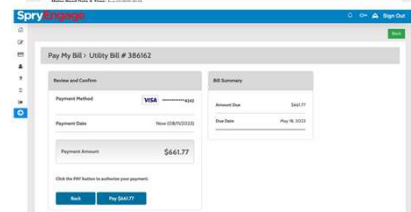
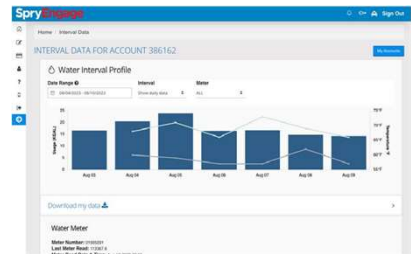
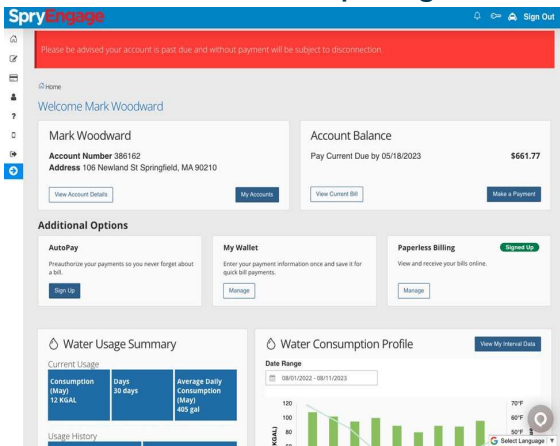


4



Customer Portal

- Developed a customer portal providing residents and businesses the ability to monitor usage, receive notifications, and pay bills online, improving convenience and transparency.





TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES THROUGH FOOD

THE STORY OF THE FOOD MILL SHARED KITCHEN

Presented by : Robert Scott

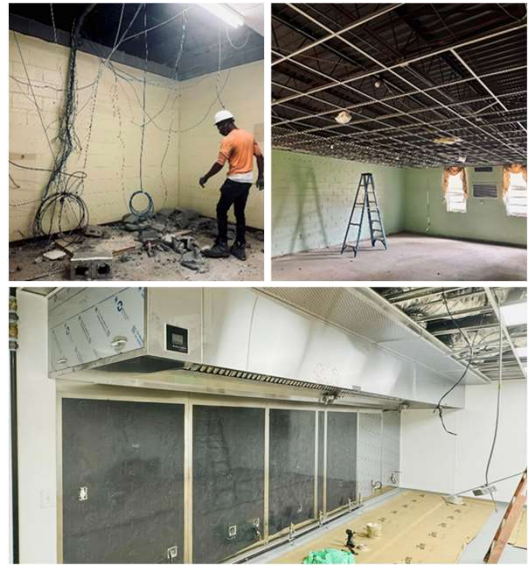


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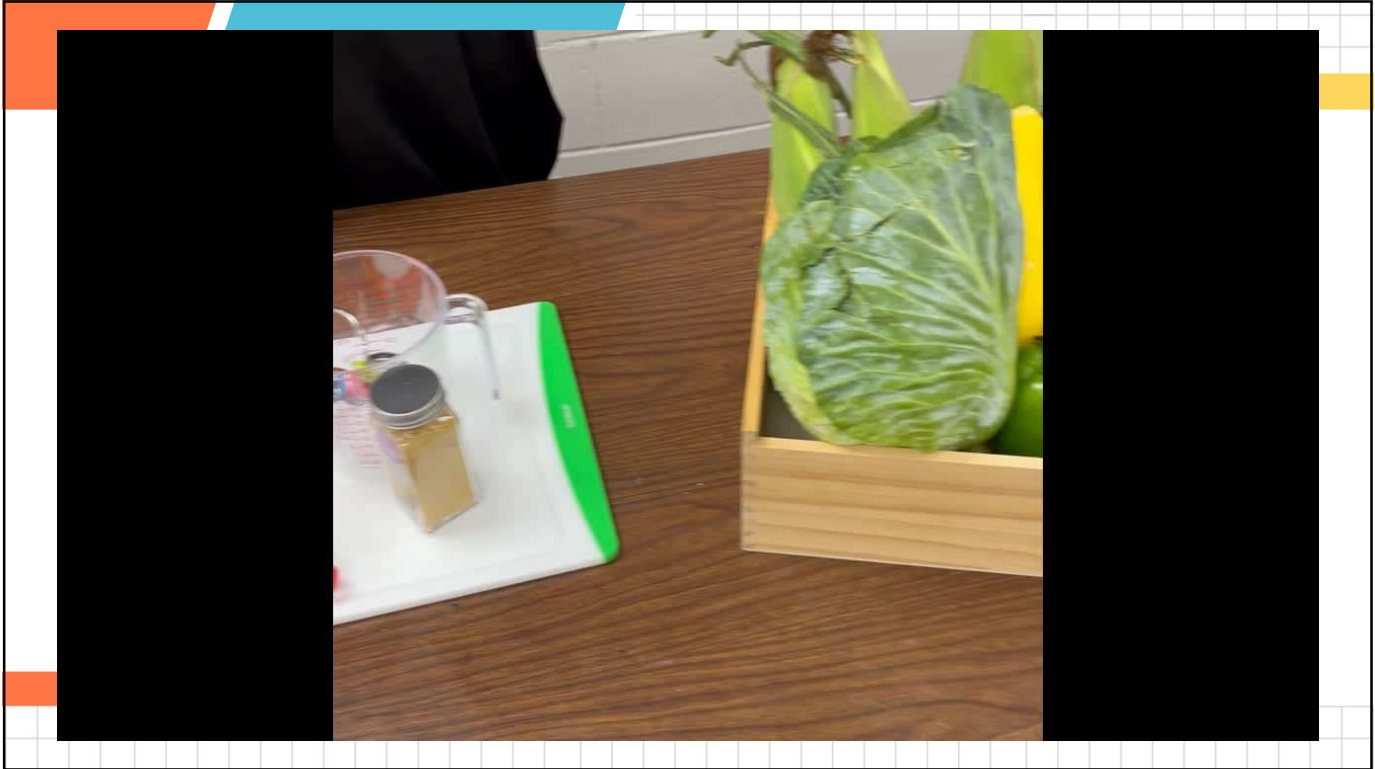
THE PROJECT

- Expanded with CDBG funding to better serve Columbus residents
- Installed state-of-the-art walk-in freezers to store and distribute more perishable food
- Renovated classroom for hands-on cooking workshops, nutrition education, and entrepreneurship training
- Upgraded bathrooms to meet ADA standards, ensuring inclusivity

[Who is the Food Mill](#)




2



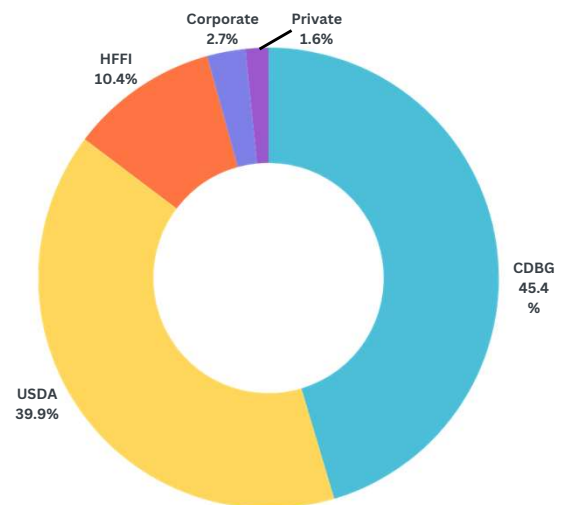
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THE LEVERAGE

Funding for The Food Mill Shared Kitchen
(\$2,040,500)

Diversified Capital Stack:
Required multiple funding sources to meet
community needs

➡ Key Insight: Cities alone cannot fiscally support
large-scale community initiatives; partnerships
are essential.



The
FOOD MILL
Food Pharmacy

**COMMUNITY
REINVESTMENT**
COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

4



SHARED KITCHEN

Small closets converted into walk-in freezers for fresh food storage

Renovated classrooms for culinary training, nutrition workshops, and entrepreneurship programs

ADA-compliant bathrooms for full community accessibility

Supports the cottage food industry with state-certified facilities

Fosters innovation and mentorship opportunities

200 entrepreneurs on waitlist, highlighting strong demand




5

COOKING MATTERS

Hands-on classes teaching budget-friendly, nutritious meal preparation

Focus on budgeting, nutrition, and meal planning

Adapted to support underserved communities in Columbus

Sessions promote healthier food choices and grocery savings

Offers sessions for families, teens, and general audiences

300+ participants graduated since February 2021






6

FOOD PANTRY

Provides support twice a month for residents facing food insecurity

Ensures access to nutritious food options while developing long-term solutions

Distributed 250,000 pounds of food to 10,870 residents

On track to distribute 500,000 pounds of food this year

60% of distribution focused on fresh produce, doubling last year's total



The
FOOD MILL
Food Pantry

COMMUNITY
REINVESTMENT
COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

7

MOBILE MARKET

Delivers fresh, affordable produce to neighborhoods with high food insecurity

Half-price discount through Georgia Fresh for Less helps customers stretch their dollars

Keeps SNAP/EBT dollars within the local food system

Completed 360 stops serving 2,000 customers

Provided \$10,000 in discounts through partnership with Wholesome Wave Georgia

537 SNAP transactions recorded



The
FOOD MILL
Food Pantry

COMMUNITY
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8





1

Lumpkin County's Newest Recreation Center!

- Opened in April 2024
- Outdoor water park – perfect for aquatic recreation
 - Competition pool
 - 2 Water slides
 - Splash Pad for younger children
 - Lazy River
- Recreation and Sports facilities
 - 2 Indoor, multi-use gymnasiums
 - 6 Outdoor pickleball courts



2

Designed to meet the community's needs



Original plan for indoor aquatics center was redesigned into an outdoor park with indoor courts – cutting costs and boosting public use!

A much needed community pool provides opportunities for:

- Public swimming pool, a place for exercise and recreation – average of 400 swimmers per day!
- Vital safety programs such as swim lessons and CPR training

3

Designed to meet the community's needs

Creation of 80 additional seasonal jobs perfect for first time employees

Partnered with school system to become the largest employer of Work Based Learning in Lumpkin County



4

Designed to meet the community's needs



Additional court spaces to continue to expand Youth and Adult programs

- Competition pool gives Lumpkin County Swim team a home
- Double Gymnasium reduced need to rely on school facilities
- Growing pickleball community now has dedicated court space

5

Easy to adapt to other communities

- Customizable space – Recreation centers can be tailored based on community priorities
- Flexible Budgeting – Adjustable scope by prioritizing outdoor vs indoor features
- Partnership Opportunities – Collaboration with school systems, sports organizations, local businesses to maximize resources

6

Community Partnerships Drive Operations

- Partnership with Parks and Rec → Supports youth leagues and pickleball clubs
- Regular input from user groups → Programs tailored to community needs
- Continuous feedback → Ensures top opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors

7

Efficient and Creative Approaches

- Everything from site prep to amenities designed to maximize efficiency!
 - Strategic land use by sharing property with school system
 - Cost-conscious construction by shifting away from indoor aquatic center
 - Availability of rentable spaces for parties and events



8

Efficient and Creative Approaches



- Employs a variety of creative events to boost revenue such as

- Special event days with games, prizes, giveaways to boost attendance
- Unique fundraising opportunities with local organizations
- Partnering with nonprofits, such as ConnectAbility to offer events for undeserved populations



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9

Efficient and Creative Approaches

- Offers variety of services to appeal to different interest groups
- Pickleball tournaments with local clubs to attract new visitors
- Swim lessons and other safety classes such as CPR training

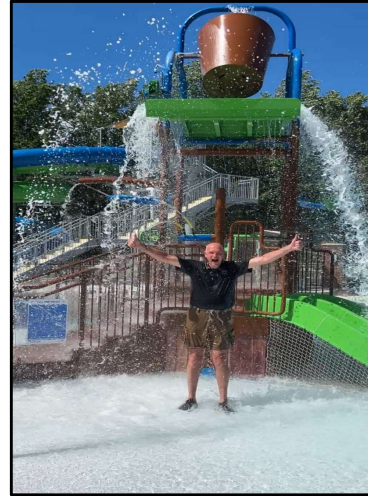


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10

County Leadership Involvement

- County leadership played a vital role in the facility through assisting with operations, oversight of the project and with marketing campaigns!



11

CVIOG

INFORM. INSPIRE. INNOVATE.

COMMUNITY BRANDING

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GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

DATA ANALYTICS & VISUALIZATION

FINANCE COURSES • GOVERNMENTAL PROFESSIONALS CERTIFICATION

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

STRATEGIC PLANNING

SURVEY RESEARCH & EVALUATION

ONLINE COURSES • LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT • ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

#CVIOG IGOV

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

CVIOG DAWG PROUD

PLANNING RETREATS AND CUSTOMIZED FACILITATION

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

CUSTOM APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

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1



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GCCMA Community Award Winner – 2025

Whitfield County – Robert (Bob) Sivick

County Administrator

2

The Challenge & Solution

Challenge:

Workforce shortage of public safety professionals
 Limited career pathways for high school students

Solution:

Firefighter I, II, and EMT certifications built into high school curriculum
 Fully funded by NWGCCA – eliminating financial barriers
 Students graduate job-ready at 18



3

3

Impact & Recognition

9 graduates employed full-time with WCFD
 Strengthened emergency response capabilities
 Retained local talent and provided sustainable careers
 Program praised statewide as a replicable model



4

Leadership & Closing



Bob Sivick encouraged innovation and partnerships



Ensured program success and sustainability



Demonstrated how local government and education can solve workforce challenges



Award-winning leadership securing a stronger, safer future for Whitfield County.