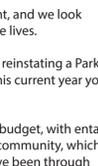


FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

Greetings from the City Manager's Office! It's hard to believe it's already March, the sun is staying up longer and warmer weather is just around the corner. The month of March is National Women's month where we remember the powerful females of not only our country but our community as well. I would like to thank those who participated in the webinar honoring the history of African American First Responders in Ypsilanti.



The Police Officers and Fire Fighters' commitments to ensuring safety in our diverse community daily. Our Black Lives Matter mural is one critical symbol of this commitment, and we look forward to engaging in more transformative programs and initiatives to uplift and improve lives.

City Council has completed its goals for 2022 which include opening the park bathrooms, reinstating a Parks and Recreation department again within Ypsilanti. To view the list of proposed goals for this current year you can [click the link here](#).

Along with the goal session, now we're in the process of finalizing the 2022/23 Fiscal Year budget, with entails meeting with each Session Head. The process of goals and budgeting is vital for our community, which we all care about tremendously. There is a lot going on within our city, and many of us have been through our own trials and tribulations. As we're approaching the bicentennial of the Ypsilanti being established once as Woodruff's Grove. If you would please follow our social media page: [Click Here](#).

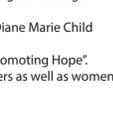
Meeting Highlights have resumed and [can be found here](#).

I 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 guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus. We must work together as a community to keep one another safe. Please contact the local health department regarding vaccination and testing opportunities in the community. Stay safe, stay healthy and please wear your mask.

Staying Connected,
Frances

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR LOIS ALLEN RICHARDSON

We want to offer prayer for our Ukrainian friends and residents who still have family in Ukraine. Our hearts and thoughts are definitely with you and them and with the entire world, for this war that is so uncalled for, is creating problems for us all. Please keep our neighbors across the waters in our thoughts and prayers as we go forward.



The war in Ukraine is a war against Democracy and must be put down and brought to an end. We have a parallel fight against Democracy going on right here in our nation; the war for voter suppression against Black and Brown voters. If you are a senior, disabled, or work hours that compel you to vote absentee, it is also against you. All freedom-loving individuals must stand together, and having done all, still stand to push for full voting rights for all in this nation and worldwide. Here, we can stand by going to the WH and Congress to do the right thing, whatever it might be, including getting rid of the filibuster, which was established to keep Blacks from voting. True freedom requires we support one another.

We have come to a place where restrictions for Covid are being released and removed. There are going to be some of us that are still going to be cautious and wear our masks and there are those that are going to ditch the mask. We just want to say, let's be kind to each other. We have made it through two long years and we still have a way to go, but we will make it through this together. We will get to the other side of this pandemic and some are now calling it an endemic but whatever you name you to want to give, it are going to get through this but it will only be together.

We join the sadness that many residents have expressed at Cultivate's decision to close their doors. We enjoyed having them in the city and appreciate the contributions they made. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors, whatever they may be. We will also miss Dolores's on S. Washington. Congratulations to the businesses that we can sustain through these last two years. We acknowledge they were challenging for us all, but we are looking forward to better days. Be strong and of good courage.

"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nature and transform." ~Diane Marie Child

March is Women's History Month and the theme this year is: "Providing Frontline and Promoting Hope". We take this opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of Caregivers and Frontline Workers as well as women of all cultures who locally and Nationally continue to be history makers. Congratulations and thank you ladies for all you do to make our world better.

March is also known for Health Awareness Month. Help your immune system by:

1. Reduce your stress level - meditate, do yoga, etc.
2. Prioritize quality sleep - 7 to 9 hours each night.
3. Feed your immune system - zinc, folic acid, Vitamin C, E, A, iron, selenium, and maintain a healthy lifestyle.
4. Nip that cold in the bud. Get plenty of rest, drink lots of fluids, take Vitamin C.
5. Exercise your way to a better you.

Let's get healthy and stay that way—no better time to start than now.

Stay safe and stay well.

LOVE is the answer,
Mayor Lois Allen-Richardson

CITY UPDATES

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

Arts Commission Two Commissioners Two Youth Members	Police Advisory Commission Three Commissioners Two Youth Members
Dangerous Bldgs Dangerous Buildings Officer	Sustainability Commission Commissioner Two Youth Members
Human Relations Commission Two Youth Members	YDDA Two Board Members
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

After months of delay, it's time for an update on what's up and coming with the Peninsular Dam. The town hall is scheduled for April 27th, 2022, and the location is still to be determined. We plan to have the meeting as a hybrid setting for participants to participate leisurely. The town hall will allow community members to share what they would like to find in the new Pen Park. The sediment studies completed by Linno Tech delayed the town hall meeting scheduled initially late last year; results will be discussed at the meeting.

We want to thank everyone who has participated in these engagements over the past year. Your input matters for those who attended virtual meetings or completed a survey, and we want to thank everyone involved in this long process. Those who want to know more information on the history and impact of the Peninsular Dam can refer to the [City website](#).

220 N. PARK DEVELOPMENT

Renovare Development LLC has proposed construction for 220 N. Park Development. The development would include duplexes(20) and cottages(36), in which 50% of the houses are to be set aside for affordable housing. The proposal has triggered the Community Benefits Ordinance (CBO).

The property was built in 1861 by John Gilbert, known as the Gilbert mansion, which sits on a 4.5-acre lot. The city has owned the property at 220 N. Park since the 1930s. Over the past 90 years, the site has contained the Boys Club, Girls Club, Boys and Girls Club. Eventually, being vacant land after the clubs on the property were torn down in 2016. Renovare Development approached the city in 2020 to present a development concept.

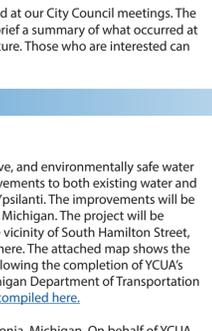
On July 13, 2021, the council approved the idea and authorized staff to enter negotiations on property control. Subsequently, the board approved the option agreement on October 5, 2021. At that time City Council retained control to approve transfers of entities.

The community participation meeting will be held in a hybrid format for those who wish to participate. The date for the conference is set for March 7 at 7 PM, held at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse.

You can find more [information on the property here](#).

845 & 945 CLARK RD DEVELOPMENT

At the City Council meeting on 2/15/2022, applicants were selected to be on the Community Benefits Agreement ad-hoc committee for the proposed development at 945 Clark Rd. Alyssa Newsome, Desirae Simmons, Jon Lusk, Kara Landstrom, Lisa Voelker, Tegwyn John, and Alice Elliott are all part of the committee. The upcoming meeting will be on March 3rd at 7 PM. [The agenda](#) is on the website for those that wish to schedule meetings. The outline of this meeting is based around future engaged activities, the procedures for the ad-hoc committee, reviewing the CBO, and the developed list of community benefits from the last meeting.



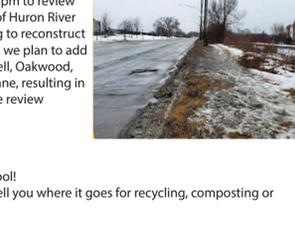
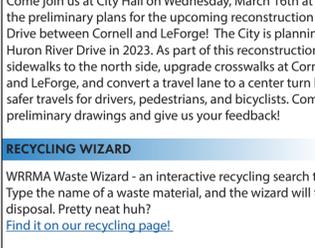
FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Car Seat Program resumes on the 3rd Tuesday of Each Month at the Ypsilanti Fire station. The next meeting will be held on March 15th from 12 PM-3 PM. For those who are interested in more knowledge in how to safely buckle children in automobiles this program is for you. There is no registration required just show up at these meeting times. For any questions or for additional information please contact the number (734) 763-2251.

Car crashes are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. Research has shown that 3 out of 4 car seats are incorrectly used. The C.S. Mott Children's Hospital Buckle Up program strives to reduce the number of motor vehicle crash-related injuries and fatalities among children. Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and Instructors work one on one with families to show them how to properly select a car seat, install it in their vehicle, and how safely buckle children in their seats. We have a grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning that allows us to provide new car seats to qualifying families in need of a seat. We hold monthly car seat check events rotating locations throughout Washtenaw County. To better serve the community, our events require appointments. Each appointment takes approximately 30 minutes per child. To schedule an appointment or to find out more about our program contact us a 734-763-2251 or 734-763-5063 (Español) or visit [pediatrictrauma.org](#).

Training

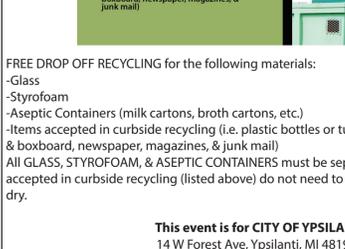
On February 15, 16, and 17th—the City of Ypsilanti Fire Department will be hosting a Rescue Task Force training. In the past, during an active shooter event in the US, fire departments would stage until the threat was eliminated and the building was cleared and declared secure by police. Clearing and securing the building takes time and victims were waiting too long for treatment. This is where a rescue task force comes in. A rescue task force is a mixed team of Police and Firefighters. Police provide protection for the firefighters, so the firefighters can enter and treat victims before the building is declared secure. This requires the firefighters to wear tactical-style ballistic protection equipment. Washtenaw Area Mutual Aid Association provides the training at no cost. The instructor cadre is a mixture of Police and Firefighters in Washtenaw County. Participating agencies include The City of Ypsilanti Fire Department, The City of Ypsilanti Police Department, Eastern Michigan University Police Department, Superior Township Fire Department, Ypsilanti Township Fire Department, Ann Arbor Township Fire Department, and Pittsfield Township Fire Department. Special thanks to Eastern Michigan University for letting us use the College of Business for this training. This training will increase the capabilities of emergency response to potential violence in the City of Ypsilanti and the surrounding area.



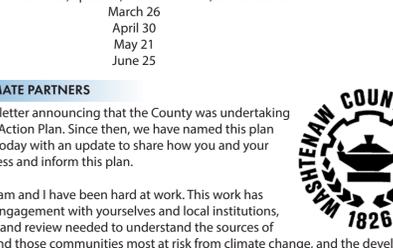
The photo to the right was provided by the firefighter Noe Gomez-Ornelas, who enjoys photography as a hobby and has shared some quality photos from training in Depot Town, last year. After meeting Gomez, and noticing his passion for the community and photography, we hope to share more high-quality images in future newsletters. We are very blessed to have such compassionate frontline workers within the city of Ypsilanti.



THANK YOU FIRST RESPONDERS



Provided are notes from Ypsilanti residents personally thanking our First Responders for their service. As disclosed in the first message, a resident suffered a heart attack. The other resident who personally knows a local officer wanted to thank them for their service. We are grateful for having such a responsive and proficient staff. Thank you for your submissions in sharing your support for our city officials.



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our Meeting Highlights have continued, which covers topics mentioned at our City Council meetings. The idea behind Meeting Highlights is to encourage Ypsilanti residents to brief a summary of what occurred at Council. With hopes that they will attend our public meetings in the future. Those who are interested can view it on our [youtube page](#)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATES

YPSI ROAD RENOVATION

As part of the ongoing dedication to providing top quality, cost-effective, and environmentally safe water and wastewater services to our customers, YCUA will be making improvements to both existing water and wastewater utilities within the M-17 and US-12 corridors in the City of Ypsilanti. The improvements will be constructed for YCUA by DiPonio Contracting, Inc., of Shelby Township, Michigan. The project will be completed over the course of the next 2 years with work starting in the vicinity of South Hamilton Street, South Huron Street, and Interstate 94 and proceeding northward from there. The attached map shows the phasing of the work and the anticipated time frame for each phase. Following the completion of YCUA's utility improvements, the roads will be resurfaced/repaired by the Michigan Department of Transportation under a separate construction contract. [Information on this project is compiled here](#).

The project was designed for YCUA by OHM Advisors, Inc. (OHM), of Livonia, Michigan. On behalf of YCUA, OHM will also be administering the construction contract and providing full-time, on-site observation of the work by DiPonio Contracting, Inc.

Access to homes and businesses within the project limits will be maintained at all times during the project. Although every effort will be made to minimize disruptions caused by the water and wastewater system improvements, the construction work will invariably result in some inconveniences.

If you have any questions regarding this project please call YCUA at (734) 484-4600 and ask for Scott Westover, Engineering Manager, at extension 220 or via electronic mail at swestover@ycua.org.

Please view [this video](#) for more information on the project. The participants are (zoom windows top to bottom) Fraser Payne, PE: OHM Construction Engineer for YCUA, FraserPayne@ohm-advisors.com; Rachel Jackson, PE, OHM Utilities Engineer for YCUA; Greg Marker, PE, OHM's Construction Senior Technical Leader for YCUA.

YPSI ROAD RENOVATION Big Changes are coming to Downtown!

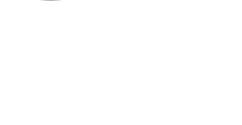


Beginning in 2022 and through 2023, the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the City will be working together to improve the safety of our drinking water and our transportation system. This project will affect traffic on Huron from I-94 to Cross; Hamilton 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, most fragile pipes; they will also be replacing some water service leads and taking this opportunity to replace some sanitary sewer as well. This is being done both to remove older pipe materials in both systems and to improve the reliability of service.

MDOT will be simultaneously constructing a pedestrian pathway over I-94 by converting the westernmost southbound lane of Huron to a shared-use path; and also following YCUA's work with a pavement maintenance and road diet project. In areas paved with asphalt the existing dike will be milled off and replaced; in areas paved with concrete damaged areas will be removed and re-poured. MDOT will also be adding and updating many pedestrian crosswalk ramps, including on Michigan Avenue downtown. Once the pavement work is complete, the roadways will be restriped with bike lanes, improved crosswalks; 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 roadways; the road diet project will improve the safety of the roads for all users.



HURON RIVER DRIVE MEETING

Come join us at City Hall on Wednesday, March 16th at 6pm to review the preliminary plans for the upcoming reconstruction of Huron River Drive between Cornell and LeForge. The City is planning to reconstruct Huron River Drive in 2023. As part of this reconstruction, we plan to add sidewalks to the north side, upgrade sidewalks at Cornell, Oakwood, and LeForge, and convert a travel lane to a center turn lane, resulting in safer travels for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Come review preliminary drawings and give us your feedback!

RECYCLING WIZARD

WRRMA 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!](#)

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.)
- Items accepted in curbside recycling (i.e. plastic bottles or tubs, tin, aluminum, 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.

This event is for CITY OF YPSILANTI RESIDENTS ONLY

14 W Forest Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-2447, United States

- March 26
- April 30
- May 21
- June 25

WASHTENAW COUNTY CLIMATE PARTNERS

Last December you received a letter announcing that the County was undertaking the development of a Climate Action Plan. Since then, we have named this plan "Resilient Washtenaw". I write today with an update to share how you and your residents can follow our progress and inform this plan.

Since that letter, the project team and I have been hard at work. This work has included initial outreach and engagement with yourselves and local institutions, the start of the data collection and review needed to understand the sources of emissions within the County and those communities most at risk from climate change, and the development of a planning process that gives all in the County the opportunity to shape this plan. Thank you to those of you who we've already heard from. If we haven't yet heard from you, we want to! Please send a brief email to climate@washtenaw.org and we'll follow up to talk further about how to engage your members and your organizations in this project.

Key to our community engagement is resilientwashtenaw.org, a project website launched last week. This is a one-stop website where you can find discussion, project updates, research, other relevant information, and provide feedback on the content of the plan. The site already contains comments from many Washtenaw County residents and stakeholders on how the climate in the County is already changing, existing projects, climate efforts worth celebrating, and suggestions and opportunities for projects and programs to be included in the County's plan. The site also makes it very easy to follow project progress. If you haven't already, please take a moment to review the site, add your own feedback, and subscribe to receive future updates.

Additionally, we have scheduled the first series of community engagement events for the coming weeks. Our goal is to make sure that our climate action plan addresses the things that Washtenaw County residents care about, and these listening sessions are one way we are doing that. These district-based events are being held through zoom and are the first of multiple rounds of public input. Information about how to register for these events can be found on the [time/line page of our project website](https://resilientwashtenaw.org). Please share this information with your networks, and we hope to have you in attendance.

As I said in November, we appreciate all the work you do in the County and look forward to working with you and your communities to develop our climate action plan.

Sincerely,
Andrew DeLeeuw
Director of Strategic Planning, Office of the County Administrator
(734) 222-6824; deleewa@washtenaw.org

OTHER UPDATES

GOVERNOR WHITMER ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL \$400 MILLION TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES, RETAIN OR CREATE JOBS, AND BOOST MICHIGAN'S ECONOMY

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Gretchen Whitmer today announced a new grant program beginning March 1, 2022, that will provide businesses with additional financial support totaling \$409 million to help retain or create jobs and boost our state's economy.

"This program will support Michigan businesses that were impacted by COVID-19 and help us build on our economic momentum," said **Governor Whitmer**. "I'm focused on putting Michiganders first and growing Michigan's economy as we work together to take advantage of our \$7 billion surpluses and make investments in the issues that matter most to families. Right now, Michigan's resilient, innovative small businesses need support, and we should keep having their backs as they work to expand operations and create more jobs."

Under this program, eligible businesses in operation before October 1, 2019, may receive a percentage of their loss in total state sales through a grant, up to \$5 million. Eligible businesses that began operating between October 1, 2019, and June 1, 2020, may receive a grant equal to 25% of certain specified costs. The grants may be prorated depending upon the number of businesses that apply to ensure that all eligible businesses can receive funding.

"Treasury is committed to ensuring these payments are received by eligible businesses," **State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks** said. "We are working with our business and community partners to ensure potential applicants are aware of this funding opportunity. I encourage businesses to check if they're eligible for a grant."

Businesses must submit a completed online application to the Michigan Department of Treasury no later than 11:59 p.m. EST Thursday, March 31. Grant awardees will be notified in the spring and grant awards will be distributed by July 1, 2022.

The application will become available at 8 a.m. EST on Tuesday, March 1, at www.michigan.gov/abr.

Businesses interested in applying are encouraged to attend one of the following informational webinars hosted by the state Treasury Department:

- Thursday, Feb. 17 at 9-10 a.m. EST
- Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 10-11 a.m. EST
- Monday, March 7 at 1-2 p.m. EST

Details for signing up for a webinar can be found on the grant program's website.

To learn more about the Afflicted Business Relief Grant Program or read frequently asked questions, go to www.michigan.gov/abr.

Do you have something happening in the city you'd like to share here?
Email your article to tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com

