



This Week

With the Mayor



February 8th, 2019

This Week with The Mayor

Free Grocery Distributions!

Are you in Washtenaw County and need food? Food Stamps run out early? On Wednesday, February 13th, 4 pm - 6:30 pm and Saturday, February 23rd, 11 am - 2 pm, there will be free grocery distributions at the Human Services Building, 555 Towner Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. Ready-to-go boxes of pantry staples, along with veggies and milk will be available. Please bring reusable bags or a folding grocery cart. **No ID or proof of residency or income required, just a quick sign-in sheet.** Free parking & on a bus-line. In addition, free coffee, kids activities, and free flu shots too! Can't make it? Food Gatherers' network of partner food pantries has groceries to help! Call us at 734-761-2796 during business hours or visit www.foodgatherers.org/needfood to find a program near you. Or, call 211. Please share this news with anyone you know who might be in need.

YCS Superintendent

Ypsilanti Community Schools has decided to offer Alena Zachary-Ross a permanent contract as school superintendent. Congratulations to Ms. Zachary-Ross! At Monday's School Board meeting, much praise was heard for her performance since August 2018 when she was hired for an interim position following the departure of Ben Edmondson. According to veteran Board Member Celeste Hawkins, "By all accounts from board, staff and community members, the feedback is consistent and revealed that [Zachary-Ross] is engaged, she is thoughtful, she's a systems thinker, she's a collaborator, she's committed to cultural proficiency and restorative practices, she's a great communicator, she's someone who listens and she has an impeccable work ethic." Read the full article at MLive here: <https://goo.gl/J5Go8b>

Upcoming News

The Peninsular Dam Town Hall planned for Feb. 13th will be moved to a new date. One of our key presenters is not available that date. Watch this space for news.

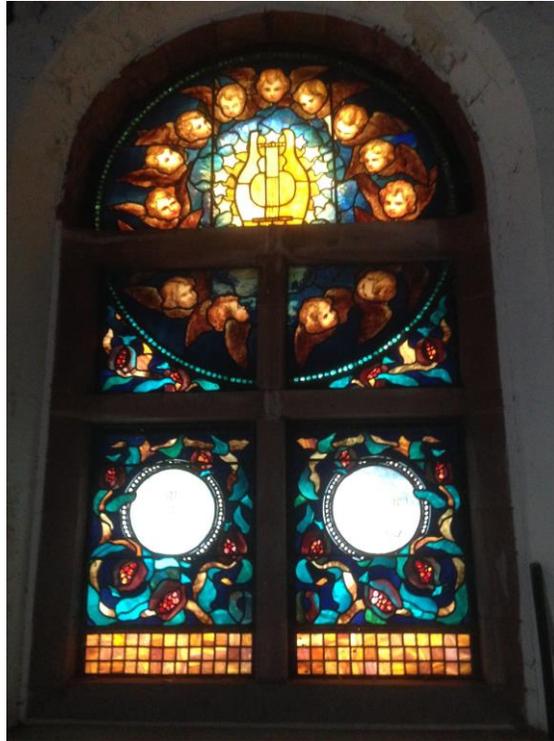
The Parking Strategy will be released shortly, probably in the next 2 weeks. I am discussing with staff how to engage you on this important issue. Ideas are welcome, and I think a community meeting and a follow-up engagement process is likely. Watch this space for updates, and information.

Feedback received from YOU regarding the possible **Train Stop** will be presented to City Council on Feb. 19. This first effort of offering an online 'Portal' for your input was a big success. We will also post your feedback on the City website at that time. Council will begin discuss the City's next steps bearing in mind your ideas.

The Thompson Block continues to make progress! Watch the site; it is getting pretty exciting. Everytime I go by, I see changes and additions to the building. I hope you are enjoying it as much as I am. How exciting to imagine that historic structure filled with people and activity again!



Speaking of progress, have you seen some of what is going on at **Starkweather Chapel**? This historic, and frankly, breathtakingly beautiful building located on River Street in Highland Cemetery has not been open for years.



I think I've heard it said that the stained glass in the windows is actually Tiffany--could that be true? Thanks to the work of Barry LaRue and the energetic folks at Highland Cemetery, we can look forward to having it available for use in the not-too-distant future.

WATS Plan Released

Bring out your Inner Transportation Nerd! The Long Range Plan for the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study has been released, as announced below:

WATS is pleased to release the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan for Washtenaw County. The Plan explores the anticipated trends in transportation technology, trip making behavior and policies to address priorities and ongoing needs. The Plan is available for review and comment through March 20, 2019, when the WATS Policy Committee is anticipated to take action.

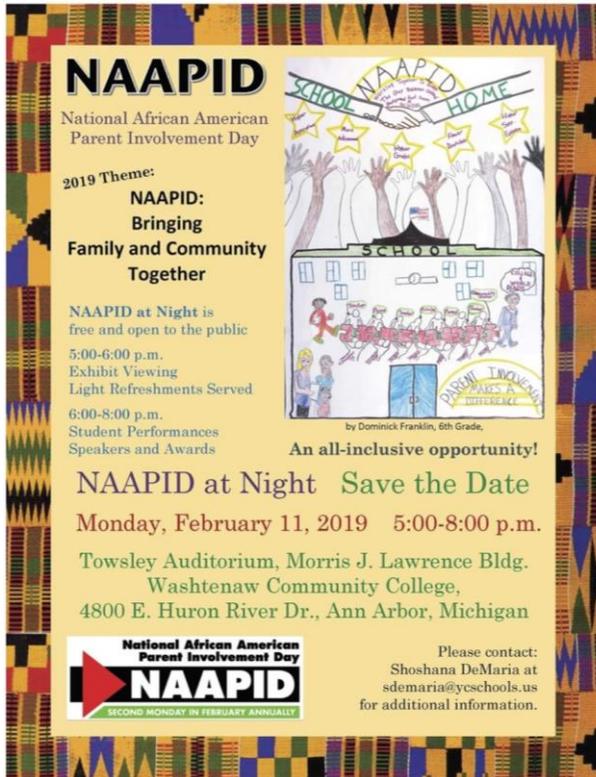
Here is the link to the report: <http://www.miwats.org/2045lrp/>

Highlighted Events of the Week

Welcome to Black History Month! Did you know that Ypsilanti has one of the oldest and most vibrant African American communities, and at one time, it was the largest in Michigan? Thus, we have a lot of history to celebrate. And we celebrate it all year long, not just in February. But in February, I will emphasize events that focus on what's happening in our Black community.

Pride

Ypsilanti is PROUD of Melvin Parson, urban farmer and founder of We The People Growers Association, who will give the keynote speech for [Michigan Family Farms Conference](#) in Kalamazoo on Saturday 2/9 from 8-5pm. Melvin will share his journey to agriculture and his efforts to create a socially and racially just food system in his community.



NAAPID
National African American
Parent Involvement Day

2019 Theme:
**NAAPID:
Bringing
Family and Community
Together**

NAAPID at Night is
free and open to the public
5:00-6:00 p.m.
Exhibit Viewing
Light Refreshments Served
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Student Performances
Speakers and Awards

SCHOOL NAAPID HOME

SCHOOL

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

by Dominick Franklin, 6th Grade.

An all-inclusive opportunity!

NAAPID at Night Save the Date
Monday, February 11, 2019 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Towsley Auditorium, Morris J. Lawrence Bldg.
Washtenaw Community College,
4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, Michigan

**National African American
Parent Involvement Day**
NAAPID
SECOND MONDAY IN FEBRUARY ANNUALLY

Please contact:
Shoshana DeMaria at
sdemaria@ycschools.us
for additional information.

Diversity

NAAPID and NAAPID at Night are events first started by Michigan's own Joe Dulin. National African American Parent Involvement Day will be celebrated by the Ypsilanti Community Schools on **February 11th**. It's a day to celebrate our diversity and the strength it gives us. All parents are welcome in the schools. If you can't make it during the day due to work obligations, NAAPID at Night will follow at WCC in the Morris Lawrence Building from 5-8pm. Contact YCS for more details at 734-221-1200.

Heritage

Ever heard of a Present History Museum? Sounds intriguing. For \$10 you can visit the Present History Museum of African Americans creating a positive impact on our

Community. The museum will be open at 6pm on Wed 2/13, followed immediately at 7pm by a Black History Month program of music, poetry, and more entitled "No Dream Deferred." It all takes place at the YCS High School auditorium, 2095 Packard Road, Ypsilanti.

Contact Mayor Beth Bashert

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