

## YHC Advocates on Behalf of Residents in Washington, D.C.

Last week, the members of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission Board of Commissioners and YHC staff traveled to Washington, D.C to participate in the National Association for Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Legislative Conference. Housing officials from all over the county gathered in D.C. to speak with our elected officials about the challenges affordable housing providers face.

The YHC took full advantage of this opportunity as we met with the offices of U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, and U.S. Senator Gary Peters. Not only did we discuss the support we need on a national level, but we discussed issues that are directly tied to YHC communities. We advocated for resources that would allow FEP to provide additional supportive services to our residents, and we also asked for support in the YHCs efforts at combating community violence.



The Ypsilanti Housing Commission Board of Commissioners and YHC staff at Capitol Hill.



YHC Commissioners speaking with U.S. Senator Gary Peters staffer.

## Our Mission

"The YHC is committed to providing affordable, safe, and high-quality housing opportunities where residents have access to services and resources that allow them to reach their full potential."

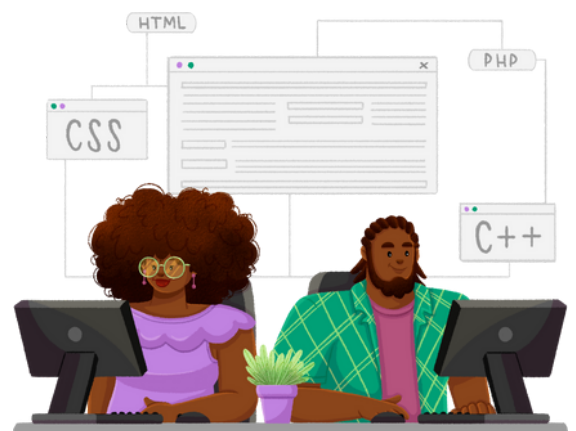
# Project Decoded - An Introduction to Video Game Design



Project Decoded allows youth between the ages of 12 -18 to explore the world of video game design. In collaboration with Code 313, instructors provide one-on-one instruction to youth in various areas of video game design, including coding, gaming engines, game design, and so much more. After participants complete the first half of the daily programming, they get to have some fun playing video games on the provided systems, including Virtual Reality (VR), Nintendo Switch, PS5, and XBOX.

Project Decoded is held across the YHC communities twice a week, and transportation is provided. This is not only an opportunity for youth to explore video game design, but also serves as an introduction to the endless opportunities in the tech industry.

Boys and girls between the ages of 12 -18 that are interested in participating should look at the attached flyer for more information.



# Upcoming Events

## Y on the FLY

Y on the Fly is back at New Parkridge and is being held every Monday from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. We ask that all participants meet in front of the leasing office at 831 Hilyard Robinson Way. Kids can look for the Y on the Fly van to join outdoor activities for free. There is also a chance to win tickets to local college sporting events!

## Afterschool Tutoring at New Parkridge

New Parkridge Tutoring is held every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. We are asking parents to please ensure children are in attendance before 4:15 pm, which is the last time children will be allowed to join. Also, snacks will be provided between 3:30 pm to 4 pm. There will be permission slips for parents to sign. These must be completed before children can participate.

## Free GED Preparation Classes

Free GED Preparation classes will be held at the New Parkridge Office, 831 Hilyard Robinson Way, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. The classes will be held in the Community Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

## Resume/Career workshops

Resume/Career workshops coming to New Parkridge. Please look out for flyer in black box outside of your apartment.

## Afterschool Tutoring at Hamilton Crossing

Tutoring is being held for children and teens of all ages every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 4 pm - 5 pm at Hamilton Crossing.

## Adult Bingo at New Parkridge

Adult Bingo at New Parkridge is every Thursday from 6PM to 7:30 PM. Light refreshments are provided, and prizes are available to be won.

## Youth Bingo at New Parkridge

Youth Bingo at New Parkridge is every Thursday from 6PM to 7:30 PM. Light refreshments are provided, and prizes are available to be won.

## Literacy class at Hamilton Crossing

Every Thursday from 5 pm - 6:30 pm, those 16 and up can receive assistance with reading, math, writing, computer skills, and GED preparation.

## Bingo at Hamilton Crossing

Bingo at Hamilton Crossing will be held on April 10th and April 24th from 2 PM to 3 PM. Light refreshments are provided, and prizes are available to be won.

## Easter Festivities

On Wednesday, April 5th, there will be an Easter Celebration from 4 pm - 5 pm., which will have Easter Egg Hunts and Easter Egg Painting. Snacks will be provided!



# Family Empowerment Program

## → What is the Family Empowerment Program?

The Family Empowerment program was created to provide individuals and families of the YHC with Individualized Supportive Services, which is done by working with our residents to promote self-sufficiency in three key areas - employment, education, and health/wellness.

## → What can the FEP help with?

FEP staff have varying focus areas, ranging from mental health coordination, education and wellness, senior support, and permanent supportive housing. Available services are quite varied: FEP hosts 6 food pantries a month (Sauk Trail, Hollow Creek, Towner), provides GED courses, afterschool tutoring, transportation, game nights, community events, case management, mental health counseling, financial literacy, and referrals for furniture, home essentials, car repair, assistance with DTE bills, and much more.

## → Who should I contact for support?

Each YHC community has FEP staff present. Listed below are the staff members in each community. In the event of a crisis, we encourage residents to contact any available FEP staff member in addition to appropriate first responders (EMT, fire department, police department, etc...).

### New Parkridge:

- Christa Hughbanks, Mental Health Resident Services Coordinator: (734) 787-2412
- Melinda Miller, Permanent Supportive Housing Coordinator, (734) 787-0239

### Hamilton Crossing:

- Lamar Thomas, Resident Services Coordinator, (734) 787-2609

### Strong Future, Sauk Trail, Hollow Creek, Towner, Scattered Sites:

- Sergio Hernandez, Senior Resident Cares Coordinator, (734) 757 -5962

**\*Please note as a reminder that the Family Empowerment Program works to assist residents with their housing needs, crisis situations, and community building. All and any case management is confidential unless the resident has a signed release of information form stating the information discussed may be shared with other parties. If there are concerns regarding program operations, please contact Mark Hammond, Director of the Family Empowerment Program at (734) 787-0290.**

# Food Pantry Calendar

## APRIL 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	Hollow Creek Food Pantry 1:30 pm 4	Towner Food Pantry 1:30 pm 5	6	7	8
9	Sauk Trail Food Pantry 11:00 am 10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	Towner Food pantry 10:30 am 19	20	21	22
23	Sauk Trail Food Pantry 11:00 am 24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

This is an equal opportunity pantry. All are welcome.

# Resident Council General Information

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## **Resident Council Board of Directors:**

To serve as a resident council Board Member, residents must be elected by fellow resident council members. The Role of a Resident Council Board is to act officially as a liaison between the YHC and Resident Council. The Board will be Responsible for Holding resident Council Meetings, Setting Agendas, Voting on Matters, and Communicating the resident Council needs and concerns to Property Management and the YHC.

## **Resident Council Member:**

Every resident who resides in the community over 18 and on a residential lease is automatically a part of the resident Council. There will be monthly resident council meetings, where residents can come together and discuss various ways to improve their communities. All residents who qualify are encouraged to partake in the resident council meeting as this is a way to be a leader, advocate for resources for your community, and help your family and neighbors enjoy a higher quality of life.

## **Benefits of Resident Council to Residents**

- Makes a stronger and safer Community to live in.
  - Makes decisions that affect you.
  - Serves as a Voice for the residents.
  - Represents the interest of all residents.
  - Can link the resident to other resources around the community.
  - Provides a means in which tenants' concerns can be prioritized and addressed.
  - Can address concerns for residents with the YHC staff.
  - Helps to educate and inform residents of grievances and other issues or projects on the property to keep residents up to date on that process.
  - Provides a place where issues can be discussed and information distributed.
  - Provides a way to organize projects and programs.
  - Serves as a communication link to advocate the issues and concerns of residents.
  - Support and promote programs and services, including applying for and receiving grants.
  - Help builds a positive relationship with the YHC, businesses, churches, and other community organizations.
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# Strong Future Resident Council~What's Next?

## Strong Future Resident Council Time Line

**April 3rd - April 14th - Residents can submit nominations for themselves or nominate others to run for the Strong Future Resident Council Board of Directors. During this period, election workers will reach out to nominated residents and identify those who would like to accept their nominations.**

**April 17th - May 12th - A 30-day campaign window will open and during this time residents who accepted their nomination can ask their fellow Strong Future residents to vote for them.**

**May 15th - June 2nd - The election periods starts on May 15th and all Strong Future residents will be provided with a ballot. The last day residents will be able to submit a ballot is June 2nd.**

**June 9th - The winners of the Strong Future Resident Council Board of Directors will be revealed.**

If you are a resident of Strong Future (Towner, Hollow Creek, Sauk Trail, or the Scattered Sites) and are interested or know someone who would make a strong candidate to serve on the Strong Future Resident Council Board of Directors, please see the attached flyer and review the directions on how to submit a nomination.

\*\*\*\*ONLY RESIDENTS OF STRONG FUTURE ARE ALLOWED TO RUN AND VOTE FOR THE STRONG FUTURE RESIDENT COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS. INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE HAMILTON CROSSING & NEW PARKRIDGE RESIDENT COUNCIL ELECTION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE COMING MONTHS.\*\*\*\*

# Strong Future Resident Council Board of Directors Nomination Form

**What does it mean to nominate myself or someone else?**

When you nominate someone or yourself, you are formally expressing interest in serving as a Resident Council Board Member. When someone is nominated to serve on the Resident Council Board, this does not automatically mean they are appointed to serve as a Resident Council Board Member. This position is elected, and five residents of Strong Future will be elected to serve as a Strong Future Resident Council Board of Member.

**If you are interested in nominating yourself or another party to serve on the Strong Future Resident Council Board, please follow the instructions below.**

**Strong Future Resident Council  
2023 Nomination Form**

Please indicate your interest no later than April 14th, 2023, by submitting the nomination form to the Sauk Trail Office. The party nominated must be a resident of Strong Future (Sauk Trail, Hollow Creek, Towner, Scatter Sites), at least 18 years old, and on the lease.

I am interested in running for the Strong Future Resident Council Board of Directors.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to nominate the following person for the Strong Future Resident Council Board of Directors.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions?**

Please contact Christa Hughbanks, Email: [Chughban@emich.edu](mailto:Chughban@emich.edu) or Call: 734-787-2412

**OR**

**Use the QR Code to submit a Nomination**





# **PROJECT DECODED :**



**WHAT?** COME PLAY THE LATEST GAMES ON POPULAR GAMING CONSOLES WHILE LEARNING HOW TO CODE AND WORK ON TEAM BUILDING

**WHEN?** M, W, TH, 5-8PM @ HAMILTON CROSSING, NEW PARKRIDGE, AND SAUK TRAIL POINT

**WHO?** BOYS & GIRLS AGES 12-18

**INTERESTED?** CONTACT SERGIO @ [SHERNAN7@EMICH.EDU](mailto:SHERNAN7@EMICH.EDU)

**FAMILY EMPOWERMENT  
& CODE 313**