



This Week

With the Mayor



January 18th, 2019

Fed Partial Shutdown and Local Impact

The news about the federal government is stressful for us all. Funding is not being provided for national parks, the Coast Guard, IRS, EPA, and many other departments.

If the shutdown continues, services will be even more negatively impacted. At this time, I am concerned with our neighbors who work for a department that is either on furlough or shut down.

Years ago, when I worked as a fund development director for two agencies serving people experiencing homelessness, we shared a statistic that said: The average individual is 3 paychecks away from being homeless. Today that statistic is even more dire: many economists believe we're only [one paycheck away from financial disaster](#). The stressful and difficult choices our neighbors are making are based on not knowing when their next paycheck is coming. For all we know, this could go on for a while.

If you know of someone who is in this position, please check in with them. Reach out, and find out if they are okay. What do they need? Are they in touch with some support? Remind them that our community wants to help them, and will step up.

Mayoral Office Hours Announcement

Please drop in this Sunday any time between 1 and 4 PM. Location is Biggby on Washtenaw. There are a lot of exciting things to talk about: Train Station, upcoming goal setting, your neighborhood needs and concerns, the list is endless. I look forward to seeing you!

Recycling News

About 300 households have signed up for their Recycle Ann Arbor cards so far. Come on! I know we can do better than this! Seriously, folks. There are 21,000 people in our city, probably 15000 households. And 300 of you have signed up for your Recycle Ann Arbor cards!? I have mine. Get yours today...

Please fill out the electronic form at the link below to receive a card to use the new location at 2950 E. Ellsworth Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. You may also visit the Ypsilanti City Clerk's Office at 1 South Huron Street to receive a paper form at your convenience.

<http://cityofypsilanti.com/FormCenter/Main-Forms-10/Recycling-Center-Card-Request-Ford-65>

List of what is accepted at Recycle Ann Arbor:

https://cityofypsilanti.com/DocumentCenter/View/1787/YPSI_DOS_NoCoupon_2018



Ypsi Gathering Space Call for Donations

Ypsi Gathering Space is a warming center for people in need of shelter or experiencing housing insecurity. This organization is based in Riverside Arts Center and you can read more about their important work here: <https://www.facebook.com/YpsiGatheringSpace/>

Until the last week or so, this winter was not too bad. (For Michigan. In January.) But it's getting cold now, and snow won't be far behind. Being without a stable place to live is hard enough at any time; it is terrible in the winter.

The Gathering Space has issued a call for donations, mostly supplies needed by the people they service. Here is a list of their needs, my list here may not be complete. For a

complete list of their needs, please contact them directly. In the meantime, dig around your safe and warm home for the following:

- Bus tokens
- Juice boxes
- Boxes of crackers
- Silverware
- Toiletries including but not limited to: toothbrushes and paste, soap, diapers, menstrual products, shaving supplies, deodorant
- Coffee Creamer
- Honey
- Gloves, coats and other cold weather wear



Rutherford Pool News

When Rutherford Pool was constructed in 1971, it was envisioned as resource for the entire Ypsilanti Community. Even the pool's location was a collaborative process, led by then Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Jesse A. Rutherford. Over the past 47 years, Rutherford Pool has been a safe and friendly place for friends and families from every part of the community to gather on warm summer days. In 2014, Friends of Rutherford Pool completed a successful campaign and rebuilt this important asset, allowing it to continue as an important social outlet for community, as well as a vital summertime recreational, educational and program facility.

Now after 47 years, an aging part of the pool's infrastructure needs help. If you have visited the pool recently, you have seen the aging and worn bathhouse. What you have likely noticed are the cracked walls and floors, peeling paint and poor lighting. But what you do not see is the failing plumbing, heating and cooling and outdated electrical and mechanical systems.

Friends of Rutherford Pool (FORP) have just begun the public part of its campaign to renovate the bathhouse at Rutherford Pool. So far, FORP has raised \$300,000 AND received a matching grant of \$300,000 from the State Land and Water Conservation Fund.

They are now in the final phase of the campaign with a challenge to raise \$50,000 by March 7th that would be matched, dollar for dollar from the Michigan Economic Development Council. This final phase is being run on-line through the [Patronicity](#) site. PLEASE consider making a gift, either on-line OR through a check to Friends of Rutherford Pool (FORP c/o 1206 Pearl St., Ypsilanti MI 48197).

Train Stop Feedback Opportunity

The City wants to know your thoughts, questions, concerns, ideas about the possible train station location and design. The feasibility study is available as a PDF on the City's website here: https://cityofypsilanti.com/DocumentCenter/View/1783/Ypsilanti-Amtrak-Feasibility-Study_2018-11-13pdf

Please take a few minutes to go the link below and share your thoughts:
<https://cityofypsilanti.com/FormCenter/Main-Forms-10/Train-Stop-Town-Hall-Community-Survey-66>

Highlighted Events of the Week:



Pride:

Our DDA is an important part of our business community. They work with the City to capture tax funds that a municipality does not qualify for, and then uses those funds to help us have a successful, safe, and beautiful downtown. Pride in our city is a big part of it.

They would like to meet you and have you meet them! They don't bite, I promise. John and Nancy Cool will be hosting a Downtown Association of Ypsilanti (DAY) Meet and Greet session at Red Rock on **Tuesday, January 22nd at 7:15 pm**. It will be informal and a chance to get to know other downtown entrepreneurs. Please stop by to chat about how to promote the fine businesses in historic Downtown Ypsilanti.



Diversity:

Valentine's Day is coming! And Bona Sera has your back. It's here, it's Queer, and it will be a blast. It's drag-focused variety show that is dedicated to building up the queer

community and sharing live performance art with our audience. “PopART Bloody Mary Night,” sounds so bad it has to be good.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/401670200375553/>



Heritage:

I am going to put this event in the heritage category. It is an unfortunate truth that racism is part of our country’s heritage and legacy; it is infused throughout our systems and institutions. We are not always proud of our heritage, yet being open and real about it is the only way to make change.

An Expert Panel on ‘What is Racism’ is an opportunity to learn more about this aspect of all of our pasts and our present. Hosted by Africology & African American Studies at EMU, the panel will take place on Thursday, February 21, 2019 from 12 PM – 2 PM in the Alumni Room, McKenny Hall, Eastern Michigan University. <https://www.facebook.com/events/493182717870763/>

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