



*Helping to make our greater community even more bicycle friendly*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
October 13, 2022**

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### **Local Artist Invites Public To Paint Mural This Saturday**

Portage, MI. Local artist Ellen VanderMyde is inviting the public to help put finishing touches on a large mural painted on the side of a building owned by logistics firm Clark Logic from 1-5pm this Saturday, October 15 at 7809 Lovers Lane in Portage, MI. Entitled “When the Street Lights Come On,” the mural was selected by Bike Friendly Kalamazoo’s Art Committee as expressing the theme of the joys of bicycling.

“My reason for creating this piece is a desire to transmit the sense of delight and wonder I feel while cycling to inspire others to ride,” states VanderMyde. “I grew up riding the trails in Kalamazoo and Portage, and have ridden past this building many times with my father. I’m thrilled to be a part of the first mural dedicated to expressing the joys of bicycling as part of Bike Friendly Kalamazoo’s program.”

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo’s public mural program began in 2022 as a means for enriching public spaces while encouraging bicycling and promoting public safety, all at the same time. Patrick Hershberger, chair of BFK’s Art Committee as well as the Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission, observes about the program, “We will be attracting top talent from within and outside our community to coalesce around bike-positive public art. We have an opportunity to give back to our communities through creativity and connecting via the joy of bicycling.”

“Greater numbers of bicyclists on the roads is positively correlated with improvements in public safety,” observes Paul Selden, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo’s president. “These joyful images will put a smile in the hearts of those passing by, improving our quality of life, if only for a moment.” Selden hopes that seeing joyful images of bicyclists, “who could be family members, friends and neighbors,” will encourage motorists to drive more carefully.

Clark Logic’s president Jamie Clark also sponsors the Clark Logic cycling race team. “I’m excited about the mural. The effort has my enthusiastic support,” he says.

This mural was made possible through the generosity of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo and Bike Friendly Kalamazoo.

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Images Follow



**Local Artist Ellen VanderMyde**



**Mural In Progress, “When the Street Lights Come On” by Ellen VanderMyde**  
Photo Credit: Paul Selden

Ellen VanderMyde is a multi-disciplinary artist and illustrator based in Kalamazoo, MI. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art with a minor in Art History from the Frostic School of Art at Western Michigan University. VanderMyde’s work has been shown at Staky Home Gallery, The Ikouii Creative, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and the Prairie Ronde Art Gallery, among others. For more information, see <https://www.voyagewithellen.com/>.

Bike Friendly Kalamazoo’s mission is to make the greater community even more bicycle friendly. The non-profit organizes the annual Kalamazoo Area Bike Week in May and Fall Bike Celebration Weekend in September. Its programs support efforts to make southwest Michigan even more attractive as a great place to live, work, play and learn. For more information, see [www.bikefriendlykalamazoo.org](http://www.bikefriendlykalamazoo.org).

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