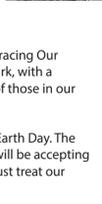


FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

Greetings from the City Manager's Office! Spring has sprung, and it is hard to believe the brightness of winter is almost behind us. There are a few things that I would like to address in our wonderful community. Please be patient with the construction in the Downtown Area. It may add a few minutes more to your daily commute. My advice to everyone would be to leave a little earlier and try to find healthy habits in the morning instead of adding more stress. The construction project will be here for a short while, and the results will be tremendous for the Ypsilanti community. For more information on the road renovation, please visit our website at [Ypsilanti Road Renovations](https://www.ypsilanti.com/road-renovation).



Many exciting events are coming with the change of season, including art murals by Embracing Our Differences SE Michigan. There will be murals displayed in Riverside Park and Parkridge Park, with a celebratory event on May 15th. For those interested in attending, be safe and courteous of those in our community who are present but may not participate.

A holiday approaching us during April that should be on everybody's radar is April 23rd-Earth Day. The Ypsilanti District Library will be holding a [recycling event](#) at the Whittaker location. They will be accepting trunkloads of unwanted electronics from any resident. We only have one planet, so we must treat our community as our best friend.

Our Bicentennial celebration (200 years) is one year away from April 23rd. It is a great honor to be a leader of this community and be a part of the growth of Ypsilanti. There is a committee for organizing events for next year, and if you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to ypsbicentennial@gmail.com or our Communication Manager at tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com.

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.

The Affordable Connectivity Program helps low-income households pay for broadband service and internet-connected devices. Low-income households at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or who qualify for benefit programs such as WIC and SNAP, can receive up to a \$30 per month discount on broadband services. Households on qualifying Tribal lands can receive up to a \$75 per month discount. Additionally, families can receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50). Several large companies such as Comcast, AT&T, and Boost Mobile are participating in the program.

More information on eligibility and the application process can be found at <https://acpbenefit.org/>.

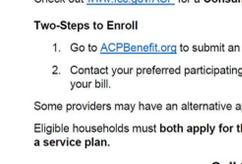
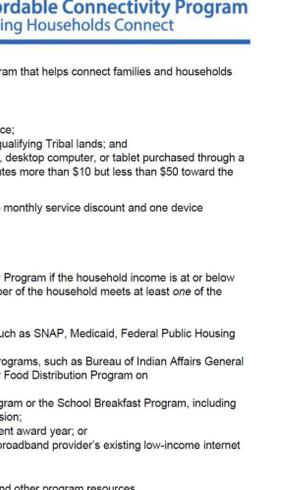
Staying Connected,
Frances

Save \$30/month on internet access

The FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program helps low-income households by providing:

- A \$30 per month benefit to help households afford access to high-speed internet service.
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50).

Learn more and see if you qualify at www.ACPbenefit.org



The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

The Affordable Connectivity Program provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for broadband service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider if the household contributes more than \$10 but less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

Who is Eligible?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#), or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in one of several Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal Head Start, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Participates in the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income internet program.

Check out www.fcc.gov/ACP for a **Consumer FAQ** and other program resources.

Two-Steps to Enroll

1. Go to ACPBenefit.org to submit an application or print out a mail-in application; and
2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must both **apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.**

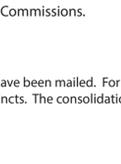
Call 877-384-2575

or find more information about the Affordable Connectivity Program at fcc.gov/ACP

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR LOIS ALLEN RICHARDSON

Greetings,

"Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush." ~ Doug Larson



The month of April comes from the Latin word aperio, meaning "to open (bud)" because plants begin to grow now. That seems to be where we are with recovery from the pandemic. Things are starting to open more and more after the shutdown; restrictions of masks and distancing are being removed, and people are venturing out more. Many of us have been waiting for this, but caution is still needed; COVID has not entirely left us. We must not ignore the new variant that is raising it's ugly head. Keep a mask handy. We have come a long way, but we still have a ways to go before we are completely clear.

Gas prices continue to soar, making this a good time to re-evaluate how we travel.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Think about riding mass transportation,
2. using E-bike,
3. work from home
4. carpool.

Hopefully, with the White House's announcement for a release of gas reserves, the price per gallon will go down. In the meanwhile, let's conserve as much gas as we can.

Council has made requests to have better and more timely reporting from the police department. We are working with the Chief to bring on more transparency and open communication in reporting crimes. Additionally, we will focus on promptness, clarity, and trust with calls. If you see something that is a crime or just not right don't hesitate to contact our anonymous tip line at 734-292-5429. It is going to take us all working together to bring a stop to crime.

Just a reminder for our community members of openings on our Boards and Commissions within the city. There are plenty of vacancies for those individuals who wish to get more involved in our community. Please, if you're looking for volunteer positions take a look at the website and find out which committee may interest you.

There are three special religious holidays being celebrated this month; the Christian community will celebrate Easter, the Resurrection of Christ, and our Jewish community will celebrate Passover, the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Lastly, Ramadan is one of the holiest times in the Muslim calendar. It lasts for one month with daily Dawn to dusk fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. As a collective community, we will celebrate the budding of the trees and the blooming of early flowers. Our best wishes are for Happy Celebrations to all.

Stay safe and stay well. Have a great Spring!

LOVE is the answer,
Mayor Lois Allen-Richardson

CITY UPDATES

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

<p>Arts Commission Three Commissioners Two Youth Members</p> <p>Dangerous Bldgs Dangerous Buildings Officer</p> <p>Human Relations Commission Commissioner Two Youth Members</p> <p>Planning Commission Commissioner</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Commission Commissioner Three Youth Members</p>	<p>Police Advisory Commission Three Commissioners Two Youth Members</p> <p>Sustainability Commission Commissioner Two Youth Members</p> <p>YDDA Two Board Members</p> <p>Ypsilanti Housing Commission Commissioner</p> <p>Zoning Board of Appeals Three Commissioners</p>
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Fill out this [online form](#) if you are interested in the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions.

VOTING ELECTION

Absentee voter ballots, for those that have applied, for the May 3rd Special Election have been mailed. For those wishing to vote in person on May 3rd, this election will have consolidated precincts. The consolidation is as follows:

- Ward 1 Precinct 1 will vote at Perry School, 550 Perry Street
- Ward 1 Precinct 2 will vote at the Ypsilanti Senior Center, 1015 Congress Street
- Ward 1 Precinct 3 will vote at 2nd Baptist Church, 301 South Hamilton Street
- Ward 2 Precincts 1,2,&3 will all vote in one precinct located at 1555 W. Cross Street
- Ward 2 Precinct 4 & Ward 3 Precinct 1 will vote in one precinct located at the EMU Honors College located at 511 W Forest
- Ward 3 Precincts 2 & 3 will vote in one precinct located at the Ypsilanti International Elementary School located at 5023 Oak.

For further information please visit the [City Website](#), or contact the Clerk Department at (734) 483-1100

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](#)

PEN DAM REMOVAL UPDATE

For those who are interested in an update on the Peninsula Dam, the town hall is scheduled for April 27th, 2022, and the location is at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse at 7 PM. The town hall will allow community members to share any questions about what they can expect to see within the upcoming Huron River. This town hall was going to be held at the end of 2021 but was rescheduled for this spring so we could include findings from Limno Tech, the engineering firm that did the sediment sampling and testing. [Removing Dams Helps Fish - Huron River Watershed Council \(hrwc.org\)](#)

"Many dams in the U.S. have been an important part of the infrastructure, serving to help with flood control and water supply, generating power, and creating recreational opportunities. Most dams are quite old and no longer serve their original purpose, and in recent decades, our understanding of how dams affect rivers' health has improved. Dams commonly disrupt natural river flow processes and sediment transport. They block passage for aquatic organisms, create a reservoir where there was a natural, free-flowing river, and increase water temperatures. This better understanding gives us a new perspective in evaluating aging dams that no longer serve their original purpose and require expensive repairs to maintain public safety. Even dams that do not serve in immediate need of repair can be public safety hazards, with drowning a high risk"

Thank everyone who has participated in meetings over the past year. Everyone's input matters for those who attended virtual meetings or completed a survey, and we want to thank everyone involved in this long process. We hope that with the dam removal our community will see positive results from all the hard efforts. Those who want to know more information on the history and impact of the Peninsular Dam can refer to the [City website](#).

845 & 945 CLARK RD DEVELOPMENT

Since the initial Community Benefits Meeting, the commission has met three times since initiating. All of the meetings are open to the public and are shared on the city's website.

The Community Benefits Agreement Committee will hold meetings on the following dates in City Council Chambers located at One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. All meetings will begin at 7:00 pm

- Wednesday, April 6, 2022
- Thursday, April 21, 2022

For more background on the development please [visit our landing page](#).

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATES

YARD WASTE PICK UP

Yard Waste pick-up will start the week of April 4, 2022.

Yard waste consists of grass clippings, leaves, garden material, and bundled or contained branches that are two to three inches or smaller in diameter and cut in four-foot lengths or smaller.

Please place at the curb no later than 6 a.m. on trash day or the evening before.

How do I prepare yard waste for pick-up?

- Place in brown paper compost bags or in a trash can (32 gallons or smaller) with handles.
- Trash cans must have the Compost sticker on them facing the street.
- Bags or cans must weigh less than 50 pounds.
- Place bags or cans approximately six feet from the trash.
- Think green - no plastic bags, please.
- Compost Stickers for containers may be obtained at the Department of Public Services or City Hall.
- Bundles must be tied with twine or jute. No plastic.

YPSI ROAD RENOVATION

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 asphalt 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 sidewalk 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 roads; the road diet project will improve the safety of the roads for all users.

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

- GLASS
- STYROFOAM
- ASEPTIC CONTAINERS (milk cartons, broth cartons, etc.)
- ALSO - Items accepted in curbside recycling (i.e. plastic bottles or tubs, tin, aluminum, paper, corrugated cardboard & boxboard, newspaper, magazines, & junk mail)

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, 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.

This event is for **CITY OF YPSILANTI RESIDENTS ONLY**

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

- April 30
- May 21
- June 25

NEWS FROM THE YPSILANTI DDA

NEW BUSINESSES IN THE DDA!

Bird Dog Baking

New in our Ypsilanti community is Bird Dog Baking, a bread and pastry shop opening up Downtown. Owned by Mark Bogard, you can currently buy their products at Argus Farms and Hyperion Coffee Shop. According to their Facebook, "They are dedicated to working closely with Michigan farmers using regenerative and ethical practices. They source 100% of their flour from the Great Lakes region. Reach out to them at info@birddogbaking.com for more information!"

Bird Dog Bakery works closely with farmers who value soil health and who aim to create a complete, diverse, and thriving ecosystem that ensures the health and longevity of Michigan's beautiful landscapes. At Bird Dog, they strive to turn better ingredients into better food to strengthen and nourish our community. They also have contributed to many nonprofits in the Ypsilanti area, such as Hope Clinic. Please support this local business and share in our joy.

YPSI THROWBACK with City Preservation Planner, Ellen Thackeray

American Legion float in the 1954 July 4th Parade in Ypsilanti and in the background is the north side of Michigan Avenue between Hamilton and Huron (photograph is from Ann Arbor News).

FIRST FRIDAYS YPSILANTI UPDATE

First Fridays Ypsilanti started its ninth official season on April 1st, 2022! The weather cleared up enough to make an enjoyable stroll around the DDA Districts! Sixteen venues participated this month with unique events ranging from a free jazz concert at the Ypsilanti Food Coop, to a hot chocolate bar at Sweetwaters, to free swing dance lessons at Riverside Arts Center!

On the Left:

Artist Sareka Unique poses with her many vibrant paintings at The Gallery Above Stone & Spoon (110 W. Michigan Ave.) A Candy Coated A Candy Colored Midscape: A Solo Exhibition by Sareka Unique will be on display until May 22nd, so be sure to see it!

On the Right: Jerome Nichols, Founder of [Butters Hygienics Co](#) showcased their Ypsi made skincare products at Betty Green Organic Salon.

Below: Ericka-Vonyea Hayes of Hayes Notary & Co. is offered free notarizations at Back Office Studios during First Fridays. Did you know you can co-work for free at BOS during FFY? Now you do, so give it a try!

Photos provided by First Fridays Ypsilanti
The Next First Friday is Friday, May 6th - stay tuned for more Ypsi Arts and Culture!

Do you have something happening in the city you'd like to share here?

Email your article to tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com