



This Week

With the Mayor



March 1st, 2019

This Week With the Mayor

A great newsletter this week. There is some good news about our Ypsilanti Community School students, updates on Council, Farmers Market news, some pretty wild events, and more!!!

Upcoming Council Business:

- The Train Station is moving forward (pun intended). The grant opportunities for the train station are significant right now and just received a big input of federal funds. On March 5, Council will have to decide if this is a project we are committed to or not for Ypsi to be a viable recipient of funds.
- Council will be going electronic soon (finally, right?!). This is the first step in the process to stream our Council meetings right to your phone or computer! We have been working with Abadata to plan the streaming portion. The reason we had to wait for the Council electronic systems is because the stream will be linked with our agendas and minutes. You will be able to hone-in directly on the agenda items you are interested in, and that will be much nicer for all of us.

Peninsular Dam Decision Work Groups

Steve Wilcoxon, Council Representative Ward 2

Penn Dam Working Groups:

The Peninsular Dam is in need of repairs. Three options have been identified:

1) remove the dam, 2) repair the dam, and 3) repair the dam and install equipment to provide hydroelectric power. Each option presents a unique opportunity and cost to the city. To date, the city has heard presentations on these options by the Huron River Watershed Council (Princeton Hydro), the Friends of Penn Park, OHM engineering, and Brian Steglitz (Ann Arbor Water Treatment). The most recent presentations were at the Penn Dam Townhall,

February 20 at the Ypsilanti Senior Center. There was a good turnout and lively discussion. A portal was created for a survey and further input, <https://cityofypsilanti.com/FormCenter/Main-Forms-10/Peninsular-Park-Dam-Town-Hall-67> There were a number of points raised for each option that warrant further exploration. To that end, Council Members Steve Wilcoxon and Jennifer Symanns (both Ward 2) are organizing working groups around each option to elucidate concerns, detail the cost/benefit of each option, and explore potential funding sources. This is a chance to tap the unique knowledge of residents and experts that have not been represented in the previous presentations. The deliverable will be a comprehensive report comparing the available options. Please contact Steve Wilcoxon (swilcoxon@cityofypsilanti.com or 734-657-1796) if you are interested in contributing to these working groups.

Peninsular Dam Needs YOUR Input

We are considering the future of the dam at Peninsular Park. This dam was used by the Peninsular Paper company at one time to power its paper mill. It is now the possession of the City of Ypsilanti. We have studied the costs of both removal and repairing. We invited the head of the hydro dams in Ann Arbor to give us an idea of the possibility for hydro power (spoiler alert: Not good). We have the science in place. We have the engineering and cost information. Now, we need to hear from YOU. What do you think about all this?

Please take 5 minutes and fill out this survey. We know you care. We just need to hear from you specifically about what you want.

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/FormCenter/Main-Forms-10/Peninsular-Park-Dam-Town-Hall-67>

The Ypsilanti Farmers Market Indoors

March dates are Tuesday 3/12 and 3/16. If you've ever considered starting a food business or being a farmers market vendor, Growing Hope is hosting a series of free classes that can help start or support your local food business. This Monday, March 4th from 6:30-8pm is Building Blocks for the Local Food Entrepreneur: From Start to Selling 101. This class is taught by market vendor Gretchen Kopmanis and covers the steps she went through in starting her food business. Register for this free class on Eventbrite [here](#).

The market and the building blocks classes are held at 16 S Washington downtown at the Robert C Barnes Sr. MarketPlace Hall. Eventbrite link: <https://goo.gl/FrBxvJ>

--From: Dayna Popkey, Growing Hope

No-Reason Absentee Voting Begins!

[Benson Notes No-Reason Absentee Begins For May Election](#)

(From:Gongwer News)

With changes to the Constitution approved in November, Michigan voters will not have to provide a reason to get an absentee ballot to vote in the May and all upcoming elections, [Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson](#) announced Thursday.

"If you want to fill out your ballot at home, you should be able to do so. And if you want to avoid the stress of finding time to get to the polls on Election Day, you should be able to do that, too," Ms. Benson said in a statement. "The era of no-reason mail-in voting has begun in Michigan, and I'm excited about the potential it has to engage more of our fellow citizens in our democracy."

Absentee ballot applications for the May 7 election were released Thursday. Ms. Benson noted that the applications are available at www.michigan.gov/vote.

Highlighted Events of the Week

Heritage: Ypsilanti's Soldiers of Liberation

Sat 5/25 1-3pm, Highland Cemetery, 943 River Street, Ypsilanti

If you are not aware of the several historians who focus on our lovely city, meet one of them: Matthew Siegfried. He researches, writes, and leads wonderful history walks around our city. Please make the time to go to them if you can, they are amazing (and I don't use that word lightly).

SAVE THE DATE: this one is special. For a couple of reasons:

1. It focuses on the black soldiers from Ypsilanti who served in the Civil War, nearly 70 of them.
2. Highland Cemetery is one of the few where black and white soldiers were buried in the same cemetery.

Special, am I right?

<https://www.facebook.com/events/300575060541261/>

Diversity: Paczki Day at Cultivate

Tues 3/5 all day, Cultivate, 307 River Street, Ypsilanti

Ok, I have never been a fan of paczkis. Too sweet for me (I know some of you can't even understand that sentence). On the other hand, some people plan their year around it. So: Just for you! <https://www.facebook.com/events/363319057825846/>

Pride: Ypsilanti Photo Scavenger Hunt

Sun 4/14 12-3pm, Corner Brewery, 720 Norris Street, Ypsilanti

This is a little bit down the pike, time-wise, but worth putting on your calendar. Combine a Treasure Hunt with photos of Ypsilanti, a brewery, and prizes, and what do you have? The Ypsilanti Photo Scavenger Hunt! Yes, you heard it here. Hosted by the Corner Brewery and filled with fun and photos. So put on your walking shoes, break out your memory files and go to town finding all the photo locations!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/402331737169212/>

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