



1 S. Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

www.cityofypsilanti.com

### City Council

Mayor: Amanda Edmonds  
Pro Tem: Lois Richardson

Nicole Brown, Ward 1  
Anne Brown, Ward 2  
Dan Vogt, Ward 2  
Pete Murdock, Ward 3  
Brian Robb, Ward 3

City Manger: Ralph A. Lange

#### INSIDE:

Heritage Bridge	2
Election Info	3
New Website and Ypsi Connect	4
Distinguished Budget Presentation Award	5
City Services Corner	6
Inside Story: Biggy	7
What's Happening?	7
In the Community	8

# Inside Ypsi Your City, Your News

WINTER 2016

## City of Ypsilanti Celebrates Redevelopment Ready Certification



The City of Ypsilanti celebrated its Redevelopment Ready Community Certification (RCC) at Cultivate Coffee and Taphouse on December 11, 2015. Ypsilanti is the sixth community to be certified under the statewide program.

RRC is a program through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and gives formal recognition to communities that remove barriers and streamline processes to be more competitive. After two years of working toward RRC certification, Ypsilanti has accomplished the requirements.

Community leaders from the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor area came out to show support for the City. Bekah Wallace, Director of Community and Connections at Cultivate Coffee and Taphouse, said it's an exciting time for the City. "I believe this certification only provides more reason for others to join us in opening new ventures in Depot Town and other parts of Ypsilanti," Wallace said.

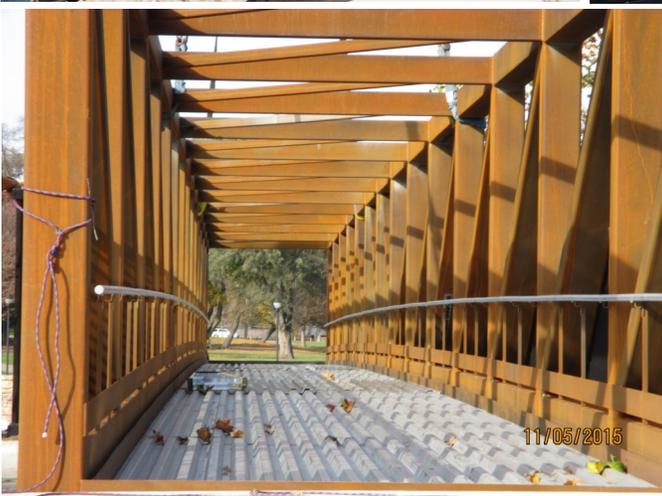
Deborah Freer, Community Outreach Coordinator at The Ride, said she was happy to be a part of an event that recognized the City for all of the hard work it has been doing. "I think the City has been taking very important steps to revitalize the community," Freer said. "And I think this event was a great way to get the word out about Ypsi being the great community that it is."

State Representative David Rutledge added that he believes the award shows all of the hard work is paying off. "I think this award is meaningful to the community because it shows that everything we have done is taking hold," Rutledge said.

# Heritage Pedestrian Bridge

The Heritage Pedestrian Bridge was installed across the Huron River in November 2015, connecting Riverside Park to Michigan Avenue. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for this spring!

To see more pictures, please visit our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Ypsi.Michigan](http://www.facebook.com/Ypsi.Michigan)).



## City Capital Projects

**Ainsley Street:** A road was constructed between Ainsley Street and Louise Street. The road goes in a circle, and it was constructed in order to allow for residents to plow snow.

**Candy Cane Park:** A new sidewalk was installed at Candy Cane Park because there were some missing sidewalk sections.

**Adams Street:** The street was rebuilt and set in concrete.

**Prospect Street:** Prospect Road is complete and won the Project of the Year Award in its category from the Downriver Chapter of the Michigan American Public Works Association.

**Senior Center:** The kitchen has been upgraded.

**Mid-Block Crossing (Washtenaw Ave. East of Oakwood):** Expected to start spring 2016.

**Michigan Avenue Signal Upgrade:** Expected to start spring 2016.

# Get Ready for Election Day

It's about to be that time of year again to head out to the polls to cast our votes for the 2016 elections. Check out Ypsilanti's election dates and polling locations below!

### Upcoming Elections:

- March 8, 2016 (Presidential Primary Election)
- May 3, 2016 (Special Election on the Special Education Millage Proposal)
- August 2, 2016 (State Primary Election)
- November 8, 2016 (General Election)

### Polling Locations:

- Perry Child Development Center — 550 Perry St., Ypsilanti, MI
- Ypsilanti Senior Citizens Center — 1015 N. Congress St., Ypsilanti, MI
- Estabrook Elementary School — 1555 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti, MI
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church — 201 N. River St., Ypsilanti, MI
- Adams Academy — 503 Oak St., Ypsilanti, MI

**For questions about your polling location, absentee ballots, or any general information, visit [cityofypsilanti.com/elections](http://cityofypsilanti.com/elections) or contact the City Clerk's Office at (734) 483-1100.**



# City Website Redesign and Ypsi Connect

The City of Ypsilanti is pleased to announce a new website, which has a more contemporary design and improved navigation, was launched in January.

**New features include:**

- Responsive design that adjusts functionality for desktops, tablets, cellphones, etc.
- Hover feature for most pages to preview all menu content rather than clicking multiple pages to locate information.
- Option to receive email or text message alerts from various departments and commissions by clicking the 'Notify Me' button on the Home Page.
- Sign up to receive electronic City Newsletters.
- Emergency Alerts that will appear on all pages in the event of a City-wide emergency.
- Agenda Center, Permit Center, Archive Center, and Form Centers consolidate documents for all departments, boards and commissions.
- Boards and Commissions are now more visible and listed under the 'Government' section.
- 'How Do I' tab, which was created to help visitors quickly access the most popular pages.

**YPSI CONNECT**

Ypsi Connect is an application powered by SeeClickFix that makes reporting issues a lot easier. By downloading the Ypsi Connect application, users can:

- Easily report a variety of non-emergency issues, such as potholes, graffiti, littering, etc...
- Use GPS on their devices to map the location.
- Take a photo of the issue and upload it to Ypsi Connect.
- Keep updated on the status of various issues and real-time updates from City staff.



Visit [www.cityofypsilanti.com](http://www.cityofypsilanti.com) to view the redesigned website. Ypsi Connect is also accessible from the Home Page, or download the application for free on your Android or Apple mobile device.

**Like us on Facebook!**  
You can download a free QR Code Scanner app & scan the QR code below  
OR you can like us at [facebook.com/Ypsi.Michigan](https://facebook.com/Ypsi.Michigan)



**Follow us on Twitter!**  
You can download a free QR Code Scanner app & scan the QR code below  
OR follow us @YpsiCity



## Did You Know?

**Ypsilanti was recently ranked as the sixth Best City For Singles** - Livability, a site showcasing America's best places to live, featured Ypsi because of our high percentage of singles who use dating sites, go to movies, clubs and art galleries. Also, Ypsi's primary entertainment districts – downtown and Depot Town – combine to form one of the largest historic areas in the state, offering plenty of options for second and third dates. Check out the article at [Livability.com](http://Livability.com)! Search *10 Best Cities for Singles*.

## City of Ypsilanti Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The City of Ypsilanti received a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The award was given to the Fiscal Services Department for the City's FY 2015-2016 budget, and is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

The City satisfied nationally recognized budget presentation guidelines, which includes presenting a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan and a communications device that met program criteria.

"We are honored to be one of the municipalities selected to receive this award," said Marilou Uy, Fiscal Services Director. "We hope that our achievements in governmental budgeting will serve as encouragement for others to maintain and improve the quality of their budgets."



Marilou Uy, Fiscal Services Director

## Helpful Resources

**Hope Clinic:** (734) 484-2989, 518 Harriet St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197 — a clinic that offers medical care and dental care to the uninsured, as well as a variety of social services.

**Meals on Wheels:** (734) 487-9669, 1110 W Cross St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197 — a non-profit that delivers prepared meals to those who are elderly, disabled or ill.

**Parkridge Community Center:** (734) 483-7700, 591 Armstrong, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 — a recreational and educational programming center for Ypsilanti residents.

**Senior Center:** (734) 483-5014, 1015 N Congress St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197 — the center provides safe and structured recreational, educational and networking activities for senior citizens.

**Simple Recycling:** (866) 835-5068 — a curbside recycling service for household goods.

**SOS Community Services:** (734) 485-8730, 101 S Huron St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197 — a nonprofit that promotes housing stability and family self-sufficiency through collaboration, care and respect.

### Ypsilanti Warming Centers:

**Friends in Deed:** (734) 485-7658, **Hours:** weekdays 8:30-2:30  
1196 Ecorse Road, Ypsilanti, MI

**Department of Health and Human Services:** (734) 481-2000, **Hours:** weekdays 8-5  
22 Center Street, Ypsilanti, MI

**SOS Community Services:** (734) 484-5413, **Hours:** weekdays 9-5  
114 North River Street, Ypsilanti, MI

**Washtenaw County Public Health Department:** (734) 544-6700, **Hours:** weekdays 8:30-5  
555 Towner Street, Ypsilanti, MI

## City Employee Spotlight: Nan Schuette shares her thoughts

Nan Schuette started working for the City of Ypsilanti in 1994. She said it was a completely new experience since she had not previously worked in government. "I was quite surprised when I first started working for the City of Ypsilanti since I never realized how much work it takes to keep a City functioning –" I think most people take it all for granted – all the services that are provided and how everything gets done," Schuette said.

In her 21 years at the City of Ypsilanti, she said she has been able to witness many improvements that have helped enhance the City and have made it more appealing to non-residents and new business owners. However, Schuette said one of the biggest changes that took place is the area now known as Water Street.

"When I first came to the City, there were quite a few abandoned buildings in the area that we now call Water Street," she said. "The City bought out the various owners to make way for future businesses, which has proven to be a huge improvement".

While Schuette has enjoyed seeing the growth of the City, she says the best part of working for the City is being able to help citizens resolve their issues. "I find it very fulfilling to be able to help out frustrated residents since I know how they feel," Schuette said. "Not only am I an employee of the City, I am also a resident of the area and try to look at problems as if they could be my own concerns."

Aside from the joy she gets from working with the public, she said she loves how much people care about this community. "I believe everyone in the Ypsilanti area has the community at heart, and I think that is something very special since you don't find that everywhere," she said.



Nan Schuette,  
Executive Secretary

## Winter Windshield Tips



Tired of having to factor in extra time every morning because of an icy or foggy windshield?

We know the struggle, which is why we would like to share some handy tips!

### **Here's a simple trick to keep your windshield from getting icy:**

Mix 3 parts vinegar with 1 part water and spray the mixture on your windshield.

This should help prevent ice from forming, which will lead to a much happier morning.

### **Here's a simple trick for keeping your windshield free of fog:**

Apply a layer of shaving cream to the inside of your windshield and then wipe it off.

Since shaving cream has a lot of the same ingredients that are found in anti-fog solutions, this should help prevent fog from forming.

## Inside Story: Biggby Coffee on Washtenaw Avenue

Before the building located at 1510 Washtenaw in Ypsilanti became the home of a vibrant coffee shop with a friendly atmosphere, it was just an empty building for seven years that people didn't notice.

Bill Tripp, owner of Biggby Coffee on Washtenaw in Ypsilanti, said he knew he wanted the building to be the home of his business after he visited Candy Cane Park for the first time on a Tuesday night in May 2013 and saw all of the families gathered at the park.

"The College Heights neighborhood seemed like the perfect place to start a new business," he said. "The community seemed like it would be very welcoming and supportive of a new business, and it reminded me of where I grew up."

Aside from the community reminding him of his childhood, he said he really enjoyed the diversity of the neighborhood. "There is a little bit of everything in this community," Tripp said. "You have everything from young people buying their first homes to retirees."

A part of what makes this Biggby unique is that Tripp wanted to offer lots of seating and be a place where people could stay a while. There is a group that comes in every Monday through Friday around 8 a.m. to chat and play hangman, and there are also nursing students that spend time studying in the coffee shop before their 5 p.m. class. Tripp also makes an effort to converse with all of his customers. "I place a lot of value on building a personal connection with everyone who enters the store," Tripp said.

While running the coffee shop is a lot of work, Tripp said he really couldn't imagine himself doing anything else.

"This is what I want to do for the rest of my life," he said. "If I could go back in time, I would have opened up the coffee shop 20 years ago."



## What's Happening?

- **Toastmasters:** Tuesdays 12pm—1pm, Spark East 215 Michigan Ave.
- **First Fridays Ypsilanti:** Monthly collaboration of local businesses to display local talent art and music. For upcoming events, visit [firstfridaysypsi.com](http://firstfridaysypsi.com).
- **Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club:** Wednesdays 12 pm—1:30 pm, 900 Oakwood St. Room #352
- **Mentor 2 Youth:** 4th Annual Bowling Tournament on April 9. For more info, call (734) 905-7955.

Would you like to include your event in this space?

Send the details to [marketing@cityofypsilanti.com](mailto:marketing@cityofypsilanti.com) for consideration in our Spring/Summer newsletter.

# In The Community



Ypsilanti Freighthouse



Ypsilanti/EMU Water Drive



Ypsilanti/EMU Water Drive



Shopping Downtown



First Fridays

Inside Ypsi is created by The City of Ypsilanti and compiled by the City Manager's Office. It can be viewed on the City's website. Limited paper copies are available in City Hall and select local businesses. Contact [esavage@cityofypsilanti.com](mailto:esavage@cityofypsilanti.com) with comments or suggestions. We welcome your community or event photos at [marketing@cityofypsilanti.com](mailto:marketing@cityofypsilanti.com).