



This Week

With the Mayor



February 1st, 2019

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It is budgeting season and City Council has much more than the average number of meetings and work, at this time. My time is limited, so it will be a shorter newsletter today. Yet, this newsletter is important so.... How about a round up?

Proposed Train Stop & Public Feedback:

We received an impressive number of surveys containing feedback from you! Thank you! We learned a couple of things about how to structure such surveys, which we will use in the next community involvement process coming up.

When we get the report summarizing your Train Stop feedback, it will be publically available and shared with City Council. That feedback (combined with what we know about the possibilities and limitations of this project) will guide Council's decisions on next steps.

Our next steps are to decide whether to move forward or not. If we do, selecting the location and design are our first decisions. Then we send our choices up to the Federal government for them to do their work.

Resolution regarding Single Use Plastics:

Passed January 22

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI: WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti is committed to serving as an effective and careful steward of our natural resources and environment, including the air, water and soil of our city, state and planet, and believes that doing so is a fundamental responsibility of government at all levels; and

WHEREAS, the reliance on single-use plastics contributes significantly to global warming, landfill size and associated air pollution, and marine plastic pollution; and

WHEREAS, plastic does not biodegrade but instead breaks down into smaller particles that enter the marine food chain and, eventually, into humans, potentially causing as yet unknown health risks; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti is committed to environmentally sustainable practices;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Ypsilanti City Council urges all departments and offices to reduce the purchase of single-use plastics, particularly polystyrene, which requires the use of carcinogenic chemicals and other chemicals harmful to humans in its manufacture, which faces a rapidly diminishing recycling market, and which has been identified as a possible human carcinogen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ypsilanti City Council directs the City Manager to revise the City's current procurement policy and disseminate this to City departments and offices, and ensure adherence to the policy.

Budgeting:

We are in the midst of goal setting, which is our first step in the budgeting process, per our City charter. There are a few themes emerging:

- Continuing to work on Affordable Housing options has consistent support;
- Movement on Water Street is high on everybody's agenda;
- Public Recycling is coming up as a core value and goal of our community;
- Parks repair and upkeep is also coming up frequently;
- Work on improving our parking situation, executing the upcoming parking strategy, is important;
- There are many calls for increased staffing for our public safety personnel, particularly our police department.

At any point in the process, you are welcome to provide input on City goal-setting. Contact your City Council representative and share your thoughts. Bookmark the list of [Council contact info](#) linked here, and it is pasted below for your convenience:

Lois Richardson, Mayor Pro-Tem
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Steve Wilcoxon, Council Member - Ward 2
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Jennifer Symanns, Council Member - Ward 2
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Primary Email: jsymanns@cityofypsilanti.com

Peter Murdock, Council Member - Ward 3
Phone: 734-485-7799
Primary Email: pmurdock@cityofypsilanti.com
If email is full please use secondary email below.
Secondary Email: murdock.sweeney@comcast.net

Anthony Morgan, Council Member - Ward 3
Phone: 734-334-3407
Primary Email: amorgan@cityofypsilanti.com
Secondary Email: asmorgan77@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00 p.m. through 2:00 p.m. at City Hall

Peninsular Dam:

Set your calendars for February 13th at 7 PM for an upcoming Town Hall regarding Peninsular Dam. The City is considering whether to remove or repair it. At that gathering, OHM, our engineering company, will be present to answer questions about what the repairs consist of. Huron River Watershed Council will be there to answer questions about what removing the dam might look like. Costs, risks and possible support in funding either direction will also be discussed. Location is TBD.

Snow Removal Policy:

The Department of Public Services (DPS) removes snow within 24 hours of first accumulated inch on ground according to the following priorities, in order of importance from 1 to 6:

1. State Trunk lines
2. Major Streets
3. Local Streets
4. City-owned parking lots
5. City Alleys
6. Sidewalks in front of City-owned properties that are not City facilities

Understandably, it's frustrating when you are wondering why your particular part of the City is not being given the attention you justifiably want. Keep in mind these priorities and all of us at the City appreciate your patience.

Office Hours Recap:

My last Office Hours rocked! It was the biggest one yet with 20 people dropping by.

I connected with an EMU/City arts project, got great advice on my newsletter, chatted about solar, recycling, Peninsular Dam, the proposed Train Stop, needs of local youth and more. It was lively.

In general, I hold Office Hours every 3rd Sunday at 1 PM. Next one will be Feb 17, location to be announced at a later date. I am finding places in each Ward at which to meet with you. When a place is decided, I will announce it here and also on neighborhood Facebook pages.

Highlighted Events of the Week:

Pride:

Our own Athena Johnson, talented musician and local entrepreneur is hosting an event on Valentines Day: Athena "A Lover's Eve." This is not an Ypsilanti event; Farmington Hills is a fine place, though. I am putting this event under the city value of Pride because we are PROUD of our own, Athena! I hope she rocks! Or jazzes, rather! :-)

"A Lover's Eve," Thurs Feb 14, 8 pm, Kola Restaurant & Ultra Lounge, 32523

Northwestern Hwy, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334

<https://www.facebook.com/events/737821549937012/>

Diversity:

Maiz + Mindo: A Chocolate and Tequila Tasting Adventure. This will be hard to pass up: A tequila tasting with chocolate pairing by a local Chocolatrix (I made that word up, but it makes sense to me). Chocolate needs no introduction. Sipping Tequila is a thing, and no -- it is does not include salt and lime. I highly recommend you considering this for a new (possibly) to you pairing and tasting experience.

Maiz + Mindo: A Chocolate and Tequila Tasting Adventure, Sat Feb 9, 2-4pm at Maiz Mexican Cantina, 36 East Cross Street, Ypsilanti

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1961089460866553/>

Heritage:

Every Friday night at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, there is a free movie night (with POPCORN). It's held in the archives (North Entrance), and it is a great family event. This week, they are showing The Pink Panther, one of my faves.

Classic Movie Nights, Every Friday 2/1-2/22 at 7pm, Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N Huron Street, Ypsilanti

<https://www.facebook.com/events/374512083362170/>

Contact Mayor Beth Bashert

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