

*Yes! I would like to support preservation and become a member of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.*

Please check the appropriate box and return with your check to:

Joe Mattimoe, YHF Treasurer  
301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Students & Seniors \$5

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Lifetime \$1,000

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## 2006/2007 SCHEDULE

Meetings are held at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti at 7:30p.m. The public is welcome.

**27**  
SEPTEMBER **Barns & Out Buildings**

**15**  
NOVEMBER **Ypsilanti Water Tower**  
Larry Thomas

**31**  
JANUARY **Ask the Experts**  
answers to questions about restoration of your home, its decoration and furnishings

**28**  
MARCH **Spring Gardens**

**MAY**  
**2007** **Annual Awards Banquet**

Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • [www.yhf.org](http://www.yhf.org)

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.

*See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, September 27, 2006, at 7:30 pm*

**Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation  
Board Members**

- Hank Prebys, President
- Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
- Jan Arps-Prundeanu
- Pattie Harrington
- Brett Lenart
- Bill Nickels
- Bonnie Penet
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- Paul Schreiber
- Penny Schreiber
- Andrea Webber

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



# Heritage

# NEWS

AUG./SEPT. 2006

## GOOD NEWS EDITION



600 North River Street



301 North Grove Street



904 Pleasant Drive



53 South Summit Street



200 West Michigan Avenue



1216 Grant Street

## *Historic* Home Tour 2006

**Sunday, August 20 ■ noon - 5pm**

The 29th Annual Historic Home Tour will take place on Sunday, August 20th from noon - 5pm. Advance tickets are on sale in Ypsilanti at Haab's Restaurant, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts, and Quinn's Essentials, they are also available in Ann Arbor at Downtown Home & Garden and in Canton at Feather Your Nest. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 the day of the tour. On the day of the tour, tickets are available at the Home Tour ticket booth in front of the Historical Museum at 208 North Huron Street from 10 a.m. until 3 pm and Haab's on Michigan Avenue.



# Good News in Ypsilanti

## "It Happened in Ypsilanti"

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation presents its 2006 Good News Issue reporting, for our own delight and that of our Festival visitors, on some of the improvements that have occurred in the Ypsilanti Historic District over the past year.

It's also our chance to say Thank You to everyone who cares for and about Ypsilanti!

### Heritage Foundation Historic Structure Markers

were awarded this year to the houses at:

- 110 North Street
- 904 Pleasant Drive
- 119 S. Washington Street
- 206 S. Washington Street



Congratulations to the homeowners!

## Major Investments

### Corner Brewery

is open on Forest at Norris and the parking lot is full – stop in, meet owners Matt & Rene Greff, and enjoy!



### The Kresge Building

on Michigan at Washington, vacant for decades, in 2004 was in the beginning stages of rehab. In 2005, a number of the new loft apartments in that building were on Home Tour. This year, the West Michigan Avenue Lofts won a Washtenaw Contractors Association annual PYRAMID Award for exceptional effort in the areas of teamwork, service or innovation. The Lofts, a comprehensive renovation of five adjoining storefronts that had been vacant for decades, got the award for Best Project Team under \$3 million. A Mongolian restaurant will

soon open on the first floor and a comedy club in the lower level!

**Several new businesses** have opened downtown & in Depot Town – we welcome them!

## Major Rehab Jobs

### Riverside Arts Center

has leased the vacant, next door Detroit Edison building. The two buildings will be connected by an elevator and a stair tower connector to provide full accessibility for all floors. The Edison building, constructed in 1915, is being renovated to provide restrooms, dressing rooms and air conditioning. Space will be available for a fine arts classroom, dance studios, rehearsal space, and perhaps a retail space for local artists.



## Paint

A bit of explanation about paint colors: In the Historic District paint colors must be approved by the Historic District Commission. But, unlike HDCs in other communities, the Ypsilanti HDC does not insist on historically accurate colors because it believes that property owners who are lavishing effort and money on their buildings should have some fun with their paint colors. So, some paint jobs are historically accurate, some are not. Some of the properties below may be in the District, some may not. All are worth a look!

Oh, we love fresh paint jobs, especially fresh new colors!

- 114 W. Michigan (no longer purple!)
- 304 E. Forest (no longer baby blue!)
- 148 N. Washington, (no longer Pepto Bismol pink!)
- 47 N. Huron, the Corner Health Center
- 230 N. Grove
- 113 S. Washington
- 312 Washtenaw

In Depot Town, the Enchanted Florist, the Hair Station and Apotheke all have fresh paint colors and new awnings.

## Public Spaces

At the once trash-strewn vacant corner of Michigan and Ballard, the handsome new **Police and Fire Memorial Park** honors those local heroes who protect us at the risk of their own lives.

## Library Park

between the Library and Bombadill's, has been transformed – the Patsy Chandler fountain has been clad in mosaic tiles and a beautiful new statue of Harriet Tubman presides over new benches, fences and landscaping. Altogether, a lovely job.



## Big Improvements

Handsome and appropriate **iron fences** have replaced chain link and deteriorated wood at 301-307-309 N Washington and along the railroad tracks between Cross Street and the Freighthouse.

## Parking Lots

take a look at the iron fencing, brick paving, trees and landscaping that now grace the City lots on both North and South Huron. As part of that project, a handsome brick wall at South Huron and Ferris announces "Downtown Ypsilanti".



## Great News!

### Lewis House

the beautiful Italianate at 415 North Huron sold recently and is in good hands for many years to come! Preservationists can breathe easy!

### Citizens Bank building

at 133 W Michigan is engulfed in scaffolding – the long-awaited restoration is underway!

## Innovation

is at work at the FOOD CO-OP on North River where solar panels have been installed and are now supplying a portion of the Co-op's energy.

## Good Work

Great examples of appropriate porch reconstructions, very well done, can be seen at 413 Maple and 116 S.Adams. And the lovely porch rail on the Queen Anne house at 302 N. Hamilton has been rescued.

## Ypsilanti Auto Heritage Museum

on East Cross at River, the construction of a pitched roof and the installation of remaining siding and new doors is complete – looking good!

## Rescue Efforts

Many thanks to all the good people who have saved a historic building from years of neglect and abuse.

316 Pearl – aluminum siding removed, original clapboard painted and an appropriate fence installed.

32 S Normal and 30 S Normal – beautiful rehab jobs well done.

629 N River – once an ugly duckling, now a pretty little swan.

## Museums Don't miss these treasures!

### Antique Fire Equipment Museum

on Cross Street between Huron and Washington

### Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum

on Cross at North River

### Historical Museum

on North Huron just south of Cross

### Yankee Air Force Museum

at Willow Run Airport

Thanks to everyone who makes Ypsilanti a better place to live, police, fire fighters, city manager, city department heads, city employees, mayor and city council, boards and commissions! They're a great bunch doing a great job in hard times.

Thanks also to the Department of Public Works for great service year-round, for SUPER snow removal and for never missing their scheduled rounds, even during the chaos left by storms.

## Special Thanks...

to all those folks who quietly and faithfully maintain their properties, who sweep and water, pick up and plant, repair and paint. If we missed mentioning you, know that without your effort Ypsilanti wouldn't be the great place it is!