



# This Week

## With the Mayor



November 30, 2018

### **Unlocked Cars and Theft.**

There are some crimes that happen in all communities, including ours. Some of these occur in waves, with frequency in a short amount of time. We are experiencing a wave right now. Some residents have come out to their vehicles to find them rifled through, items missing, and their belongings disheveled. This is upsetting and stressful. I have had this exact experience myself, and I truly understand how it feels.

The best defense is to be prepared. Lock your cars! I lock mine now without exception. It just became a habit. This will actually prevent 90% or more of these incidents, though in very few cases, windows are being broken. These vandals are mostly trying to open car doors and, when they find a car unlocked, they take that 'opportunity' to invade the car.

While I don't want to live in a world where I have to obsess about locking everything up tightly, to some extent it is sensible to take some steps towards security. Lock your cars, lock your homes, take some basic precautions, and live safely.

### **Snow Ordinance Reminder:**

In the past, we have given written warnings to people who fail to remove snow in the 24 hours following a snowfall. We are not doing that this year. [Our Snow Ordinance](#) does not require it and, in the past, the results of issuing warnings created more problems than it solved.

Snow that is not removed essentially makes some of our neighbors house-bound. Elderly people, folks who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices, small children, and just plain walkers have major struggles at times due to inadequate snow removal by the rest of us.

Out of consideration for keeping Ypsilanti as accessible as possible, we are going to cite people at the first violation.

My dream (I know, you were dying to hear this) is to have ZERO violations this year! Come on! We can do it. I know we can. Get out there with your shovels, your snow blowers, your salt spreaders, and DO IT! Keep Ypsi Accessible for ALL!

If you want to help make my dream a reality, check out the kind folks at [Ypsilanti Sidewalk Accessibility Project](#). Join up with the over 200 residents in the group to notify

members of trouble spots or show up with shovels or plows, willing to lend a hand. We can do this TOGETHER!

### **Yard Waste Pick-Up**

A reminder: Our yard waste pick-up ends on December 17. Get those leaves raked, bagged, and ready to go!

### **Correction on joint meeting on park repairs scheduled for December 11:**

A reminder and a correction: City Council has a work session set up to discuss park repairs, upkeep and improvements scheduled for DECEMBER 11, 7 PM. The location is the Senior Center. I incorrectly reported the location last week.

### **Event Highlight of the Week: "A Moment With Mom"**



This is a community meeting being conducted with the goal of allowing a space for single mothers to take an hour or two for self-care and grown folks conversation. The organizers are hoping that single moms in the community will come to share their perspectives what community supports are needed and/or are available. Come ready to share what programs you'd like to see at Parkridge Community Center for moms!

### **Shop Local**

Where we spend our money matters. It is so easy right now to shop online, when we are all busy and the holidays are coming on like a train-wreck.

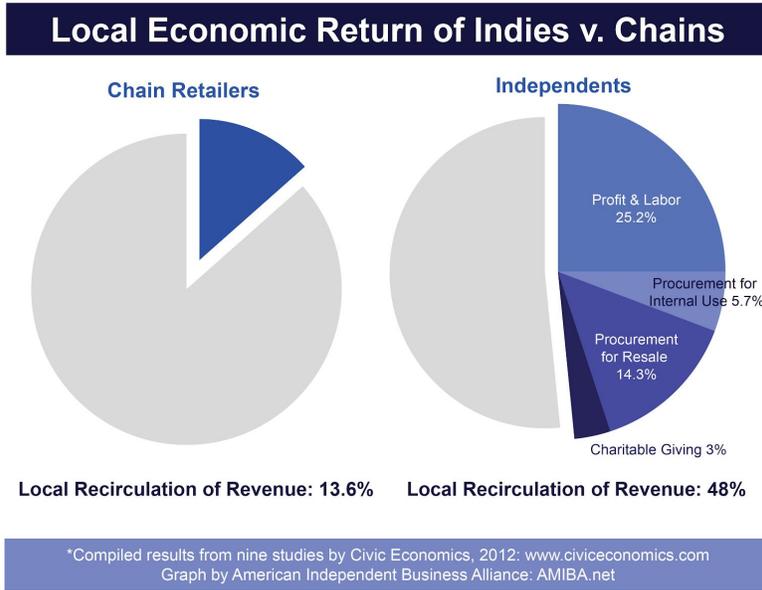
But speaking of holidays.... I am going to chime in on the BUY LOCAL push. Don't worry though, I am going to skip the lecture and go right to facts. Buying local keeps money circulating in our community, employs local people at higher wages, and contributes more to local nonprofits.

It's just smart to shop local.

So before you open up your Amazon app, check out Bowerbird Mongo, or DIYPSI, or Blackstone Books, or the Eyrie, or Twisted Things, or Puffer Reds, or The Rocket, or Salt City, or Brick & Mortar Modern General Store, or ..... There are just too many locally-owned, independent businesses to name, really. It's fun to discover them and share with your friends.

See you 'round our downtowns!

Let's cut to the graphics!



## Before you buy, consider...

How much of your \$100 purchase stays in your community when spent at

**an independent local store**

**an in-town chain outlet**

**a remote online store**  
(if delivery driver resides locally)

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## **EXHIBIT**

**Twelve Homeowners of the 300 Block of N. Grove, Ypsilanti**  
**By Mary Ellen Hagenauer**  
**A Unique Art Exhibit throughout December at MIX,**  
**130 W. Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti**

From Mary Ellen: “For the past 18 months, I’ve been working on a painting project to thank the wonderful people who made me feel so welcome when I moved to Ypsilanti. The project consists of 12 portraits of the folks who own homes on the 300 block of N Grove. I finally finished the last portrait--me!--and now I’m having a party to celebrate.

I hope you can join us on **Saturday, December 29, 5:00-7:00 PM**, at MIX which is located at 130 W. Michigan Avenue.

### **Background**

I moved from rural Wisconsin to Ypsilanti in 2015. My husband, George, and I bought a house on N. Grove Street in order to be closer to our daughter and her family who live in Ypsilanti. However, George was not yet ready to retire, so I moved to our new house with my dog and parrot. The neighbors quickly befriended me, inviting me to social events, offering gardening tips and recommendations for plumbers, electricians, and sharing wine and meals. I felt like I had been adopted.

During this time, I was also working my way through a Great Courses lecture series on Rembrandt and the great Dutch masters of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. I became entranced by Jan van Scorel’s painting of Twelve Members of the Jerusalem Brotherhood of Haarlem. I thought how much fun it would be to do an Ypsi version of the painting featuring the twelve homeowners on my block of N. Grove.



Twelve Members of the Jerusalem Brotherhood of Haarlem, Jan van Scorel

So, here it is:”



Twelve Homeowners of the 300 Block of N. Grove, Ypsilanti, Mary Ellen Hagenauer

### **Upcoming Council Events:**

On December 3, City Council will interview candidates for the Ward 2 representative. A reminder: this council seat became open when I was elected Mayor. According to our city charter, Council will now appoint a person to fill that spot for the next (approximately) 2 years. This is a public meeting in Council Chambers at City Hall. 7 PM. Come by! It's your chance to know your potential councilperson from the beginning.

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