

• *Mark Your Calendars* •

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
September General Meeting

Ypsilanti
Antiques
Road Show
September 27th - 7:30 p.m.

At the Riverside Arts Center Basement



Steve Gross, local antique dealer and auctioneer, will appraise the audience's treasures. So bring your collectibles and join us for an evening of fun and entertainment. Please limit your articles to one per person - no large furniture please.

See You There!

RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER

by Barry LaRue

The Riverside Arts Center is concluding the work we did as part of our most recent grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. The loading dock on the north side is complete as are the two handicapped accessible restrooms on the main floor. Our heating and air conditioning have been upgraded and the second floor meeting spaces are almost complete.

We were disappointed to have been notified recently that our application for funding from the Arts and Quality of Life grant program was not successful. We are meeting with decision makers at the state level to explore our options for future opportunities.

It looks like the Riverside West Park Link improvement will not be breaking ground until spring. That will provide a lit stair system down the riverbank to Riverside Park and create a ramp up to our new loading dock. Landscaping, brickwork and Greek columns are all part of the new park and will really dress up the north side of the Center!

On a bittersweet note: Our Business Manager Larry Newhouse has "retired" to take a full time job teaching and managing gallery space at the Art Department at EMU. While filling Larry's shoes will be tough we wish him the best in his new pursuit and trust that we can count on him as a returning member of our Operations Board.

As always, we are looking for volunteers that may want to help paint, clean, mow the side yard or any of a myriad of tasks we have at the Center. Please let Barry LaRue (482-2327) or Jim Baker (482-4750) know of your interest.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News



c/o Don Randazzo
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

website: www.yhf.org

Heritage NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2000



23rd
Annual

Historic Home Tour Kicks Off the Millennium in Style!

A fantastic slate of historic properties, together with picture-perfect weather, resulted in quite possibly the best Historic Home Tour ever! More than 850 people turned out for the 2000 tour, held on Sunday, August 20th.

On behalf of the Home Tour Committee, I would like to thank the owners of this year's wonderful group of properties for graciously making them available: American Community Developers for Cross Street Village; Steve and Elaina Hoxie, 411 N. Huron; John and Pattie Harrington and Joe Lawrence, 209 N. Huron; Doug and Mary Kisor, 121 N. Huron; Blake Hayes and Mary Seelhorst, 119 N. Huron; Cheryl Farmer, 214 N. Huron; and Bill Labedski and Linda Yohn, 52 E. Cross.

We would also like to acknowledge our volunteer guides and ticket sellers who, as usual, came through for us with their hard work and support. We thank you all! Special thanks go

out once again to Lisa and Eric Walters, our very hard-working Ticket Chairs. To Lisa we also say "thank you" for her help in editing and proofreading this year's brochure. A special thank you goes out to Rick Katon for his brochure, publicity, and commemorative photographs; to Judi Monaghan for the management of our mailing list; and to Barry La Rue, James Mann, Hank Prebys, and Lisa Walters for their help in researching Home Tour properties.

To Carolyn McKeever and Diane Brown, we say "thank you" for their creative design and art production for this year's brochure, poster, direct mail piece, and ad. We also wish to acknowledge and thank Michael Harper for the matting and framing of this year's commemorative photos; Norton Durant Florists for the lovely floral arrangements which graced the homes on tour; Serv-All Printing for their donation of printing services for the poster; the Ann Arbor News for giving us complimentary advertising space; and McNaughton & Gunn, Inc. for their very generous donation of printing services for the brochure.

Every year, we cap off the Home Tour with what has become one of the best parties of the season! A very special thank-you to Rick and Carol Leyshock, our hosts for this year's post-tour party, and to the party team of Bill and Karen Nickels, Barbara and Alan Saxton, Rick and Carol Leyshock, and Paul Schreiber who, once again, put together a wonderful event!

Finally, my personal thanks go out to the members of the Home Tour Committee: Ricky Balkam, Jonnie Bryant, Kyle Bunton, Nancy Chapman, Carol Cramer, Jennifer Goulet, Tamara Kutter, Nancie Loppnow, Mary Ann McDonald, Pamela Newhouse, Mary Nickson, Barbara Saxton, and Edie Sherman. These individuals are responsible for locating and selecting the homes on tour. They also serve as chief guides, help with soliciting financial support for the tour, and organize and train the volunteer guides.

CONGRATULATIONS, GROUP,
AND THANKS TO YOU ALL!

• • •

Peg Du Fresne
Chair, 23rd Annual
Historic Home Tour

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

Hank Prebys, President
 Lisa Mills Walters, Secretary
 Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
 Jennifer Goulet
 Pattie Harrington
 Rick Leyschok
 Megan McCann
 Bill Nickels
 Don Randazzo
 Jane Schmiedeke
 Penny Schreiber

Goulet named Director

Jennifer Goulet was named Downtown/Depot Town Development Authorities Director, for the city of Ypsilanti, in August of this year. She will be overseeing many projects in the city including the Water Street redevelopment and the Tech Zone designation project. Her past experience as the City's Community and Economic Development Director bring the knowledge and initiative to this position to benefit the entire community.



Towner House

Update



Good things are taking place at the corner of Emmet and North Huron streets. The Towner House Maintenance Committee with volunteer community members have been donating their Saturday mornings to the preservation of the Towner House. Phase One of the project, stabilizing the exterior, includes painting, roofing the front porch, rebuilding the windows, adding siding to the back of the house and rebuilding the doors. Most of these objectives have been met. The remaining objective before the onset of winter is to have the back siding installed and painted. The Towner House Maintenance Committee wants to thank everyone who

has donated to this project. Without community help this landmark would disappear.



Additional fund raising events are scheduled in the future to help raise money for the preservation and restoration of the Towner House.

Don Randazzo installs a lock on the back door of the Towner house.

Thanks to These Contributors

-
- Absopure
- Acme Glass
- Astro Roofing
- City of Ypsilanti
- Congdon's Ace Hardware
- Don Randazzo Home Inspection
- Festival of Foods
- First Presbyterian Church
- Haab's Restaurant
- Harrington's Prepress Express
- Jim Baker
- Kinko's
- Lakes Radiator
- Lowes
- Mayor, Cheryl Farmer
- Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity
- Quinn Studios
- Tom Manchester
- Wicked Mickey's
- X-press Printing Company
- Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
- &
- the many community volunteers who have donated their time

Dine Out to Help Out!

Have lunch or dinner at Haab's on Sunday, September 24th and 10% of the day's sales will be donated to the Towner House Restoration Project

Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

The Illustrated Preservationist

From YHF member Tom Dodd comes this very interesting anecdote...

I was exiting St. Joe's Hospital today and noticed a young couple in front of me at the front entry. He was holding her arm as they approached the curb. Beneath his black tank top I could see a panoply of elegant tattoos. The back of his left shoulder showed a fine line drawing of a Second Empire Style house.

As I overtook them, I touched his arm and said something to the effect that I had never seen nineteenth century architecture in the form of a tattoo before. As he turned, I could see he was blind and it further reinforced my recent observation that people with tattoos have them for others to see, not so much for themselves.

He pointed out that the design was "the Ypsi Boys & Girls Club," and, sure enough, closer inspection showed broken windows and cob webs worked into the design—much in the manner of a kid's Halloween drawing. He went on to tell me that it was called "The Gilbert Mansion" and he used to attend there when he was younger.

Before I could think of being politically correct, I asked him if he had "seen" it recently and he noted that he was blind. With a minimum of falling all over myself, I told him I was fascinated with his choice of a tattoo and proud of him for showing it so prominently.

I only regret that I did not get his name, but this young man is certainly carrying the ethic of historic preservation in Ypsilanti to a new and different audience.



City Hall

Rededication



Mayor, Cheryl Farmer proudly rededicates the City Hall Building at One South Huron Street after nine years of design, removal and restoration.

The ceremony took place right after the Heritage Festival parade on Saturday, August 19th. Many preservation minded Ypsilantians attended the event. Now that the long awaited and beautifully executed project is complete. The marker that was awarded to the city in May, at the annual Heritage Foundation Awards Banquet, will be placed on the structure.



Ypsilanti City Council Members pose in front of the newly rededicated City Hall building. From left to right, Council representatives Bill Nichols, and Barry LaRue, Mayor Pro-Tem, Terry McDonald, Mayor, Cheryl Farmer, Council representatives Ronnie Peterson, Trudy Swanson and John Gawlas.

1887

Ypsilanti Savings Bank organizers hired Mason and Rice architectural firm to design their building at One South Huron Street



1940

The roof was flattened to allow for more square footage of useable space.

1966

The brick facade was covered with aluminum screen and marble panels. Referred to as the "cheese grater".

1976

The City of Ypsilanti purchased the bank building.

1991

Funds for the current restoration were authorized by the City.