

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2022 WORK SESSION**

Clerk Jarrell Roe called the meeting to order at approximately 5:02pm in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.

Members Present: Supervisor Brenda Stumbo, Clerk Heather Jarrell Roe and Treasurer Stan Eldridge
Trustees: John Newman II, Gloria Peterson, Debbie Swanson and Jimmie Wilson, Jr. (Arrived at 5:05pm)

Members Absent: None

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments given.

- 1. DTE GAS MAIN RENEWAL PRESENTATION.....MOLLY LUEMPert-COY
- 2. ISSUE MEDIA GROUP.....PAUL SCHUTT
- 3. REALLOCATION OF HYDRO FUNDS.....MICHAEL SARANEN
- 4. AGENDA REVIEW.....SUPERVISOR STUMBO
- 5. OTHER DISCUSSION.....BOARD MEMBERS

REALLOCATION OF HYDRO FUNDS.....MICHAEL SARANEN

Michael Saranen stated that in the 2022 budget money was allocated for a shoreline stabilization grant that was not awarded to the Township. He stated that line item transfers will be needed to move those funds to cover other expenses.

Supervisor Stumbo stated she was very glad the township had applied for the grant for shoreline stabilization. She suggested it might be a good idea to issue a RFQ for the stabilization, in order to have the project ready to go in case it could qualify for ARPA dollars.

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ISSUE MEDIA GROUP.....PAUL SCHUTT

Paul Schutt from Issue Media Group gave a presentation to the Board (see attached). He stated they cover community activities that are not normally covered in mainstream media.

Supervisor Stumbo asked about how many hits Ypsilanti Township and how many residents are reading the news articles. He stated it is approximately 32% in the township.

Treasurer Eldridge asked if the City of Ypsilanti was a sponsor. Paul Schutt responded that they had been in the past and they were working with the city to get them back on board.

Trustee Wilson stated that people are really appreciative of the positive stories that are shared about the Township.

Treasurer Eldridge asked about embedded journalism. Paul Schutt responded that it was about giving more attention to areas that were considered a “news dessert”, which is areas that are underreported on. Paul Schutt stated they have a journalist who is an Ypsilanti Township resident to report on the township. He stated that she attends local events and meetings to find news stories. Treasurer Eldridge asked about having the reporter attend township Board meetings. Paul Schutt responded that it is something that could be looked at and he would talk to our area reporter about that.

AGENDA REVIEW

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST TO APPOINT CLERK HEATHER JARRELL ROE, TRUSTEE GLORIA PETERSON AND TRUSTEE DEBBIE SWANSON TO THE YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) COMMITTEE

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Supervisor Stumbo reviewed the three Board members that were being requested to be appointed. Debbie Swanson, a 36 year public school teacher, Gloria Peterson, a retired AFSME Union Leader and Heather Jarrell Roe, a registered nurse. Supervisor Stumbo stated that there were lots of technical requirements in regard to spending this money and that Accounting Director Jovanna Neel would be adding her help to the committee to make sure that all reporting was accurate.

Treasurer Eldridge stated that he felt these were three good people to appoint to the committee and that we was sure they would work to engage the community.

REQUEST TO DESIGNATE FUNDS, IF RECEIVED, FROM A JANSSEN OPIOID SETTLEMENT TO WASHTENAW COUNTY

Supervisor Stumbo stated that the township had applied for these funds and that she had reached out to Greg Dill about partnering with the county to use these funds. She stated that reporting for these dollars will be very strict.

Trustee Wilson stated that someone earlier had been on the AG's website and said the funds were higher than the \$4000.00. He asked where the township had gotten that amount. Supervisor Stumbo stated that the \$4000.00 per year for 18 years was on the website the township used to apply for the funds. She also stated that this number can continue to change until it is finalized.

Trustee Swanson stated that she saw something saying the county could be getting a large sum from this settlement and was wondering how the county would be spending these dollars. She stated that she would like more collaboration and communication with the county. Supervisor Stumbo stated that she agreed and that some non-profit groups had reached out to see if there were funds available for their programs.

Trustee Wilson asked if the amount of the settlement increased would this item have to come back to the Board or would it still be designated to the county. Supervisor Stumbo stated if there were any changes it would come back to the Board.

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**REQUEST TO PURCHASE MASKS FOR YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS FOR THE
PREVENTION OF COVID 19**

**REQUEST TO PURCHASE COVID 19 TEST KITS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO YPSILANTI
TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS**

Supervisor Stumbo stated that getting access to testing kits has been a real hardship and that there have been lots of calls from residents asking where they can go to be tested. Supervisor Stumbo stated that ARPA funds can be used to purchase the kits and masks. She also stated that the township would be working with other entities for collaboration and so that efforts would not overlap.

Michael Saranen stated having the financing in place was key to being ready and able to purchase masks and kits, if needed. He stated prices and supply are fluctuating and may no longer be the same as in his memo.

Trustee Newman asked what the timeline is for receiving these items. Michael Saranen responded that COVID test kits are shipping in approximately 5 weeks and masks are sooner.

Trustee Swanson talked about counterfeit masks and making sure that we are receiving real items. She also stated she is still very concerned by the lack of coordination with the county and that she feels this negatively impacts our residents.

Trustee Swanson clarified that she was not referring to township employees in her frustrations and that she was aware that employees have worked very hard to keep residents informed.

RESOLUTION 2022-01, OWNERS DAM SAFETY PROGRAM (ODSP)

Michael Saranen stated that he had been bringing this resolution forward for the last several years in support of dam safety and promoting a safe project for our community and downstream communities. He stated this is to recognize the need

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for safety programs and funding for these programs. Michael Saranen stated this was only for the dam at Ford Lake.

RESOLUTION 2022, 02, NON-MOTORIZED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON HURON STREET OVER I-94

Michael Hoffmeister, Residential Services Director stated this is a resolution that commits the township to a \$120,000.00 TAP Grant matching fund. He also stated this would include \$98,900.00 to convert box band traffic signals to mast arms, which are light signals with the strings hanging down changed to the mast arms that hang over the street with street signs. Michael Hoffmeister stated that the plan is to go out for bid in February, award the bid in April and start construction soon after.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that this is a welcome project for the safety of people who walk or bike on Huron St. between the city and the township.

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH ISSUE MEDIA GROUP FOR 2022 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,000.00 BUDGETED IN LINE ITEM #101-272-801-000

Supervisor Stumbo stated there was a presentation on this item earlier in the work session.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #1

Supervisor Stumbo detailed the items on the budget amendment.

AUTHORIZATIONS AND BIDS

REQUEST TO SEEK QUOTES FOR ANNUAL PLAYGROUND MULCH INSTALLATION

Supervisor Stumbo stated this is an annual request to replace mulch at some of the township parks. She added that this will come back to the board for final approval.

REQUEST TO SEEK QUOTES FOR THE ANNUAL SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM

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REQUEST TO SEEK QUOTES FOR THE ANNUAL SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Supervisor Stumbo stated that there are several ways to repair a sidewalk such as shaving portions down or injecting cement to make it level.

REQUEST TO SEEK QUOTES FOR THE ANNUAL TREE TRIMMING AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

Supervisor Stumbo stated this is for work throughout the township and parks.

REQUEST TO SEEK PROPOSALS FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR A WEBSITE REVAMP CONSULTING FIRM AND A WEBSITE CONTENT STRATEGIST

Supervisor Stumbo stated this will come back to the Board for final approval.

Clerk Jarrell Roe gave an update from the Clerk's office. She stated the State of Michigan has finalized the redistricting maps, however some legal challenges are expected. Clerk Jarrell Roe stated that the district areas didn't necessarily change in geography for our area but the district numbers have. She added that once this is finalized we will have to send out updated voter ID cards to voters and that we hope to do this in conjunction with the county Clerk's office to be as fiscally responsible as possible.

Clerk Jarrell Roe stated she and Treasurer Eldridge, in conjunction with Human Resources had just completed interviews for an open position in each office and that they hoped to have both filled as soon as possible.

Clerk Jarrell Roe stated the branding committee had met that day with the consultant and planned to bring an update to the Board soon.

DTE GAS MAIN RENEWAL PRESENTATION.....MOLLY LUEMPert-COY

Molly Luempert-Coy stated she was a regional manager from DTE and is joined by other DTE representatives, as well as representatives from Miller Pipeline. She gave

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a presentation with Brandon Francis, DTE Project Manager on the gas main work in the township (see attached).

Supervisor Stumbo asked about the size of the pipes being used. Brandon Francis stated it depended on the engineering requirements.

Molly Luempert-Coy stated that DTE has been working on this project in different areas of the township for the past couple of years.

Trustee Newman asked if these changes were for residences. Molly Luempert-Coy responded that these updates were for residences and the system as a whole. She added that the Michigan Public Service Commission had advised that these updates need to be made. Brandon Francis stated the main goals were to replace the metal pipes and move the meters from inside the home to outside. Trustee Newman asked how this relates to a home's furnace and its pipes. Brandon Francis stated that if there are any fuel lines within the home that needed to be replaced, DTE would replace those and relight any pilot lights, as needed.

Trustee Swanson asked about when the lines are dug to replace the pipes are there other cables also in the same place. Brandon Francis responded that three days before each project begins Miss Digg is called out to mark any areas where other lines may be. Trustee Swanson asked if there was ever coordination between DTE and other groups that may need to replace something underground so that areas only have to be dug up once. Molly Luempert-Coy stated that DTE will meet with the road commission and the township. Trustee Swanson asked if they would ever meet with the cable providers to coordinate and Molly Luempert-Coy responded that they typically only meet with the municipality and the road commission.

Trustee Swanson asked if there was ever a time when the meters were requested to be inside the homes. Molly Luempert-Coy stated that DTE has worked to get the meters outside for at least the last thirty days.

Supervisor Stumbo stated the Supervisor's office hasn't had any calls regarding this project, but has had some questions from area residents that wouldn't have been directly informed.

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Trustee Wilson commented on the bills that people can receive that are out of whack because the bills have been estimates.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Winters stated that the first two weeks of 2022 felt like the last six months of 2021. He stated that he was suggesting that the township have a list of priorities. Attorney Winters stated they had been slammed with meeting requests in the last two weeks and most were for projects that were carrying over from 2021. He stated that projects needed to be finalized before new ones were moved forward.

Attorney Winters stated that the township had spent a large amount of time dealing with Ypsilanti Community Schools and how their empty school buildings would be re-purposed. He said that the township had had to go from fire to fire dealing with issues instead of being able to work with the schools to set up a plan.

Attorney Winters stated that the township has also had to play catch up with the county in regard to the COVID 19 pop up testing site in the Walmart parking lot on Ellsworth. Everybody recognizes the need for testing. He stated that he had seen an announcement from the head of the World Health Organization stating that Omicron would not be last mutation of COVID that we see, so we have to know what the real plan in from the county. Attorney Winters stated that the county needs to engage with the township Board, fire marshal and other officials on what their plan may be. He said this goes back to what the priorities might be.

Attorney Winters stated the Board had spent a lot of time working through challenges with the road commission to see if the township would have to do its own traffic impact study to ensure that there are traffic mitigation measures to help with the safety of the driving public.

Attorney Winters stated there were many infrastructure issues and that it is excited to know that Connecting Communities and the Huron Pathway are moving forward.

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Attorney Winters stated that he and Michael Hoffmeister are meeting with Stantec to make sure that Loonfeather is completed properly and is ADA compliant.

Attorney Winters stated that he has to use his judgement on what is the priority of Board and what is being shared because on any given day of the week there is so much going on. He stated this is why he thought it might be a good idea to have a brainstorming session with the Board for priorities and communication with other groups. He said the AAATA agreement and Reimagine Washtenaw are real concerns along with the development of Liberty Square, Seaver Farms and other areas. Attorney Winters stated that development agreements need to be monitored to ensure requirements are being met such as on-site security gates.

Attorney Winters stated there were lots of thoughts on how to make 2022 a year where some situations are put to rest and new ones are embraced. He stated that he believed this Board was in the best place to exercise its leadership role make the county follow through on a 20 year old promise to bring recreation to the eastern side of the county.

Attorney Winters stated that he had lots of questions that the Board may have to weigh into in regard to what is the best utilization of time. He stated it comes down to ad hoc moments where a person has to stop what they are working on because something has become more urgent. Attorney Winters stated he was not blaming any one group, but when the county decides to do pop up testing in a parking lot we need to know and that the township has resources to look at this from a safety stand point and be a true partner.

Attorney Winters stated that he is concerned that there are so many balls in the air, that the township may catch the wrong one or drop one. He also stated hopefully in the future Board meetings could be moved to other locations during the summer. He stated he hopes that we get to a place where we do not have to keep revisiting the same issue which wastes time and money.

Supervisor Stumbo stated that she is working on the vermin contract and that it has been expanded. She stated that the township is going to have to test for fire fighters, filling the open fire marshal position and union contract negotiations.

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Supervisor Stumbo stated that it is imperative that people follow the rules of the township for planning and zoning. She added that usually pop ups are temporary but this one is looking at a year. She stated the testing company did reach out to Jason Iacoangeli and they were told what would be required and the company showed up there anyway. Supervisor Stumbo stated that we cannot allow this because other groups would then follow and set up without following the rules.

Supervisor stated that one of her goals is communication. She stated that we are the second largest municipality in the county and that we deserve to be informed. Supervisor Stumbo stated that we have attended road commission meetings and county commissioner meetings and need to continue to do so to help the township get a seat at the table.

The Work Session meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:51pm.

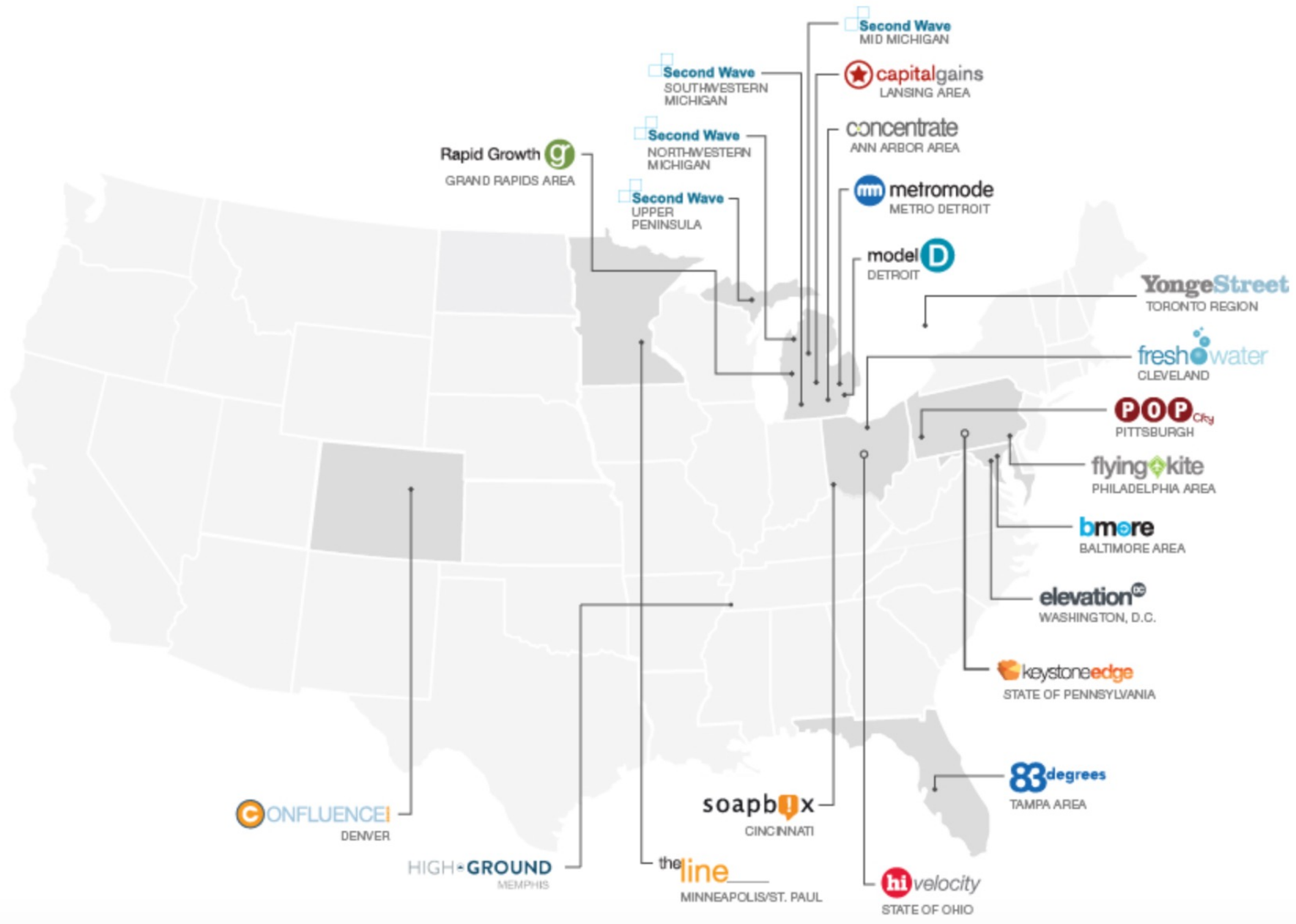
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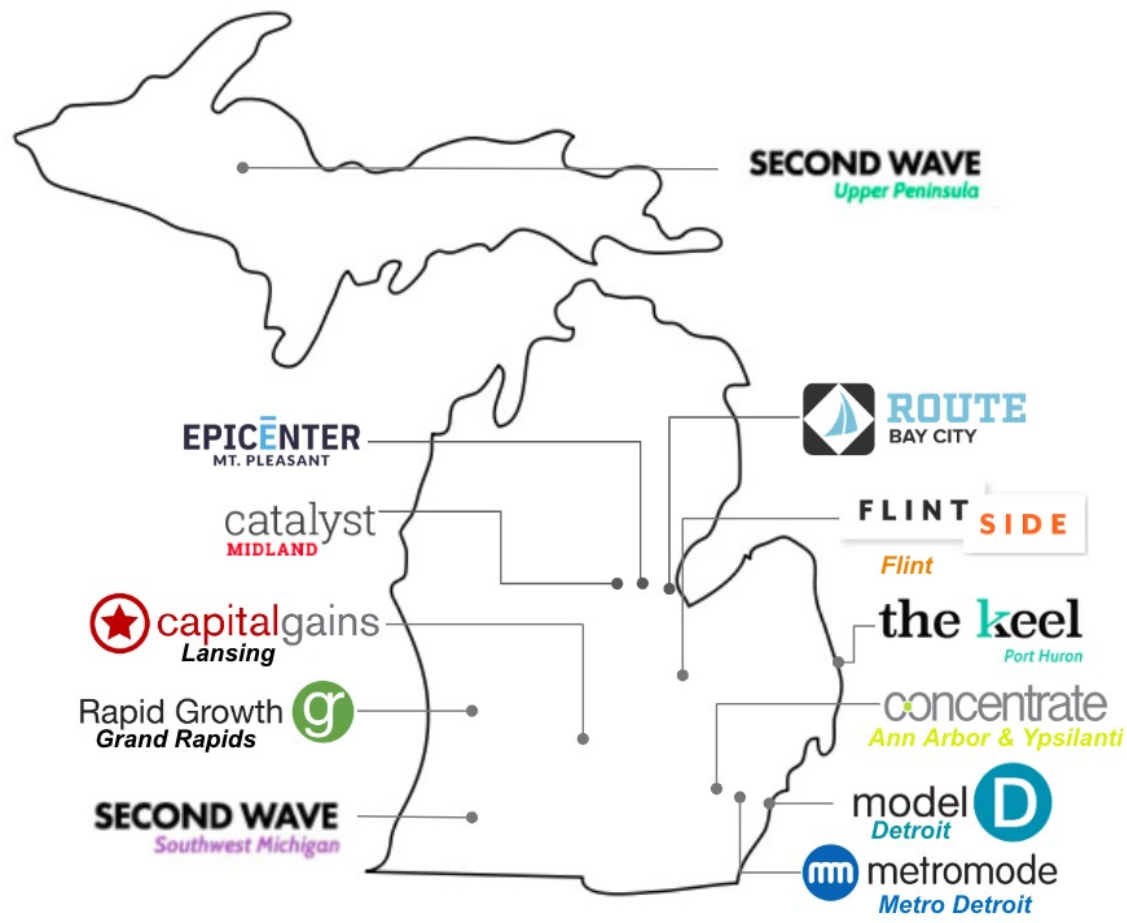
**Heather Jarrell Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti**

IMPACT REPORT

January-November 2021







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Charlie LeDuff / The Detroit News

Detroit

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– Solutions Journalism –

“It’s not so much about people doing terrible things that are hidden from view, it’s about people doing remarkable things that are hidden from view.”

– DAVID BORNSTEIN, THE NEW YORK TIMES

↓ on the ground ↓



↓ on the ground ↓

- Editorial coverage about the people, projects and innovations that are helping to shape “what’s next” for the community
- Increase awareness, understanding and resident voice
 - Addressing News Deserts
- Increase investment
 - Foundations and other funders
 - For profit developers
 - Public sector investment
 - Banking and lenders

– Editorial advisories and listening sessions –



3 Quarterly Editorial advisories are held throughout the year and focus on a particular topic of interest to the community. All funders are invited to each advisory along with community members who specialize in each topic.

Advisory #1

Topic: Arts and Culture

Date: March 4

Location: Corner Health Center

Attendees: 24

Advisory #2

Topic: Entrepreneurship

Date: June 17

Location: Virtual

Attendees: 16

Editorial Advisories

Advisory #3

Topic: Health and Equity

Date: Sept 16

Location: Virtual

Attendees: 14

ENGAGEMENT

During the course of the program, our project manager and engagement manager attends events in the Ypsi and Ypsi Township community.

Over 20 events
attended in the past
year



Ypsilanti Township seeks feedback on proposed off-leash dog park

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021



Grassroots effort aims to build STEAM educational center in Ypsilanti Township

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ON THE GROUND Ypsilanti

Police will respond to fewer nonviolent incidents in Ypsi Township under new pilot program

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This Ypsi Township company survived COVID-19 by selling 45,000 acrylic germ shields

JAISHREE DREPAUL-BRUDER | WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021

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A pandemic can't stop Ypsi's vibrant hair artist community

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021

From a Depot Town boutique owner who manages a salon hidden behind a fake bookcase to stalwart stylists working out of their own homes, Ypsilanti's hair artists are a diverse bunch.

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Headspinners Salon owner DaSharra Smith.

New Ypsi businesses offer locally made mead and cocktails

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

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Maniacal Mead Co.'s tasting room.

Ypsilanti Area Art Society seeks to create online hub for Ypsi artists

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

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Ypsilanti Area Art Society

Ypsilanti Area Art Society logo.

Organizers of the [Ypsilanti Area Art Society](#) (YAAS) Facebook group are hoping to see the page become a hub for Ypsilanti-area artists to network and collaborate.

The group was created by the Ypsilanti Township Recreation Department as a response to programming changes necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ypsi schools' Resiliency Center provides PPE, holiday help to over 300 individuals in first month

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021

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Doug Coombe

Marquan Jackson.

Ypsilanti Community Schools' (YCS) new resiliency center has helped more than 300 people since it opened Dec. 15 on the campus of the former Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti Township.

Ypsi Township resident leads effort to plant native wildflower garden at Sugarbrook Park

MARIA PATTON | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021

SHARE    



Irreverent Media, LLC

Volunteers plant a native wildflower garden at Sugarbrook Park.

New campaign aims to reduce non-recyclables in Washtenaw County's recycling bins

JEANNE HODESH | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021

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EGL

WRRMA-trained cart inspectors Laurena Deak and Julie Cline examine recycling bins in Ypsilanti Township.

9 Washtenaw County winter activities to enjoy before spring arrives

JENN MCKEE | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

We put together a list of a few winter adventures worth trying before the first day of spring arrives – and maybe even after, if we wind up getting a surprisingly common April snow.

SHARE    



Doug Coombe

Safer trails, new signage, and other improvements on the way for Ypsi-area parks and trails

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021

New signage and a new website for the Border-to-Border Trail, safer paths between Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township, and trail surface improvements are all completed or in the works.

SHARE    



Ypsilanti Township CommUNITY Skatepark.

Doug Coombe

Long-awaited pedestrian pathway over I-94 in Ypsilanti to begin construction in 2022

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

The project will establish a paved, shared-use, non-motorized pathway, including physical barriers separating cars from pedestrians and cyclists, along a heavily traveled intersection.

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The footpath along Huron Street looking south by the eastbound I-94 exit.



Ann Arbor Summer Festival to expand programming to Ypsi this summer

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

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A2SF

Chris DuPont and Christina Furtado play a Tiny Tops concert in 2020.

Among other changes for 2021, the [Ann Arbor Summer Festival](#) (A2SF) will offer programming in the Ypsilanti area for the first time in the event's history.

June 15th Patty PerShayla & The Mayhaps at Clubview Park (RSVP to attend this concert)

June 17th Djangophonique at North Bay Park (RSVP to attend this concert)

June 22nd Kenyatta Rashon at West Willow Park (RSVP to attend this concert)

From you-pick to Underground Railroad gardens, Ypsi-area community growers have big plans for 2021

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

On the Ground Ypsilanti is thinking spring. We caught up with representatives of four farming and gardening organizations based in the Ypsilanti area to see what's new for 2021.

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Willow Run Acres founder T.C. Collins.

concentrate

Ypsilanti-area youth summer camps gear up for mix of virtual and in-person programming

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021

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Rachel Cortez/Rolling Hills County Park

Participants in Washtenaw County's Rolling Hills Day Camp in 2019.

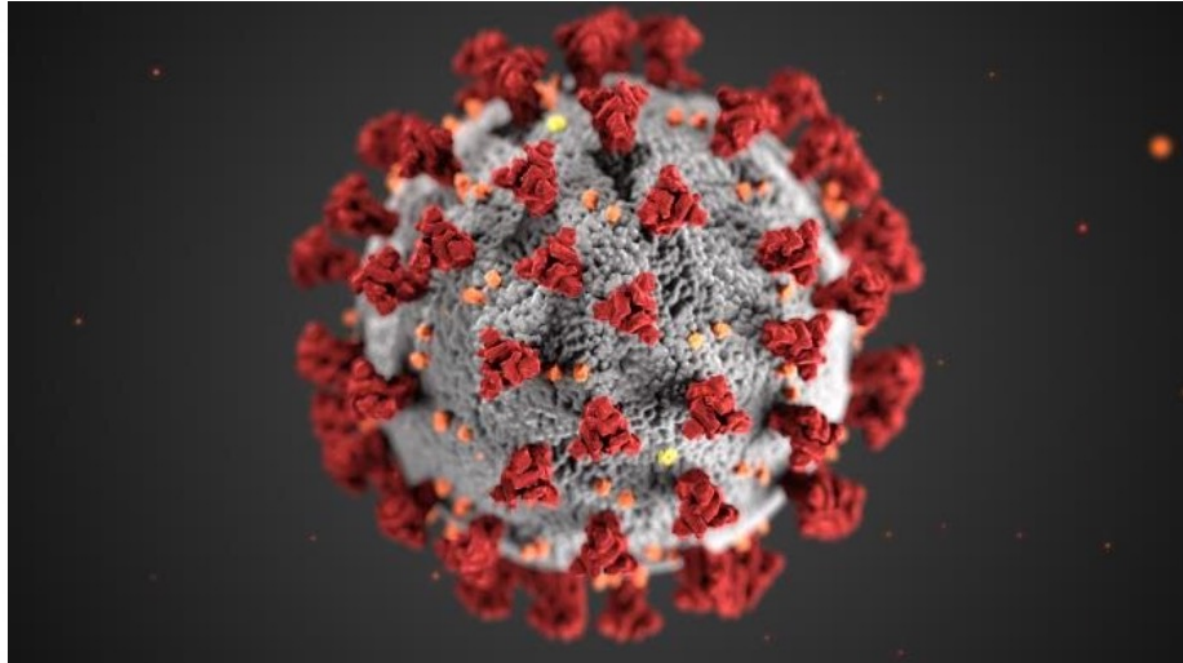
From a virtual program centered around writing to outdoor programs with an academic enrichment focus, Ypsilanti-area summer camps are finding new ways to engage local youth.

concentrate

Washtenaw County launches pop-up events to distribute COVID vaccine where it's needed most

MARIA PATTON | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

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With an extra supply of 2,500 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the Washtenaw County Health Department has launched a series of five vaccination pop-up events targeted at residents living in areas that have high [social vulnerability](#) according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

These Ypsi-area companies are global successes, but little-known in their hometown

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021

These dynamic firms are stars in their own industry but not well-known to residents who live down the same street.

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A Kalitta Air 777.

ON THE GROUND Ypsilanti

New coalition aims to support Black farmers in Ypsilanti and throughout Washtenaw County

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ON THE GROUND Ypsilanti

Ypsilanti beekeepers find love, healing, and fulfillment through their hobby

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"Mom-preneurs": Ypsi women balance small businesses with motherhood

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Ypsi-area programs tackle food insecurity by making healthy food easier to access

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021

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ON THE GROUND Ypsilanti

ON THE GROUND Ypsilanti

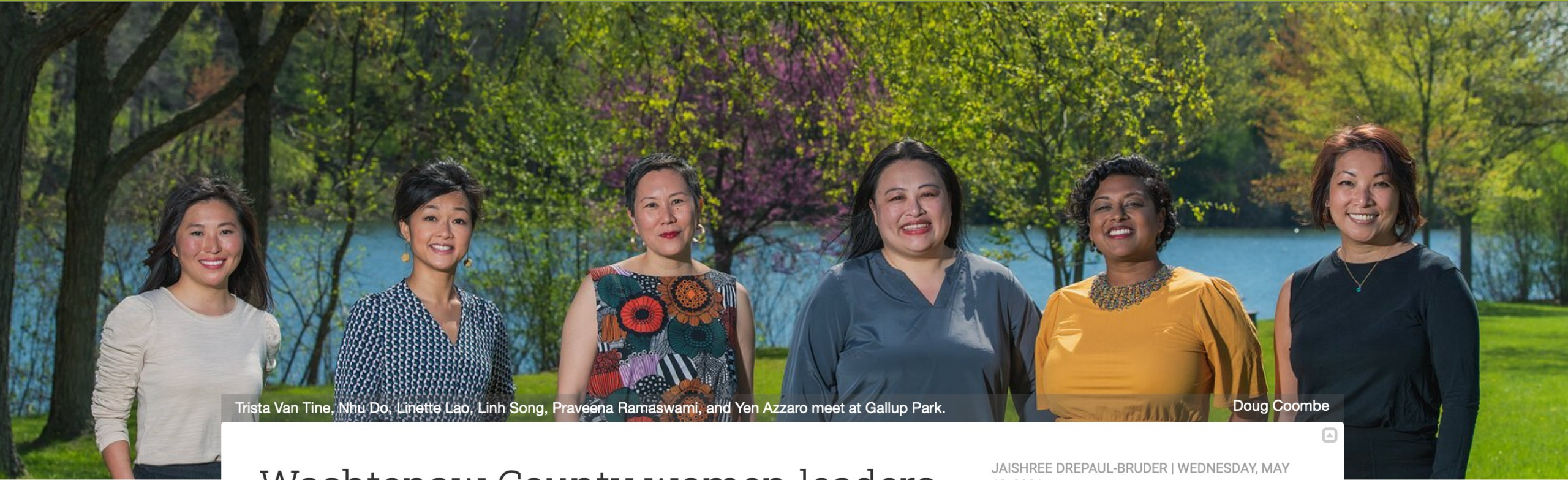
WCC program helps Ypsi-area women, minority, and veteran entrepreneurs creatively weather COVID-19

How Ypsi theater companies adapted to – and arose from – COVID-19's challenges

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Trista Van Tine, Nhu Do, Linette Lao, Linh Song, Praveena Ramaswami, and Yen Azzaro meet at Gallup Park.

Doug Coombe

Washtenaw County women leaders of Asian heritage speak out on hate, violence, and healing

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JAISHREE DREPAUL-BRUDER | WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

Despite a recent rise in racism and violence against their community, these leaders are envisioning a greater shift towards solidarity, strength, and healing.

READERSHIP



Jan-November 2021

2,627,534

people reached

25,030

Engagement

19.5% of the population over 18 in Ypsilanti are reading On The Ground

36.25% of the population over 18 in Ypsilanti Township are reading On The Ground

- Lincoln Consolidated Schools
- Ypsilanti District Library
- Women and Men Working For Change
- Positively Ypsilanti!!!
- Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
- Recovery-Infused Yoga Community Center
- Youth Justice Fund
- Flint Water SCANDAL
- Ypsilanti Community Schools
- Washtenaw Community College
- Ypsilanti Township, MI – Government
- YCS Ford Early Learning Center
- Perry Early Learning Center
- The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan
- ACCE- Achieving College and Career Education
- Covid19 Coverage In The Urban Community
- University of Michigan School of Social Work
- African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County
- Holmes Elementary School
- Women and Men Working For Change
- Ozone House
- Ypsilanti Community Schools
- League of Michigan Bicyclists
- County Commissioner Sue Shink
- Commissioner Jason Morgan
- HighScope
- Motown Writers & Michigan Literary Network
- Educate Youth 501c3
- Ann Arbor Summer Festival: Top of the Park
- OS Community Services
- School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan
- Riverside Arts Center
- The Salvation Army Washtenaw County
- Survivors Speak
- Avalon Housing
- Black Farmers Nationwide
- Michigan Municipal League Foundation
- The G.C. and Frances Hawley Museum
- The Atlanta Mobile Market
- WCC Entrepreneurship
- Washtenaw Area Transportation Study
- A Working Michigan
- FYT-Black Women in Business
- Willow run High school alumni
- Willow Run Edmonson Jr High Alumni
- WEMU 89.1
- ANN ARBOR LOVES LIVE MUSIC!
- Sonic Lunch
- Leon Speakers
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washtenaw County
- Fundamental Sound Co
- Human Element
- The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan
- BOSS: Brothers On Spirituality and Society Dr. William Reese Jr. Editor
- The Ypsilanti Food Co-Op
- Friends In Deed
- Puffer Reds

- PTD Productions
- Sidetrack Bar and Grill
- ANN ARBOR LOVES LIVE MUSIC!
- Blues Lovers-local
- Ann Arbor Humans Who Wonk
- Washtenaw Housing Alliance
- Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development
- SOS Community Services
- Regional Alliance for Healthy Schools
- Contacto Michigan
- Meals on Wheels America
- Karen homemade cuisine
- Under The Radar Michigan
- WCC Conference Services
- Ypsi Real
- Inforum Michigan
- City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation
- Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
- Whiplash
- Michigan Solar Users Network
- Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association
- Child Care Network
- Washtenaw County Community Mental Health
- Aging Out Institute
- Hammond Climate Solutions

Concentrate is continuing its partnership with WEMU with the on-air component to the program.

Project manager Sarah Rigg along with a guest is interviewed by WEMU reporter Lisa Barry every week about the latest OTG Ypsi content. The interviews air every Wednesday morning and afternoon on WEMU and is also posted on their website. The OTG content is also linked on WEMU's website.

MEDIA PARTNERSHIP

65,000+

Listeners

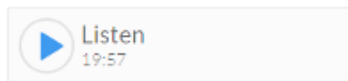
#OTGYpsi: 'Plugin' Showcase Helps Local Musicians Get Their Dream Shot

By PATRICK CAMPION & SARAH RIGG • JUL 24, 2019



DOUG COOMBE / CONCENTRATE MEDIA

Breaking into the music scene is not an easy task. One would need talent, access to recording equipment, and personal/professional connections. So, Eastern Michigan University doctoral candidate Rod Wallace developed the "Plugin" program, which is a series of events where aspiring musicians can show off their talents in a professional and competitive environment. Wallace, along with Grove Studios founder and Plugin co-sponsor Rick Coughlin, talk about this project with WEMU's Patrick Campion and Concentrate Media's Sarah Rigg in this week's "On the Ground-Ypsi."



MEDIA REPRINTS



Genesis solar installation is a powerful model

Murray Rosenthal, special to the WJN

The Genesis Solar installation, which was switched on in February 2020, now supplies a large portion of the electricity used by Temple Beth Emeth and St. Clare's Episcopal Church at the campus they have shared for over 45 years on Packard Street in Ann Arbor.

The Genesis partnership has now collected data from one year of solar electricity generation. The powerful solar installation, comprising 160 solar panels, has generated 74 MWh of electricity in its first year of operation and has saved 114,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is equivalent to planting 866 trees. Solar panels generate electricity throughout the year, although production is reduced in the winter due to more cloud cover, reduced daylight hours, and snow cover.

At the time of installation, the system designer estimated that the solar panels would produce 51% of the electricity used on the Genesis campus. In fact, the system generated 30.6% of the historical average annual usage. However, because the building has largely closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore had a



Drone photo of the Genesis campus, showing a new powerful solar installation. There are 80 panels on the flat social hall roof in the foreground and 80 panels on the south-facing slanted office roof.

greatly reduced electricity demand, the solar panels generated 64.4% of the actual electrical usage since February 2020. In 2020, the Michigan Public Service Commission reported that only about 7.4% of electricity generated by public utilities came from renewable sources in the Midwest region, while coal and natural gas combined to account for more than 62%. DTE Energy, the electrical power provider for most of Washtenaw County, including the Ann Arbor area, generated about 58% of its electricity from coal.

However, coal and gas used to fuel electrical generation emit carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which contributes to global climate change. There is good science that indicates that climate change is increasing the risks of extreme-weather calamities and is an unhealthy change to our environment. The recent power failures in Texas and other states illustrate the importance of our electricity grid. Electrical energy is an integral part of our lives, so much so that we tend to take it for granted. Luckily, alternative energy sources are now available. Switching to renewable electricity generation, such as wind and solar, has the promise of easing our shared climate crisis.

Due to advancing technology, the cost of solar panels has dropped precipitously over

Continued on page 2

From U-pick to Underground Railroad gardens, Ypsi-area community growers have big plans for 2021

Sarah Rigg, originally in Concentrate Media, an online magazine covering what's next for Washtenaw County. Read more of their coverage at concentratemedia.com.

Spring is just around the corner, and the Ypsilanti area's many community farms and gardens have big plans for this year's growing season. We caught up with representatives of four Ypsi-area farming and gardening organizations to see what's new for 2021.

Growing Hope: A new partnership, mushrooms, and U-pick

[Insert Ypsi Gardens 1]

Ypsi-based Growing Hope, a nonprofit focused on strengthening the local food system, has been running a home gardening program for many years, with a slightly different focus each year. Last year, thanks to increased interest in home gardening during the COVID-19 pandemic, Growing Hope increased the number of households it helped from 25 to 45, according to Director of Pro-



Home vegetable coordinator Teria Moore-Berry and Urban Farm Coordinator Charlotte Thurston by Growing Hope's wheelchair-accessible raised beds.

grams and Operations Elizabeth "Bea" Ayer (known to many of us as former WJN editor Susie Ayer's daughter).

This year, the nonprofit is scaling back to its normal 25 households, with a focus on people of color and people living with disability in two neighborhoods: Ypsilanti's Southside and Ypsilanti Township's West Willow neighborhood. Growing Hope provides gardening supplies, seeds, seedlings, and expertise, and matches home gardeners with an experienced gardening mentor.

Ayer says focusing on specific neighborhoods allows Growing Hope to build relationships between Growing Hope and residents, and between neighbors in those areas.

"With COVID-19, we've seen the importance of building interconnectedness in our community and providing for ourselves,"

News of Note

School-based health centers in Ypsilanti remove barriers to health, On the Ground Ypsilanti, Sarah Rigg

Washtenaw County creates three new positions to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, On the Ground Ypsilanti, Monica Hickson

From you-pick to Underground Railroad gardens, Ypsi-area community growers have big plans for 2021, On the Ground Ypsilanti, Sarah Rigg

Michigan Works! Southeast launches "Workforce@Work" podcast to explore future of employment, On the Ground Ypsilanti, Sarah Rigg

MEDIA REPRINTS

The Washtenaw Health Initiative newsletter through CHRT reprints a lot of OTG Ypsi stories in their newsletter.

Thanks to Concentrate and WEMU for highlighting local business owners involved in the EC's Renew Program!

Read more about local business owners Celeste Green of Spanish for Kids and Julie Palmer of JEM Events, two participants in the Renew Training & Business Grant Program, which started in January 2021.

Read the Concentrate article here: [WCC program helps Ypsi-area women, minority, and veteran entrepreneurs creatively weather COVID-19.](#)

Listen to WEMU's radio interview here: [On The Ground Ypsi: A Local Program Offers Assistance To Businesses Struggling Due To Pandemic.](#)

MEDIA REPRINTS

WCC's Entrepreneurship Center newsletter linked to Sarah's story about the founding of the Association of Businesses of Color.

NEW FEATURE: Impact Measurement Tool

1. IMG's CMS connects story sources interviewed to capture Impact.

2. Story Sources receive a notice when their story **publishes**, and then again 60-90 days after a story is published.

3. An Impact survey is sent to story sources asking about impact. Followed by Source interviews to dig deeper.

Sources

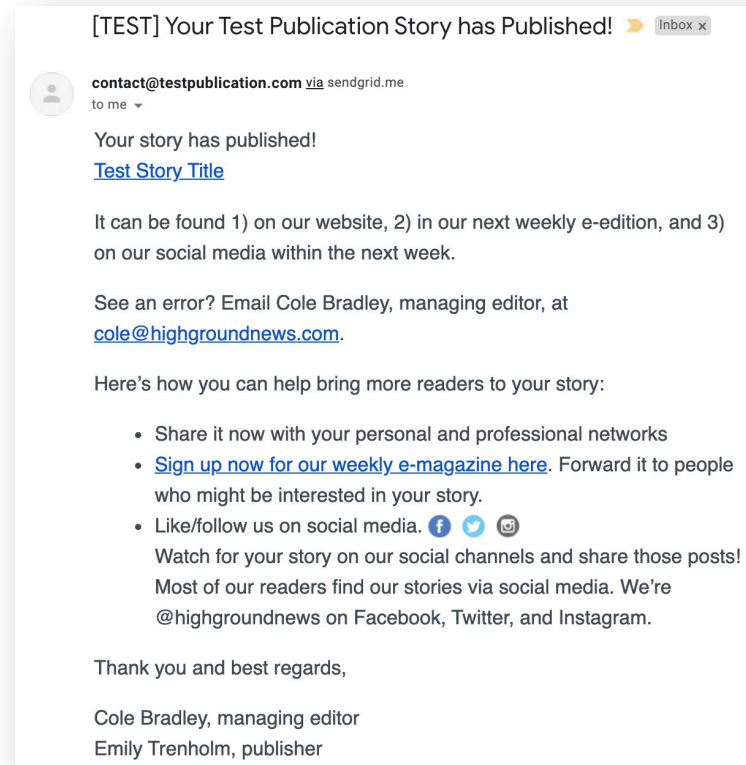
First Name:
The first name of the source.

Last Name:
The last name of the source.

Email:
The email address of the source.

Contacts:

NEW IMPACT REPORTING TOOL



Publication Impact Survey

We're interested in hearing about your experience with our publication. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey as we work to improve our programming.

Name
Your answer

Email
Your answer

Organization/Business featured in publication
Your answer

Story Title
The title of the story where you or your organization/business were featured
Your answer

YOUR BUSINESS
The title of the story where you or your organization/business were featured

ON THE GROUND Ypsilanti

ON THE GROUND Ypsilanti

Police will respond to fewer nonviolent incidents in Ypsi Township under new pilot program

SHARE    



IMPACT

Concentrate ran an article in June about Y-Town Quality of Life initiative piloted by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office in Ypsilanti Township.

JoAnn McCollum, president of The New West Willow Neighborhood Association says, "there was more talk at the neighborhood general meeting about the article and it helped the Quality of Life committee get more attention."

"Residents stated they felt better knowing that something was being done and wanted to help with keeping the neighborhood safe and quiet."

Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti to return with drive-in event this month

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021



IMPACT

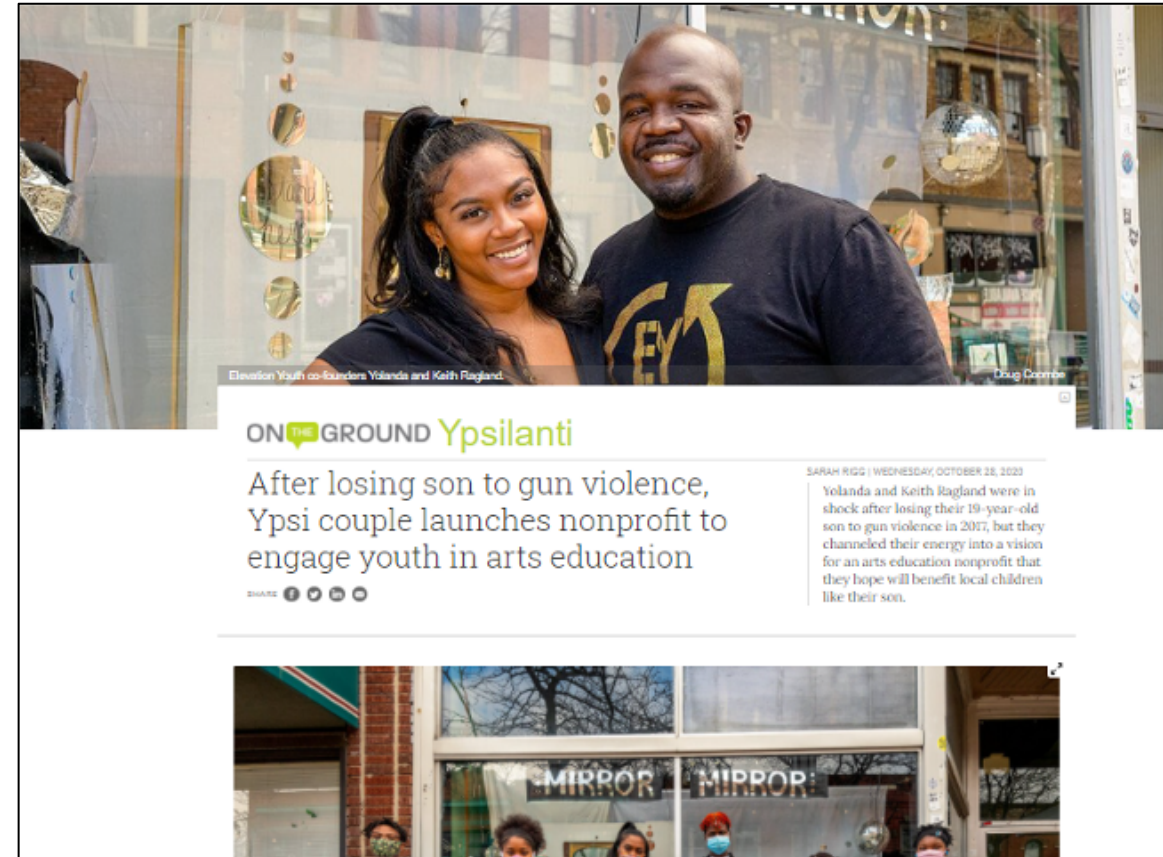
Concentrate ran an article in June about the Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti.

Event organizer Donald Harrison says that the article "helped increase turn out at our event."

IMPACT

In October 2020, Concentrate ran a story on Ypsilanti residents Yolanda and Keith Ragland, founders of Elevation Youth Corp, an arts education nonprofit for youth. Shortly after the story ran, the Raglands said that so many reached out to volunteer for their organization and donated money.

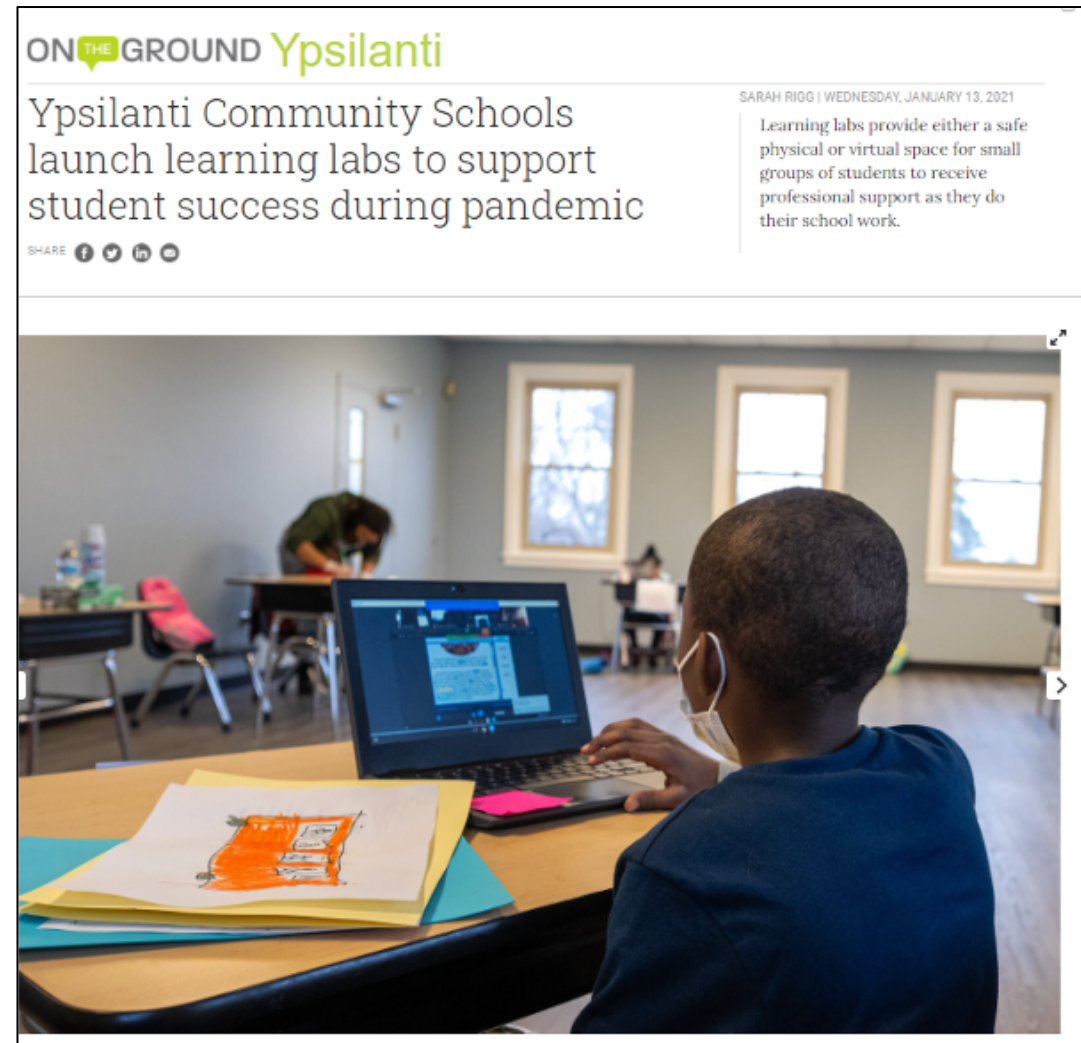
"We are forever grateful," said Yolanda and Keith Ragland.



IMPACT

In January, Concentrate ran a story about the Ypsilanti Community Schools (YCS) creating in-person and virtual learning labs to help parents who have been struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic to juggle working at home with helping their children learn virtually.

Shortly after the story ran, Dwayne Hunter, the Parkridge Community Center Learning Lab Site coordinator said a lot of families in the area reach out to see if their student qualified for the Learning Lab.



IMPACT

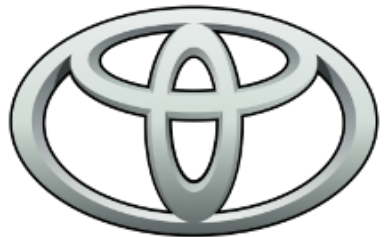
In September 2020, Concentrate ran a story on SolarYpsi celebrating its 15th year with ambitious plan for solar installations on 100 Ypsi homes.

Dave Strenski, founder of SolarYpsi says that the publicity in Concentrate led to more donations to the organization, 6 new volunteers, and 28 inquires about articles and new contacts about the grassroots effort to encourage local solar projects.



ON THE GROUND Ypsilanti

FUNDERS



TOYOTA



New project encourages exploration of Ypsi's public art through writing prompts

SARAH RIGG | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021



IMPACT

Concentrate ran an article last October about a new project encourages exploration of Ypsi's public art through writing prompts.

Cathy Fleischer, YpsiWrites co-founder, says that after the article ran "many people responded, telling us they would like to experience the art project."

YpsiWrites also got some new volunteers as a result, and others mentioned they learned about the organization from the story.

STAFF



Sarah Rigg
PROJECT MANAGER



Patrick Dunn
MANAGING EDITOR, CONCENTRATE



DTE Gas Renewal Program

Ypsilanti
2022 Project Preview

January 3rd, 2022

Agenda

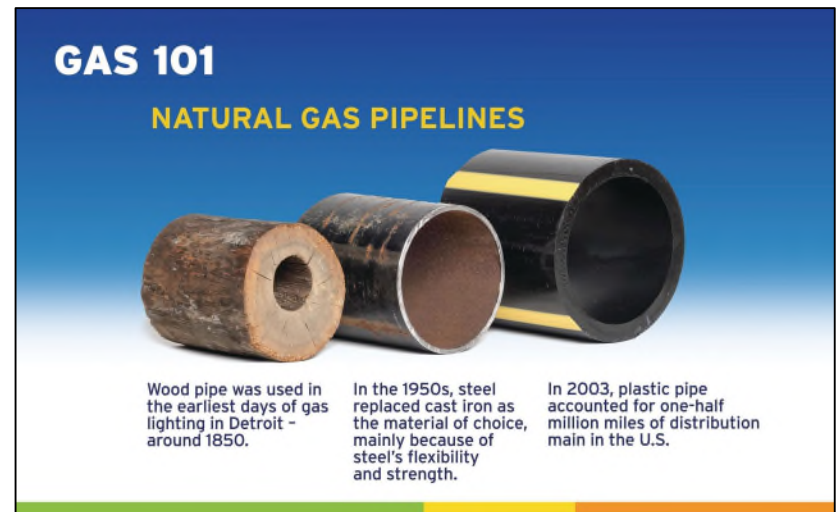
- Introductions
- Purpose: Gas Upgrade Benefits
- Safety: COVID-19 Precautions
- Scope: 2022 Overview
- Contractor Partners
- Resident Communications
- Property Restoration Plan
- Contact Information

Gas Renewal Program Introduction and Benefits

- \$3.5 billion investment over 18 years to our natural gas infrastructure, improving safety and reliability.
- Gas upgrade includes: new pipes and service lines, meter relocation from inside to outside of the building and installation of new natural gas advanced meters.

Benefits include:

- *New and improved materials minimize the risk of gas leaks*
- *Enables remote meter shutoff response to gas leaks*
- *Minimize estimated meter reads*
- *Eliminates the need for DTE to enter the home for maintenance*
- *Facilitates more frequent comprehensive inspections and maintenance*



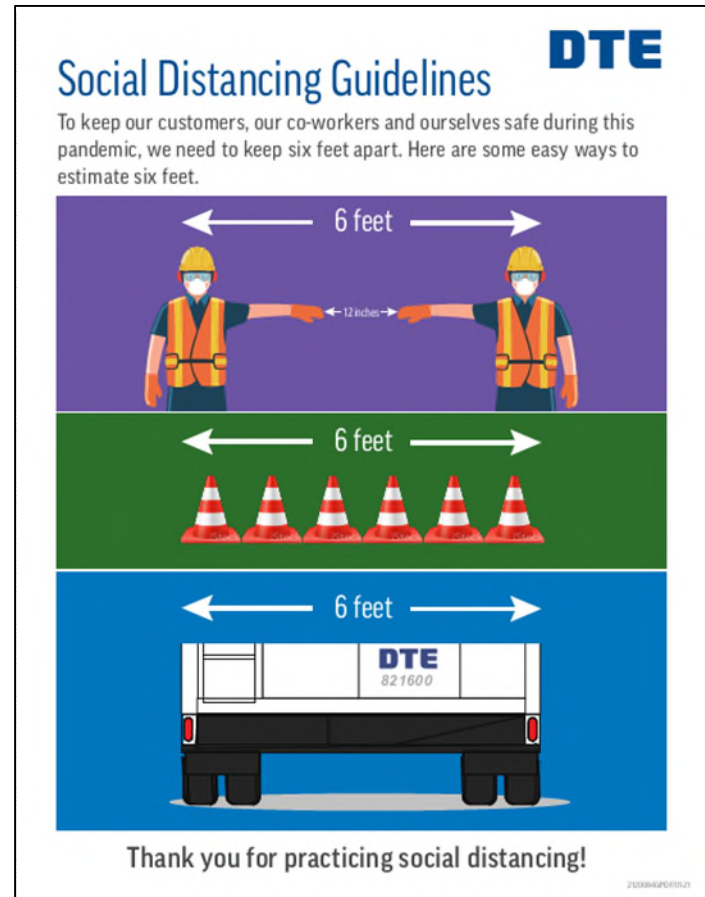
Gas Renewal Program COVID-19 Safety Precautions

Rest assured that we are committed to doing what's right. When you see or interact with our crews, know that we will be following medically recommended safety protocols, including:

- Daily health screenings
- Social distancing
- Wearing face safety glasses, masks and gloves

Please let us know if you or anyone in your home has recently been ill so that we can take additional precautions.

We need your help, too. Please keep a safe distance (at least six feet) from our crews.



Scope Overview- Ypsilanti 4

MAIN RENEWAL - YPSILANTI TWP. 4 - OVERALL - INSTALL (60 MAOP)



KEY MAP



INSTALLATION BILL OF MATERIAL	
PART	QUANTITY (FT)
PIPE	
2" MDPE	36,527
3" MDPE	45
4" MDPE	11,536
6" MDPE	6,336

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY
- MDOT ROW
- RETEST
- 2" MDPE
- 3" MDPE
- 4" MDPE
- 6" MDPE
- 8" MDPE
- 12" MDPE
- HIGH PRESSURE
- SEPARATION VALVE
- NEW DISTRICT

● - St Mark Lutheran Church - 1915 S Harts Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
● - New Life Bible Baptist Church - 1173 S Grove Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

DTE-approved contractors will be performing various construction activities



Sewer Inspection



Gas Main Installation



Meter Relocation
Service Line Upgrades
Main Retirement



TBD

Property Restoration

Ypsilanti Scope of Work



- 10.5 miles of new gas main will be installed and 836 service lines will be upgraded

333 meters will be moved from inside to outside of structures

- Property restoration will be completed within 30 days of service line upgrade (May-Oct)

Construction: January 2022 – September 2022

Methods of Communication

1) Letter

- Customer Notification USPS letter and email (sent to premise and landlord)
- Restoration Reminder Nov – April (sent to premise and landlord)

2) Door Hangers

- Schedule Appointment
- Restoration Process/Care
- Final - restoration complete

3) Nextdoor.com (and app)

4) Website

- Frequently Asked Questions: <http://dteenergy.com/gasrenewal>
- Program Status map: <http://dteenergy.com/gasrenewalmaps>

Customer Notification Letter prior to gas main installation

DTE Energy is Upgrading Natural Gas Infrastructure

RE: Natural gas upgrade
Address
Address

Dear Valued Customer,

At DTE Energy, the safety of our employees and customers remains our top priority. That's why we've been working closely with medical experts to implement safety procedures that will help keep our team members, and you, as safe as possible as we gradually resume important infrastructure work that will allow us to continue to deliver safe and reliable natural gas.

Rest assured that we are committed to doing what's right. When you see or interact with our crews, know that they will be following medically recommended safety protocols, including daily health screenings, social distancing and wearing face masks and gloves. If they need to enter your home, they will take additional precautions, like wearing safety glasses, a mask and nitrile gloves. We need your help, too. Please keep a safe distance (at least six feet) from our crews and let us know if you or anyone in your home has recently been ill.

We will soon be working in your neighborhood to replace aging natural gas lines with modern, long-lasting pipes. The upgrade includes moving equipment located inside your home outside. To do this, we will need to come into your home (see phase three).

Placing the gas meter on the outside of your home eliminates the need for DTE to enter your home for future meter maintenance and readings and allows more frequent, comprehensive safety inspections. This work is done at no additional cost to you.

We know these are uncertain times, but you can feel confident that DTE is doing everything in our power to keep you and your neighbors safe.

If you have questions about the upcoming work, please contact us at the phone number below.

Bryan Valrance
 Manager, Gas Operations, DTE Energy

متوفر باللغة العربية
 Disponible en español
 Dostępne w języku polskim
dteenergy.com/gasrenewal

DTE DTE GAS INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Check your status: dteenergy.com/gasrenewalmaps
 Frequently Asked Questions: dteenergy.com/gasrenewal
 Contact: 313.270.9240
 A DTE rep is available from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday - Friday.
 Leave a message if calling after hours.

20180509AWJAD0

What to expect



PHASE ONE: Notification

- This is your first notice; upgrade construction begins in approximately 1 - 2 weeks.
- During the upgrade, we will communicate progress via door hangers, face to face and on Nextdoor.com
- Check your status here: dteenergy.com/gasrenewalmaps



PHASE TWO: New Gas Lines Installed

- New main gas lines will be installed near the street and new service lines will be run to homes.
- Sidewalks and lawns may be torn up. A temporary solution will be put in place until permanent restoration is complete.



PHASE THREE: Interior Meter Moved Out

- Gas meters located inside the home will be moved to your home's exterior where the gas line enters your home and upgraded if needed.
- DTE will knock on your door to schedule a convenient time during the construction process on your street to move the meter. We'll leave a door hanger with contact information if you are not home.
- If the meter is already outside, DTE will only enter your home after the installation is complete to relight your appliances. We'll let you know how to schedule this appointment once your upgrade is complete.
- During this phase your gas service will be interrupted for 2 - 3 hours.



PHASE FOUR: Property Restoration

- DTE will restore all affected sidewalks, lawns, landscaping and driveways within 30 days of completion in May-October.
- If the upgrade is completed in November-April, a temporary solution will remain in place until weather permits permanent restoration. All restoration will be completed by June 30.

Letter and email sent prior to start of gas main installation

Copy of letter and translations available. See tab "What Gas Customers Can Expect"
Dteenergy.com/gasrenewal

One Energy Plaza
Detroit, MI 48226-1221

FIRST CLASS MAIL
 PRESORTED
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 DETROIT, MI
 PERMIT 724

Customer Name

Address

Address

Notification of Service Interruption

Corner House Letter




A special letter is being sent to customers who live on a corner

Customers on a corner may be impacted slightly more by construction activities



Door Hangers



DTE ENERGY GAS INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

DTE Energy needs access to our equipment in your home. Contact us now to schedule your upgrade appointment.



This is our:

- 1st attempt
- 2nd attempt
- 3rd attempt

If we do not hear from you after 3 attempts to contact you, DTE will issue a Notice to Terminate Service. You will have 10 days to schedule your appointment or your service will be terminated.

Questions about the Gas Upgrade:
Call: 313.270.9240. A DTE representative is available between 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. If calling after hours, leave a message expect a call back within 2 business days.

10480-01/16/17-8

DTE GAS UPGRADE COMPLETED

Dear Valued Customer:

DTE Energy has finished the natural gas upgrade in your home. In the process, our crews disturbed a portion of your lawn, landscaping or concrete.

- A temporary patch was put in place until permanent property restoration can be completed. Please see inside for example photos and care instructions.
- If you have an in-ground sprinkler system, please check your sprinklers as soon as possible. If your sprinkler system was damaged, please contact us at the phone number below.
- Property restoration occurs May through October. During this timeframe, property restoration is done on an ongoing basis as the gas upgrade is completed on your street and as weather permits. We expect permanent property restoration to be completed within (30) days following the completion of the gas upgrade.
- Due to weather conditions in November - April, only temporary restoration can be put in place. Permanent property restoration work will begin as soon as temperatures allow, with completion by June 30, weather permitting.

QUESTIONS?
Call: 313.270.9240
DTE representatives are available from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday.
Leave a message if calling after hours and expect a return call within 2 business days.

Frequently Asked Questions:
dteenergy.com/gasrenewal

متوفر باللغة العربية
Disponible en español
Dostępne w języku polskim
dteenergy.com/gasrenewal




DTE ENERGY GAS INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Your gas infrastructure upgrade and property restoration is complete!

Thank you for your patience during this important upgrade.

If you have any questions about the upgrade or your property restoration
Call: 313.270.9240. A DTE representative is available between 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. If calling after hours, leave a message expect a call back within 2 business days.

Thank you for being a valued DTE Energy customer!



10480-01/16/17-8

Pre-Construction Activities

Please help us ensure a safe and timely project by responding to DTE or its contractors if contacted.

Prior to construction, a few safety measures will be performed by Miss Dig and DTE contractors including:

1. Periodic staking of the road right-of-way boundaries
2. Marking and locating existing underground utilities (electric, water, gas, sewer, comm)
3. Inspecting and locating privately-owned sewer service lines (may require home entry*)

*During a sewer pre-inspection, DTE Gas will assess the site to ensure all sewer pipelines and privately-owned laterals near the gas line work area are inspected and located so that damage from gas line installation can be avoided.



DTE
SORRY WE MISSED YOU!
It's Time for Your Safety Inspection

Dear Neighbor,
A DTE team member or contractor stopped by today to set up your routine gas safety inspection, including a video camera look into the sewer lines inside your home or business. This inspection helps us continue to provide the safe, reliable and clean natural gas you depend on every day.

Please call the number below to set up a time for us to come into your home and perform this inspection. Someone who is at least 18 years old must be there to let our team member inside.

Call now to set up your safety inspection!

See other side for our COVID-19 safety steps.

Renters: Please contact your landlord about this notice so they can set up the inspection.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Restoration for GRP work will follow service completions by approximately 10 to 15 business days during restoration season (May thru October)

DTE GAS UPGRADE COMPLETED

Inside of door hanger

Dear Valued Customer:

DTE Energy has finished the natural gas upgrade in your home. In the process, our crews disturbed a portion of your lawn, landscaping or concrete.

- A temporary patch was put in place until permanent property restoration can be completed. Please include for example photos and care instructions.
- If you have an in-ground sprinkler system, please turn your sprinklers on as soon as possible. If your system was damaged, please contact us at the number below.
- Property restoration occurs May through October. During this timeframe, property restoration is an ongoing basis as the gas upgrade is completed on your street and as weather permits. We expect permanent property restoration to be completed (30) days following the completion of the gas upgrade.
- Due to weather conditions in November - April only temporary restoration can be put in place. Permanent property restoration work will begin soon as temperatures allow, with completion by June 30, weather permitting.

QUESTIONS?

Call: 313.270.9240

DTE representatives are available from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday. Leave a message if calling after hours and expect a return call within 2 business days.

Frequently Asked Questions:

dteenergy.com/gasrenewal

معلومات الأسئلة الشائعة

Disponible en español

Dotygnane w języku polskim

dteenergy.com/gasrenewal

DTE

ALL PROPERTY RESTORATION IS DONE IN PHASES:

Phase 1

A temporary patch is put in place.

Phase 2

Hard surface repairs such as concrete are repaired.

Phase 3

Soft surfaces such as grass and landscaping are replaced.

TEMPORARY PATCHING

Once your gas upgrade is completed, a temporary patch will be put in place until permanent restoration can be finished.



Restoration of Sidewalks, Driveways and Streets

After temporary patching, restoration of hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways will be completed. Once the new concrete is poured it will take several days to dry.

Please follow these guidelines:

- No pedestrian traffic on the new concrete for 48 hours.
- No vehicles on concrete for 7 days.

PERMANENT RESTORATION



Restoration of Lawns

After the new concrete is in place and settled, DTE Energy contractors will grade and seed the areas of your lawn that were damaged. When complete, straw will be placed on top of the grade and seed.

Please follow these guidelines:

- Water Twice Daily
- Do not cut grass until it is at least 4 inches high.
- Do not walk or drive on the new grass.

It is your responsibility to water these areas as recommended so that the new grass can take root. DTE is not responsible for watering and offers no guarantee of new grass growth.

QUESTIONS?

Call: 313.270.9240

DTE representatives are available from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday. Leave a message if calling after hours and expect a return call within 2 business days.

Frequently Asked Questions:

dteenergy.com/gasrenewal

- Door hangers with restoration next steps will be provided following service completions
- As services are completed on a street segment, a Restoration Coordinator will walk the streets to record all measurements and damages for restoration as well
 - Restoration Coordinators will also carry a business card with their cell number for any restoration concerns or questions
 - Station numbers are provided on all communications for any questions or concerns
 - Restoration Information also available here: (See tab "What Gas Customers Can Expect") Dteenergy.com/gasrenewal
- Restoration will follow service completions on a completed street segment by 10 to 15 business days

Communication Cadence

To ensure that you receive our communications, please update your DTE account information, including email address and cell phone number.

	30 Days Before	14 Days Before	Construction Day	0-7 Days After
Letters	Notification Letter & Magnet			
Next Door Posts	Initial Post			Post Restoration
Email		2 week notice		
Door Hangers			Schedule Appointment	
				Post services
Website Map				Post Restoration
	Weekly Updates			

Gas Renewal Program Contact Information

313 - 270 - 9240

A DTE representative is available

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

If calling after hours, leave a message and expect a return call within 2 business days.

FAQ's

www.dteenergy.com/gasrenewal