



# This Week

## With the Mayor



January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Ypsilanti named one of the top [51 Budget Destinations](#) by Budget Travel

This fits us so well. Our gritty, artsy, unique city has been chosen as a featured vacation destination by Budget Travel. Here is what they have to say about us, and I can't really argue with any of it:

A creative instinct is the motor of Ypsilanti. Before Ypsi, as locals call it, was a magnet for enterprising and artsy types, it was a hub of progressive manufacturing, the history of which is told in institutions like the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum, home to many classic cars, and the Yankee Air Museum, which houses more than 5,000 artifacts. Fun fact: Rose Will Monroe, the woman that "Rosie the Riveter" was based on, worked at a bomb factory here during WWII. The town's storied manufacturing legacy is honored at The Bomber, a historic aviation-themed diner where locals happily overindulge. And speaking of hearty eats, Ypsi is a bounty of choice. Cuppy's Best is soul-food central, Corner Brewery at the Arbor Brewing Company pours house beers, and Cream and Crumb is the go-to for Michigan-made ice cream. Top it off with vintage shops and outdoor activities, and you'll need more than a weekend to fit it all in.

Thank you Budget Travel for seeing the beauty in our little town. I look forward to seeing streams of tourists at our shops and museums this year.

## City of Ypsilanti Job Posting

Effective January 16, 2019, the City of Ypsilanti will have a regular full-time position available for:

POSITION CLASSIFICATION: Equipment Operator

LOCATION OF POSITION: Public Services

### GENERAL SUMMARY

This position requires an individual to perform a variety of physical labor activities using all the departmental equipment either as a direct operator or assisting in the operation of heavy equipment. In addition, this position is responsible for the maintenance of parks and related off street public and private properties. An individual in this classification performs activities within departmental guidelines. Under the direction of a crew leader or other

supervisor, the individual completes tasks as assigned using methods and procedures as set forth by the department. [Click for more information](#) (You can also apply at this linked website.) Spread the word!

## Council Upcoming Business

Council is beginning our Goal Setting sessions for our next fiscal year, which begins July 1. While this phrase sounds low key and benign, this is actually a very important part of our City Council's annual work.

Goal Setting will be the core or basis of how we build our budget later in the process. Here is how it works: Each Council member will be asked to consider what big or small things we want to see done in the upcoming year. Each department head for the City will also write plans for what they need in their department. Their reports will include hoped-for staffing, equipment and capital equipment changes.

Later in the year, when our meeting agendas includes items like Budget, all the work done at this stage will be used as the basis for making our choices. If you want Council to be aware of something you want included in our budget for fiscal year 2019-20, our Goal Setting sessions are set for Jan 22 and 29, both Tuesdays. You are invited to come and give audience feedback.

## Train Station Town Hall

Are you curious about Ypsilanti considering getting a train station? Do you think it is a good idea to pursue this or is it a waste of time? Want to see the various options for both location and design? Do you have some thoughts on either of those topics? Come to the Town Hall, and hear all about it. Following this town hall, there will be a two-week feedback gathering process. Your perspective is important and will help Council make the best decision possible for this potential project.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/382598382296755/>

## Event Highlights of the the Week:

### Pride:

Meals on Wheels is about to turn 45! That is some serious longevity. Helping senior residents have a hot, healthy meal on a regular basis is no mean feat! A ton of work goes into it and should be celebrated!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/192142891677659/>

### Diversity

If you don't know about the Poor People's Campaign, you should. Begun by Rev. William Barber's Moral Mondays campaign in North Carolina, this nationwide group harkens back to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1968 Poor People's Campaign. The Washtenaw PPC brings together all the disparate issues that are interwoven with poverty and systemic racism. Combine that with some excellent organizing, civil

disobedience actions, and empowering songs: And Voila! You have a group taking serious action on a variety of fronts.

The Washtenaw PPC Moral Fusion Summit will bring together activists from across Washtenaw County to locally confront the evils of poverty, systemic racism, environmental devastation and the war economy, as well as our nation's distorted moral narrative:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1929852063986560/>

## Heritage:

With Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's birthday commemoration coming up on 1/21/19, it is hard to make choices. There are so many fine activities commemorating or honoring the man and his work for civil rights that it can be difficult to choose. Some of these events will be keynote addresses about his values, some will be marches that concern the message of his work, some will be opportunities to do community service work in his honor, and some will be learning opportunities with classes or seminars on his heritage.

Today, I am going to call out a particular event, "The Fierce Urgency of Now: MLK Day Climate Justice Teach-In." It is not in Ypsilanti, which is a digression for me. I am choosing this event because it is a great event for understanding intersectionality. Additionally, the issue of climate justice is vital and this event is a perfect example of teaching folks how to do work in Dr. King's style and honor.

<https://www.facebook.com/eventhttps://www.facebook.com/events/753440745018617/s/753440745018617/>

Whatever you do on MLK Day, good for you! You are honoring a great visionary and leader whose work changed our country for the better.

## New Opportunities for Solar in Ypsilanti

Solar power in most of Ypsi has just gotten 15% cheaper! Combine this the current Federal tax credit and you can get as much as a 45% discount on solar power. This is likely the BEST it will ever get for solar power.

Not sure if this is good news or bad news, but Ypsi is so poor that most of the City has been labeled an investment "Opportunity Zone". In summary, if your home or business is within this zone, there is 15% tax deferral that can be added to the already 30% Federal renewable energy tax credit, giving you a 45% discount on solar power. Companies likes Chart House Energy can monetize these credits and turn it into a 45% discount on a solar installation.

If you're interested, look up your address here:

<https://esrimedia.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=77f3cad12b6c4bffb816332544f04542>

Then check out your roof solar potential with Google Sunroof.

<https://www.google.com/get/sunroof#p=0>

If your roof is bright and shiny on Google Sunroof and you're within the "Opportunity Zones" you have a great opportunity to add solar to your roof and save money. Contact Rob Rafon ([rob@charthouseenergy.com](mailto:rob@charthouseenergy.com), 312.961.0043) or some other solar contractor that can monetize the tax credits and get a quote. Here is the link to the Opportunity Zones program if you're interested in the details. <https://eig.org/opportunityzones/about>

Ypsilanti has been making great strides in solar power and a leader in the State, but we need more solar roofs to be number one in the nation. This is a great opportunity that will expire soon, as the 30% tax credit ends Dec. 2019.

Look out for an event in March sometime to learn more about this. Meanwhile, I hope all your days are sunny ones.

--Dave Strenski, SolarYpsi

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