

JANUARY 2022

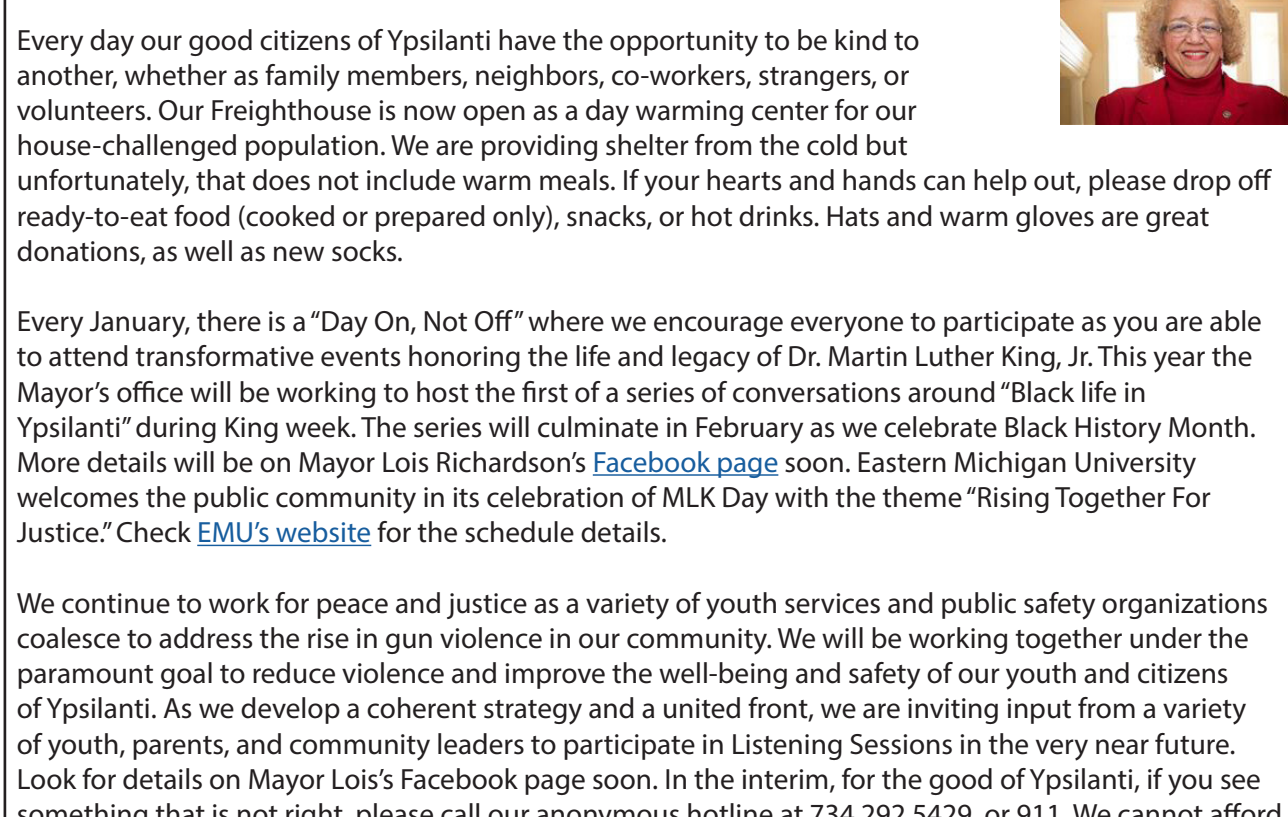
FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

Greetings from the City Manager's Office! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Years and was able to spend time with their loved ones. Whether your family tradition is watching sports, enjoying a big meal, or just spending time together, we have so much to be grateful for this past year.

Many thanks for all of our events at the Freighthouse. We still have our warming center active Monday through Thursday from 8 AM to 6 PM. Please donate any extra clothing you have, for these upcoming months will be a burden on those who are not fortunate to have a roof over their head this season.

On December 17th we had our Christmas staff party which was well attended with beautiful decorations, food, music, and drinks. Thanks to all who contributed to making this such a wonderful event.

December 18th and 19th the Ypsilanti Freighthouse hosted their first-holiday market. With over 40 vendors and music from the local community. We hope to hold these traditions for years to come. Grateful for everyone's contribution and efforts in making this possible.



I also want to remind everyone that the COVID-19 pandemic remains a severe threat in our community. The best way we can support one another is by getting vaccinated and following state and county guidance to reduce the spread of the virus. We are providing shelter from the cold but not the virus. Unfortunately, that does include warm meals. If your hearts and hands can help, please drop off ready-to-eat food (cooked or prepared only), snacks, or hot drinks. Hats and warm gloves are great donations as well as new socks.

Every January there is a "Day On, Not Off" where we encourage everyone to participate as you are able to attend transformative events honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year the Mayor's office will be working to host the first of a series of conversations around "Black life in Ypsilanti" during King week. The series will culminate in February as we celebrate Black History Month. More details will be on Mayor Lois Richardson's Facebook page soon. Eastern Michigan University welcomes the public community in its celebration of MLK Day with the theme "Rising Together For Justice." Check EMU's website for the schedule dates.

We continue to work for peace and justice as a variety of youth services and public safety organizations coalesce to address the rise in gun violence in our community. We will be working together under the paramount goal to reduce violence and improve the well-being and safety of our youth and citizens of Ypsilanti. As we develop a coherent strategy and a united front, we are inviting input from a variety of youth, parents, and community leaders to participate in listening sessions in the very near future. Look for details on Mayor Lois's Facebook page soon. In the interim, for the good of Ypsilanti, if you see something that is not right, please call our anonymous hotline at 734.292.5429, or 911. We cannot afford to sit back and refuse to get involved because we are involved already. Every time there is an incident it involves us. Help us put an end to the senseless violence.

City Council will be having its annual goal-setting sessions on January 6 and 18 at 6 PM on both evenings. This time is set aside for individual Council Members to make known their goals for the city. Our facilitator will be Dr. Morgan Milner, Professor of Management at EMU. These meetings will be in person for Council Members but will be open virtually for residents who are warmly welcomed to attend via the zoom link posted on the city's website.

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. More than 13,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, a fact made more frustrating because the disease is virtually preventable with vaccinations and appropriate screening (PAP and HPV tests). Ladies, please protect your lives for yourself and all of those who love and depend upon you being here for the long haul.

Ypsilanti's, let us be mindful in our practice of social distancing, wearing our masks, vaccinating, and complying with the federal CDC guidelines. We want all of us to be around for years to come. It is unfortunate, but Covid-19 cases continue to surge in Michigan. The highly contagious Omicron variant is the dominant strain now, eclipsing the Delta variant that has wreaked havoc on our medical systems, communities, and families. Everyone is at higher risk of infection or reinfection, but the double vaccines and their booster can render the illness asymptomatic or mild. Please contact our [Washtenaw County Health Department](#) for the latest information and help for getting your free vaccines and boosters.

In the spirit of the opening quote, let us make this a year where we are committed to practicing LOVE as a verb, not just having a warm feeling in our hearts. We can love our fellow humans, even those who in our lives who are hard to love. Our city can be known as a town where all are truly welcome, and everyone safe, about the lives of all residents getting better and better. We can show the nation what it is to be a city that is truly practicing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Ypsilanti, we can do it, it just takes each of us to have willing hearts to change and embrace each other. We love Ypsilanti.

LOVE is the answer,
Mayor Lois

CITY UPDATES

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

Arts Commission Commissioner Two Youth Members	Police Advisory Commission Commissioner Two Youth Members
Dangerous Bldgs Dangerous Buildings Officer	Sustainability Commission Commissioner Two Youth Members
Human Relations Commission Commissioner Two Youth Members	YDDA Board Member
Planning Commission Commissioner	Zoning Board of Appeals Three Commissioners
Parks & Recreation Commission Commissioner Three Youth Members	

Fill out this [online form](#) if you are interested in the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions.

PEN DAM REMOVAL UPDATE

What's going on with the Peninsular Dam Removal? The sediment studies have been completed by Limno Tech which delayed the town hall meeting originally scheduled in October. [Huron River Watershed Council](#) created a video in a series on the City of Ypsilanti's Peninsular Park Dam removal project. The film delves into sediment sampling of the river bed—how it happens and why it matters. [You may find that video here.](#)

We want to thank everyone who has participated in these engagements over the past year. For those who attended virtual meetings and/or community meetings, we will inform you of the upcoming town hall once the date is determined. We're considering COVID safety for the community, which is now the main factor for timing and formatting this meeting to safely hear from as many people as possible. Again, once a town hall date has been decided, those interested in participating can view it on the city website and Facebook page.

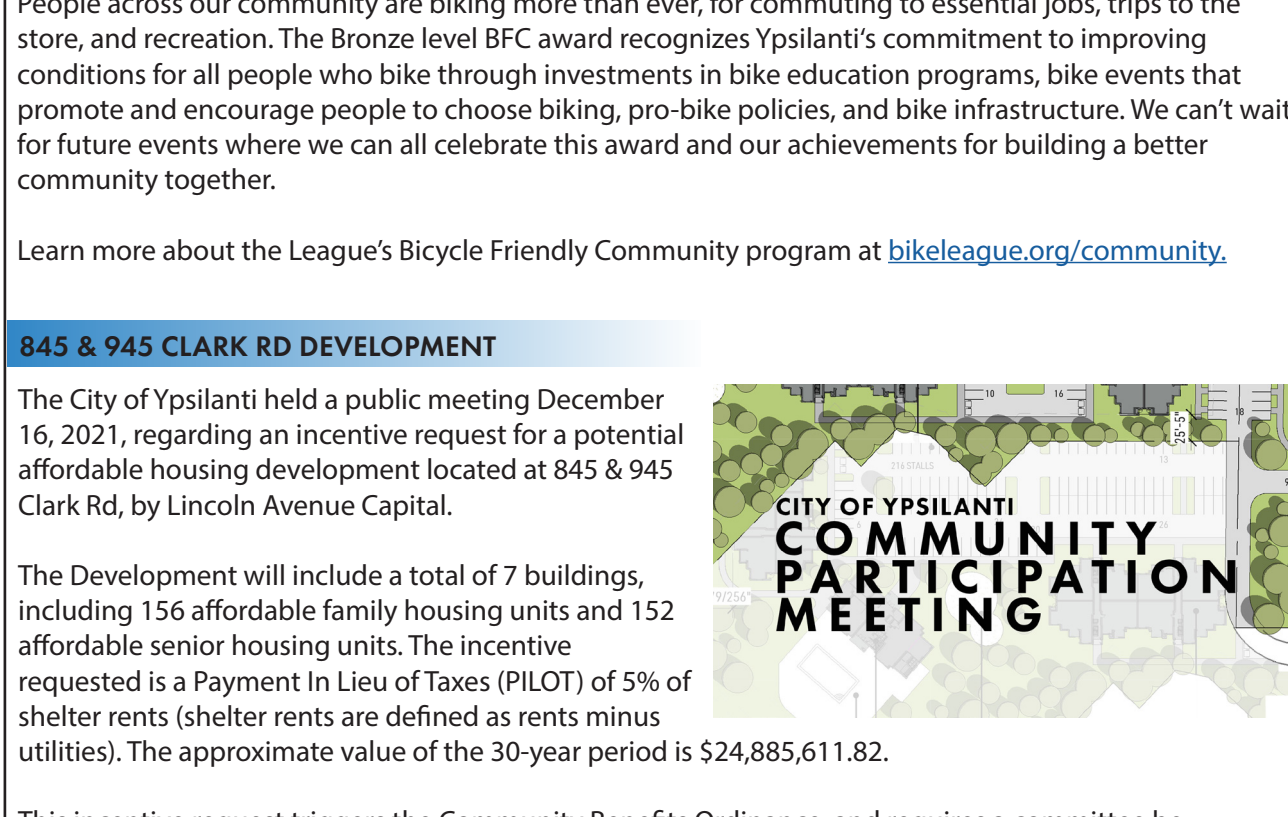
REDISTRICTING

Have you heard about the recent redistricting within Ypsilanti? There were three public engagement sessions over December discussing the election commission plans. With the recent 2020 Census, Ypsilanti has a population of 20,648 people.

There is no statute governing how cities and counties are supposed to balance. A court ruling states that cities and counties must balance to not more than an 11% deviation. However, the Ypsilanti has historically used MCL 4.261(1)(d), which governs how the seats on the state legislature must balance. This statute requires that no more than a 5% deviation in population. Within the cities, three wards provided 6883 people in each of this process.

The overall goal of this process is not to disrupt the voting process for residents of this city. The proposal focused on Ward 2 Precinct 4 and Ward 3 Precinct 1. The most southern third in Ward 2-4 includes a population of 726 people. This area has student housing, specifically Phelps, Sellers, Walton, and Putnam Halls on Eastern Michigan's Campus.

After three engagement sessions, the redistricting process met with minimal interruption to the election commission process. January 11, 2022, City Council meetings to review agenda will include a fourth public hearing and final approval of the proposed plan for redistricting.



WASHTENAW COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Hello City of Ypsilanti Neighbors!

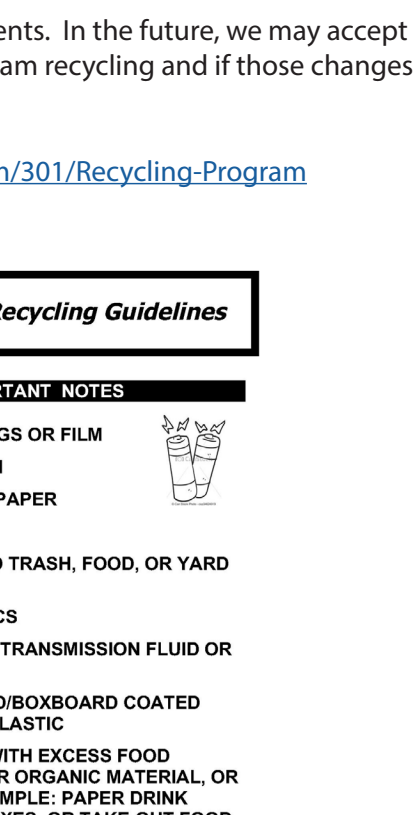
Through a generous grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's Urban and Community Forestry Program, the Washtenaw County Conservation District (WCCD), in collaboration with elected City Council members, is excited to pilot a program to assist the community in identifying strengths, challenges, and opportunities to enhance and protect trees and forests. Trees provide a wide range of benefits: they oxygen we breathe, stormwater mitigation, cleaner air and water, reduction in surface heat island effects, carbon sequestration, and improvements to human mental and physical health. These benefits make trees a vital component of any community and excellent problem solvers. However, sometimes policies or the distribution of trees on the landscape reduces or limits their beneficial impact.

This pilot project aims to identify how trees could best serve the residents of the City of Ypsilanti. The WCCD will conduct a review of current ordinances and zoning policies, using Geographic Information Systems to assess the current distribution of trees, and identify potential planting areas based on community priorities. Hence, the WCCD needs your input! If you have access to the internet and a working email address, please visit [this website](#) to sign up to receive an email link to an online survey being released in January 2022. If you do not have access to the internet or a working email address, the WCCD will make paper copies of the survey available at City Hall (One South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, Call for Hours: 734-483-1100). A paper copy can also be requested by calling WCCD at 734-302-8715. Results from the pilot project will be shared at a public meeting in fall 2022.

The WCCD is a local unit of State government, assisting private landowners, businesses, and others, with the management of their natural resources in Washtenaw County. The WCCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Additional information is available online at [www.washtenawcd.org](#).

THE CITY OF YPSILANTI AGAIN RECOGNIZED AS A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Earlier this year, The City of Ypsilanti applied for a renewal of the League of American Bicyclists' Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community award. It has long been a goal of this city to be a recognized leader for the work our Mayor, City Council, City Manager, City Planning & Public Services Departments, Transportation professionals, and local citizens have put in over the years to make our community more accessible by bike. Today, we're proud to be part of the nearly 500 communities across the United States that are transforming America one Bicycle Friendly Community at a time.



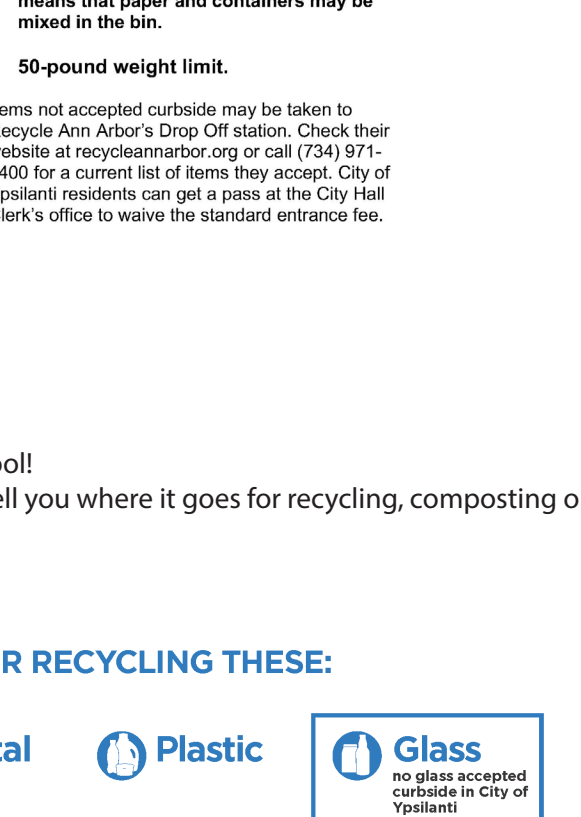
"Biking has the power to transform our nation economically, environmentally, and socially and it's so important that communities like Ypsilanti have laid the groundwork over several years to make biking a safe, accessible option for all. With many more people turning to biking as a fun way to get outdoors and as a necessary transportation option, we must keep the momentum to build a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone going," said Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists. "This Bicycle Friendly Community award is the culmination of years of work put in by Ypsilanti and its citizen advocates for better biking. In this award road, Ypsilanti joins 57 other cities and communities across the nation that are committed to making biking a safe, accessible option for all."

People across our community are biking more than ever, for commuting to essential jobs, trips to the store, and recreation. The award recognizes Ypsilanti's commitment to improving conditions for all people who bike through investments in bike education programs, bike events that promote and encourage people to choose biking, pro-bike policies, and bike infrastructure. We can't wait for future events where we can all celebrate this award and our achievements for building a better community together.

Learn more about the League's Bicycle Friendly Community program at [bikeleague.org/community](#).

845 & 945 CLARK RD DEVELOPMENT

The City of Ypsilanti held a public meeting December 16, 2021, regarding an incentive request for a potential affordable housing development located at 845 & 945 Clark Rd, by Lincoln Avenue Capital.



The Development will include a total of 7 buildings, including 156 affordable family housing units and 152 affordable senior housing units. The incentive requested is a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) of 5% of shelter rents (shelter rents are defined as rents minus utilities). The approximate value of the 30-year period is \$24,885,611.82.

This incentive request triggers the Community Benefits Ordinance, and requires a committee be established to negotiate terms of benefits. The City will be holding a second meeting, due to a noticing issue for the December meeting, on January 17, 2022. The meeting will be held in person at the Ypsilanti Freight House 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti MI 48198.

It is strongly encouraged to attend the meeting virtually due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in the 48197 and 48198 zip codes, the link to the meeting can be found [here](#). For any questions, please email Joe Meyers at [jmeysers@cityofypsilanti.com](#)

To review the documents pertaining to the development, or view the December 16th meeting, please visit [www.cityofypsilanti.com/cbo](#).

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATES

We hope everyone had a great December! The following are updates regarding a few items with the Department of Public Services:

W. CROSS RECONSTRUCTION WINS DOWNRIVER BRANCH PROJECT OF THE YEAR

We are excited to announce that the recent road project on West Cross between Courtland and Wallace has received the 2020 Project of the Year award from the Downriver Branch American Public Works Association Michigan Chapter. This project included a complete road reconstruction, a road diet adding bike lanes on both sides of West Cross, the replacement of several sidewalk ramps with accessible ramps, and the installation of a midblock crossing near Eastbrook school with the City's first Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beams (RRFB) to notify drivers of pedestrians in the cross walk. According to the National Cooperative Research Program, RRFBs can reduce pedestrian vehicle crashes up to 47%.

RECYCLING PROGRAM CHANGES:

At the December 7, 2021 City Council meeting a contract was approved between the City and Recycle Ann Arbor to allow us to take the recyclables collected curbside to the Recycle Ann Arbor Material Recovery Facility. Due to this there will be a few changes to the materials accepted at our curbside recycling program. The changes go into effect on January 1, 2022 and are as follows:

Now Accepting: Glass (clean and rinsed bottles and jars of any color), aseptic containers (i.e. juice boxes, milk cartons, etc), and clean cardboard food containers (i.e. cereal boxes, cracker boxes, etc)

No Longer Accepting: #4 (LDPE), #6 (PS), or #7 (Other) plastics or shredded paper.

These plastics make up very little of the recycling we collect (estimated at 0.25% – 0.5% of the total volume) and they can be taken to the Recycle Ann Arbor drop off facility for no charge with a City of Ypsilanti pass that you can obtain from the City Clerk's office.

There have been a few questions regarding how this change will impact some of our other recycling programs in the City. Please see below for some frequently asked questions:

Question: Will I still be able to use my pass to the Recycle Ann Arbor drop off facility to drop off recycling?

Answer: Yes, the pass that you receive is still active and the changes to our curbside recycling will not impact that program.

Question: Will the monthly recycling drop-off events still be held?

Answer: Yes, we are still planning on having the monthly drop-off events. In the future, we may accept some additional items as we will be able to mix glass in our single stream recycling and if those changes are made, we will be sure to give notice to the public.

Please look for an updated recycling information at [cityofypsilanti.com/301/Recycling-Program](#)

CITY OF YPSILANTI

2022

Curbside Recycling Guidelines

ITEMS ACCEPTED CURBSIDE

PLASTIC: Clean and Rinsed Bottles, Jars, and Containers (LDPE, HDPE, & PET) on the bottom
- No plastic bottle caps, lids, or straws
- No plastic food or liquid residue
- No plastic bags or other plastic items

METAL: Aluminum, Tin, & Steel
- Includes cans, beverage and product containers (e.g., 16, 8, & 4 oz.)
- Please clean.

PAPER:
- Batches paper separately with string or place in paper bags or cardboard boxes
- Paper must be placed next to red bin, but don't block the view of the bin
- NO shredded paper

NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE & JUNK MAIL:
- Newspapers, including glossy inserts
- Magazines and paperback books, including phone books
- Mixed paper, glossy coated OK
- NO plastic or metal lids, bottles, transparencies, cardboard paper, or tissue paper

CARDBOARD & BOXES:
- Batches in full flat bundles in a box or bag
- If too large to bundle, take to Recycle Ann Arbor Drop Off Station
- Place next to or on top of bin
- Central boxes, cardboard egg cartons and similar type material
- Flatten and remove inner bags or packaging
- Rinse and empty food/drink containers without food residue or food residue

PAPER (ASEPTIC) CARTONS/SEALED CONTAINERS:
- Must be rinsed and empty
- No straws or caps

GLASS:
- Clean and rinsed bottles and jars of any color only. No other glass products.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- NO PLASTIC BAGS OR FILMS
- NO STYROFOAM
- NO SHREDDED PAPER
- NO HOUSEHOLD TRASH, FOOD, OR YARD
- NO ELECTRONICS
- NO MOTOR OIL, TRANSMISSION FLUID OR ANTIFREEZE
- NO MATERIAL WITH EXCESS FOOD RESIDUE, OTHER ORGANIC MATERIAL, OR OTHER LIQUIDS (e.g., paint, oil, etc.)
- PIZZA BOXES, OR TAKE-OUT FOOD
- PLEASE DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES

- Place your City of Ypsilanti red bin at the curb 6-8 a.m. on your regular collection day.
- Your City of Ypsilanti red bin must be used and be visible from the street. Additional recyclables can be placed in cardboard boxes or paper bags next to the red bin.
- The single-stream collection for recyclables means that paper and containers may be mixed in the bin.
- 50-pound weight limit.

Items not accepted curbside may be taken to Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop Off station. Check their website at [recycleannarbor.org](#) or call (734) 971-7400 for a current list of items they accept. City of Ypsilanti residents can get a pass at the City Hall Clerk's office to waive the standard entrance fee.

RECYCLING WIZARD

WRMA Waste Wizard - an interactive recycling search tool

Type the name of a waste material, and the wizard will tell you where it goes for recycling, composting or disposal. Pretty neat huh?
[Find it on our recycling page.](#)

RECYCLE

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:

Paper

Recycled Paper, Mail, and Newsprint (color and black)

Cardboard

Cardboard and Paperboard (empty and clean)

Metal

Aluminum and Steel Cans (empty and rinsed)

Plastic

Plastic Bottles, Jars, and Caps (empty and rinsed)

Glass

Glass Bottles and Jars (empty and dry)

NO!

Do not Bag (curbside only)

No Plastic Grocery (curbside only)

No Foam (curbside only)

No Food or Liquids (curbside only)

No Tanners (curbside only)

No Hazardous Waste (curbside only)

[wrrma.org](#)

734.222.3920

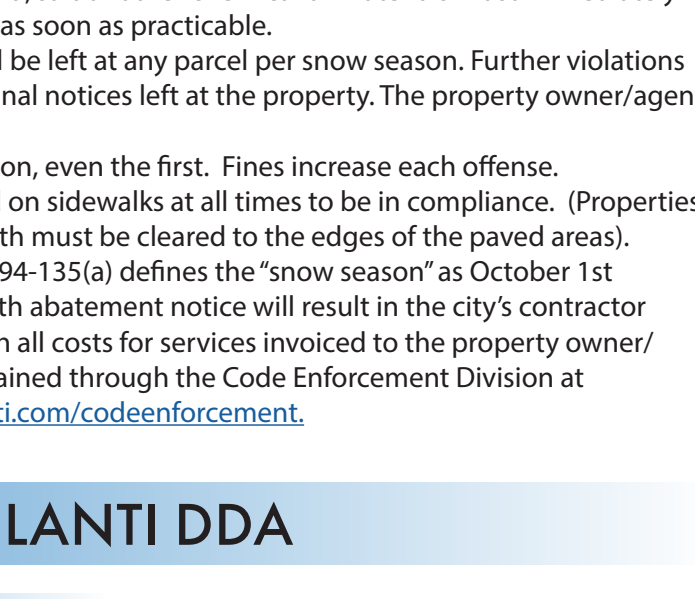
[recycleannarbor@gmail.com](#)

TIPS ON SHOVELING SNOW YOUR DRIVEWAY TO AVOID BEING PLOWED IN:

One of the most common concerns residents share with us during the winter seasons is that our snowplows push snow onto their driveways after they were designed requiring them to shovel their driveway.

Snowplows are supposed to push snow to the right and unfortunately, this is an unavoidable consequence of removing snow from the road. We understand our residents' frustrations and wanted to offer a potential solution to help minimize the amount of snow pushed in front of your driveway and mailbox.

One solution that many communities recommend is when you shovel your driveway push the snow to the right side of your drive as you face the road and clear a pocket of snow on the opposite side of your driveway about ten feet wide. When the snowplow comes through the accumulated snow on the plow will dump most of the snow into the pocket and not in your driveway. Please see the below diagram for a visual depiction of this and [this link](#) for a video from the Missouri Department of Transportation discussing this. This tip should help residents minimize the amount of snow getting pushed into their driveway from snowplows.



Thank you and if you have any additional questions please feel free to contact the Public Services Department at 734-483-1421 or via e-mail at [rakers@cityofypsilanti.com](#).

YPSI ROAD RENOVATION

YPSI ROAD RENOVATION

Big Changes are coming to Downtown!

Phase 1 - South of Harriet St
Phase 1B - South of Michigan, Huron, Hamilton
Phase 2 - North of Michigan Washtenaw, Huron, Hamilton
Phase 3 - Michigan Ave

Beginning in 2022 and through 2023, the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the City will be working together to improve the safety of our drinking water and our transportation infrastructure. This project will affect Huron from I-94 to Cross; Michigan from I-94 to Washtenaw; Washtenaw from W. Cross to Hamilton; and Michigan from Ballard to the Huron River.

YCUA will be replacing and upgrading many of the underground water mains, including some of Ypsilanti's oldest main lines. This project will also provide water service leads and taking this opportunity to replace some sanitary sewer as well. This will be done to remove older pipe materials in both systems and to improve the reliability of service.

MDOT will be similar to constructing a pedestrian pathway over I-94 by converting the westernmost southbound lane of Huron to a shared-use path; and also following a full-scale reconstruction of the existing asphalt will be milled off and replaced in areas paved with concrete damaged areas will be removed and re-paved. MDOT will also be adding and updating many pedestrian crosswalk ramps, including on Michigan Avenue downtown. Improved bus stop markings, and additional on-street parking.

For more information about this road diet project, please visit [cityofypsilanti.com/RoadRenovation](#). The pavement project will improve and extend the life of the roadway; the road diet project will improve the safety of the roads for all users.

CITY OF YPSILANTI HOLIDAY TREE COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

The City of Ypsilanti is collecting Holiday Trees curbside. Please place the tree at the curb on your normal trash/recycling/yard waste collection day and we will ensure that the tree is placed on the following schedule. We ask that residents remove any lights or decorations from the holiday tree when they place it at the curb. Trees that still have decorations or lights on them when they are placed at the curb will not be collected.

Our collection schedule will be different this year in order to make more efficient use of our staff's time. Please note the following collection schedule for the month of January.

Week of January 10, 2022:

Holiday trees will be collected on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of this week.

Normal Collection Day:	Scheduled Collection Day:
Monday	Monday, January 10, 2022
Tuesday	Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Wednesday	Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Thursday	Friday, January 14, 2022
Friday	Friday, January 14, 2022

Week of January 17, 2022:

Holiday trees will be collected for all days on Friday, January 21, 2022.

Week of January 24, 2022:

Holiday trees will be collected for all days on Friday, January 28, 2022.

Thank you and we hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Department of Public Services at 734-483-1421 or via e-mail at [wcln@cityofypsilanti.com](#).

FREE RECYCLING DROP OFF EVENTS

CITY OF YPSILANTI

RECYCLING DROP OFF EVENT

FREE DROP OFF RECYCLING for the following materials:

- Glass
- Styrofoam
- Aseptic Containers (milk cartons, broth cartons, etc.)

ALSO accepted for recycling (i.e. plastic bottles or tubs, tin, aluminum, paper, corrugated cardboard & boxboard, newspaper, magazines, & junk mail)

All GLASS, STYROFOAM, & ASEPTIC CONTAINERS must be separated, clean and dry. Items which are normally accepted in curbside recycling (listed above) do not need to be separated, but they will need to be clean and dry.

SNOW ORDINANCE AND ABATEMENT PROCEDURES

All CITY OF YPSILANTI PROPERTY OWNERS
The city's snow ordinance and abatement procedures go into effect November 26, 2021. Please be advised of the following:

1. Snow must be removed from sidewalks and parking lots within 24 hours of first accumulation of one inch (1") or more.
2. Ice must, if practicable, immediately be removed from sidewalks and parking lots. When ice is impracticable to remove, sand, salt or other chemical or materials must immediately be used and then ice must be removed as soon as practicable.
3. Only one (1) warning for abatement will be left at any parcel per snow season. Further violations will result in abatement without additional notices left at the property. The property owner/agent is responsible for abatement costs.
4. A citation will be issued for every violation, even the first. Fines increase each offense.
5. A five foot (5') path must be maintained on sidewalks at all times to be in compliance. (Properties with public sidewalks less than 5' in width must be cleared to the edges of the paved areas).

Ypsilanti City Code Chapter 94, Section 94-135(a) defines the "snow season" as October 1st through May 31st. Failure to comply with abatement notice will result in the city's contractor being hired to correct the violation, with all costs for services invoiced to the property owner/agent. Further information may be obtained through the Code Enforcement Division at (734) 482-9626, or at [www.cityofypsilanti.com/codeenforcement](#).

NEWS FROM THE YPSILANTI DDA

NEW BUSINESSES IN THE DDA!

Ambient Antiques is Located in Depot Town at 25 E. Cross is Ambient Antiques. Jeremy Thybault and Mercedes Crane own the shop. They started just their storefront this past year, and before then, it was just a collection of treasures in Jeremy's garage. After walking in this beautiful shop and meeting All Young, it's an honor to have their business in our Depot Town District.

For anyone fond of vintage books, pictures, well-made vintage tools, this shop is the place for you. Their inventory is very eclectic, and it's worth just stopping by to find a hidden treasure for those who cherish this sort of material. Over the past few months, they have had a few events at Ambient Antiques, and a tarot card reading was such a success the first time they had them come back. Another successful event was with Fae & Whitney soap works, which they plan to carry shortly.

Their doors are entirely vegan-friendly, and their website is [faendandwhitney.com](#). Stay tuned to the Ambient Antiques Facebook page for any upcoming events.

You can reach them at (313) 878-5906. Ambient Antiques is open Wednesday - Friday 10 AM - 6 PM, Saturdays from 10 AM - 7 PM, and Sundays from 11 AM - 5 PM.

YPSILANTI THROWBACK - PRESERVATION PLANNER SCOTT SIAGOR

Here's a winter-time view facing northeast at the corner of Michigan and Huron. Photo is from the mid-1920s and is shared courtesy of the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING

With the support from the DTE Energy Foundation and the City of Ypsilanti, the DDA was able to bring back the holiday lights in the park and light up the tridigle Enjoy a stroll in Riverside Park this season!

The DDA organized the lighting of the iconic Water Tower for the third consecutive year in the West Cross District Photos courtesy of Ypsi Real and the City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation Commission.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Dear Friends,

As Michiganders, we are all too familiar with long, cold, unpredictable winters. We know that it could be 60 degrees and sunny on Monday and snowing on Friday. That is why it is so important that we all take the time to prepare ourselves, our families, and our homes for whatever weather the rest of this Michigan winter may bring.

As your governor, I am committed to keeping Michiganders safe and lowering costs for families as the weather gets colder and the snow continues to fall. So whether this winter lasts until March or May, here are several resources that can help you stay warm and safe all winter long.

1. Home Heating Crisis: The Home Heating Crisis Center determines eligibility for the cost of heating their homes. The Michigan Department of Treasury determines eligibility for this assistance and makes payments. Applications are available from mid-to late January and can be made through September 30 of each year. If you anticipate needing assistance with heating costs next winter, make sure you apply for this credit once it becomes available at the end of this month.

2. COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) – CERA is a program through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) that helps those having trouble paying rent due to pandemic-related hardships. Households that are eligible for CERA can receive utility assistance for tenant-supplied electricity, home heating (any type of fuel), water, sewer, and trash (if billed along with another utility). As of January 1, 2022, MSHDA will not be approving households that are solely behind on their utilities. These households should apply for utility assistance through MSHDA's [myMSHA](#) page.

3. State Emergency Relief – State Emergency Relief is a crisis intervention program that provides assistance for energy-related expenses like heating fuel, electricity, and home repairs. Those who can demonstrate need are encouraged to apply online through [MI Bridges](#).

4. Weatherization Assistance Program – The Weatherization Assistance Program provides free home energy-conservation services to low-income Michigan homeowners and renters. The services can reduce energy use and lower utility bills. Some of their services include insulation, air leakage reduction, smoke detectors, and dryer venting. These