



Ypsilanti Neighbors and Friends:

As your new mayor I want to keep you informed about your city council's activities. I will periodically email information to you through your neighborhood groups. I hope that you find these emails informative.

If you have comments, please contact me at [mayor@cityofypsilanti.com](mailto:mayor@cityofypsilanti.com) or call me at (734) 277-5446.

## **WATER STREET**

I was very disappointed when Ypsilanti's preferred developer for Water Street, Joseph Freed and Associates, ceased negotiations on a development agreement with the city. This decision is based upon the Michigan economy, not the viability of the Water Street site. Freed is also halting development sales of luxury condos in Troy. In spite of the economy, we must examine all of our options to keep Water Street moving forward.

To this end, City Manager Ed Koryzno will be forming an advisory committee of experienced local developers to examine all of the options available to the city. Also, I will be forming the Mayor's Ypsilanti 2020 Task Force at the beginning of the new year. The task force will be charged with proposing at least five long-term strategies and ideas to make Ypsilanti a thriving city in the year 2020. The task force is a natural setting for public input and ideas on Water Street.

I look forward to working with city staff, city council, and concerned residents to examine all of the options available to make Water Street a development that will energize downtown Ypsilanti.

## **PARKVIEW APARTMENTS OVERVIEW**

On December 5 the city of Ypsilanti unanimously passed a resolution allowing the Ypsilanti Housing Commission to acquire Parkview Apartments. Parkview is located at the corner of Hamilton and Harriet near I-94. It was constructed around 1970 in response to a loss in affordable housing from the federal urban renewal programs of the 1960s.

In 2004 financial and management issues at Parkview prompted the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to look for an owner with the financial and management

capability to renovate and run it as quality affordable housing. Since then, a series of complicated legal maneuvers have left Parkview in bankruptcy and HUD still looking for a new owner. Worse, the federal government has recently passed legislation that requires HUD to sell Parkview at market rate. Money that could be spent on renovations would instead be spent on buying the property.

This is where the city council resolution comes in. It asks HUD to grandfather a previous plan by the Ypsilanti Housing Commission (YHC) and Chesapeake Community Advisors (a private affordable housing developer) to acquire Parkview for \$100 and provide \$4 million in funds for renovations. Parkview would not be government-owned public housing; it would be privately owned and managed mixed-income affordable housing.

City Council believes that the YHC/CCA plan will provide needed funds for renovations, investment in the southern gateway to Ypsilanti, and a local board of directors that will be responsive to the needs of the Ypsilanti Community.

Now it's up to HUD to decide. Let's hope for the best.

Paul Schreiber  
Ypsilanti City Mayor  
[www.cityofypsilanti.com](http://www.cityofypsilanti.com)