

BASHERT'S BI-WEEKLY MAYORAL BULLETIN



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS



April 16:

- DNR Presentation re: Peninsular Dam Decision
- Emergency Plan presentation: What happens if the dam fails? What areas are at risk?
- City Clerk
We will officially be offering the position of City Clerk to Andrew Hellengaour current Acting City Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

May:

Much of the month of May will be dedicated to budget work. Our City Budget will be coming to Council with key questions about staffing changes, capital improvements, upcoming projects, roads, parks, basically everything. It's dry but it's vital to our next two years. I invite you to these sessions so you can see how we make our plans for the coming fiscal year.

UPDATES ON PAST COUNCIL BUSINESS

- **New City Manager:** Frances McMullan! The City has warmly welcomed City Manager McMullan into her new role. After 12 years of steady service to our City, it is a pleasure for all of us to see her take on this new and exciting role. I look forward to working with her in this new role.
- **Train Station:** Not a lot to report yet. Council approved moving forward with requesting the money for building the train station from the feds at our last Council meeting. Grant writing is ensuing through our consultants. We are seeking letters of support from appropriate entities. There will likely be periods of silence on this project, which does not mean nothing is happening. It's the nature of a federally-funded project like this to have waiting periods.
- **Regional Recycling Authority:** Ypsilanti Council voted to join a Regional Recycling Authority at our last meeting. This authority is just forming at this time; outcomes will be a while in coming. Until then, we are a member and looking forward to how much this authority can improve our program. An RRA like this has the positive effect of:

Potentially increasing the quality of our recycling

Potentially increasing the quantity of our recycling

Gives the City additional tools to make changes in our recycling program to grow our program and success

Does not risk City employees' jobs, as we do not give up any control of our own programs

PARKING STRATEGY PLAN:

On April 3, City Council and the DDA held a joint work session to discuss the parking strategy our consultants had put together. This strategy was the joint project of the City, the Michigan Municipal League, and MEDC. The meeting had a high level of participation and a large audience of local residents and business owners.

The parking strategy was developed using information gathered from past studies, as well as current inventories, with the addition of several tools including community outreach, and includes the below elements.

As we agree and disagree our way through these possible changes, remember that we all share the same goal: To improve parking availability in our City. We may have different ideas of how to get there, but all of us share the same desire. So, here we go:

- **Technology:** smart parking meters that can use cash, credit, and apps for remote updates
- **Culture:** create an environment that encourages biking, walking, and other alternative modes of transportation
- **Infrastructure:** repair some lots, repave some lots, restripe some lots, lighting, etc...
- **Budget:** use parking income to maintain parking lots and systems
- **Coordination:** assign a staff person to coordinate the various programs and City departments (3 currently) that deal with parking in the City.

I expect and encourage community discussion about this; better parking is vital.

SMART CITIES 50 AWARD

Big Congratulations go out to Dave Strenski and Solar Ypsi! Most of the time, Smart Cities works with larger communities and big projects, so their award to Ypsilanti means a lot.

The project that won this prestigious award was for the solar panels installed at Parkridge Community Center. Not only did Solar Ypsi add solar power capability to this vital and highly active community center, there was an additional vital element. Dave Strenski and Solar Ypsi paid and trained local residents to install the solar array. At the end of the project, residents gained knowledge, were paid for work well done, and carried that knowledge and skill into the community.

Dave Strenski is passionate, committed and talented. He puts his time and talent into solar power at a tireless pace. Thank you, Dave, for all the work you do in our community!

More info about the award [HERE](#)



DRIVING AND MARIJUANA USE

As the State of Michigan starts to work on laws around recreational/medical marijuana, I will try to share news with you. This article is a current snapshot of driving laws around testing positive for DUI of marijuana.

If you are a consumer, keep this in mind. Driving while under the influence of any intoxicant is a terrible idea, as we all know. Please keep safety in mind in your decisions about when you drive. Fatigue, distractions, medicine, and intoxicants each impair our ability to be a safe driver.

Michigan Information and Research Service (MIRS) Article – Tuesday, April 2, 2019

State Panel: Science Doesn't Support THC Level For Impaired Driving

A state-convened panel recommended making no THC bodily content standard for determining impaired driving, concluding there's not enough science to back one up.

The state's Impaired Driving Safety Commission -- created by legislation in 2016 and appointed by former Gov. Rick Snyder -- recently wrapped up its work, which involved recommending a "scientifically-supported threshold" for THC as it relates to determining impaired driving.

THC is the ingredient in marijuana most responsible for producing "psychotropic effects," according to the panel's final report.

The panel found there's no scientifically supported threshold of THC bodily content "that would be indicative of impaired driving due to the fact that there is a poor correlation between driving impairment and the blood (plasma) levels of [THC] at the time of blood collection," according to the commission's final report.

The commission instead recommended continued use of roadside sobriety tests to determine whether a driver is impaired, which isn't a change from how police officers carry out enforcement activities now, said Robert Stevenson, executive director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

The panel also recommended law enforcement officers continue pursuit of training to detect impaired driving, something Stevenson said law enforcement is doing as much as possible, given there's only a limited number of officers across the state who are trained as drug recognition experts.

Stevenson said the training is several weeks long, and all the 2019 classes are filled up, so it's going to take awhile to get more officers on the road that carry drug recognition expertise.

Josh Hovey, spokesperson for the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association (MCIA), said his group supported the commission findings, but also agreed it'd be helpful to eventually have a THC bodily content standard, something Stevenson agreed with as well, in terms of making enforcement easier.

Hovey said if there's ever a blood test of sorts to help determine THC impairment that is supported by science, the MCIA could support that, but in the meantime, his group will continue to tell the public to not get behind the wheel after using marijuana.

The commission also made recommendations for further public education, research and creation of a permanent Drugged-Driving Commission. The work of the commission will be submitted to the Governor, Senate Majority Leader and House Speaker, said Shanon Banner, spokesperson for the Michigan State Police (MSP).

The commission was comprised of, according to its report:

- Former MSP Director Col. Kriste Kibbey ETUE.
- MSP Lt. Col. Richard ARNOLD, the MSP director's designated representative.
- Margeaux BRUNER, a qualified and registered medical marijuana patient.
- Nicholas FILLINGER, a forensic toxicologist.
- Dr. Carol Ann Cook FLANNAGAN, a professor whose expertise is in traffic safety.
- Dr. Norbert KAMINSKI, a professor whose expertise is in the area of cannabis pharmacology and toxicology.
- Dr. William Ray MORRONE, a licensed physician.

STREET DRAINS

This has been a topic of conversation and several emails from residents, as well as requests for help. Seasonally, this is the time to talk about it.

Street drains get clogged with leaves and sometimes trash. This causes our streets to have small floods as water cannot drain. Rain events are becoming bigger due to climate change, hard rains are becoming more common. Combining large rain events with clogged drains is causing more problems in our streets. Climate change means that we are likely going to see other non helpful weather patterns.

The City will do regular street cleaning, and we are all eager. Last fall was odd weather, with a late leaf drop and early freezing, which restricted street cleaning. Keeping our streets maintained and draining well will be more and more important as climate change progresses.

It is residents' job to clean drains, not the City's. I say this because there is some confusion about it, with some folks thinking it is the City's job. There are too many drains for us to be able to manage them. We are a team on this. We'll do the streets, you do the drains.

Here are some helpful hints to make it easier:

Clean the leaf and other debris out before the rain comes

Join with your neighbors and partner for a drain. Share the responsibility.

When doing yard work, sweep the curb edge and the drain in addition to your yard and sidewalk.

Chat with your neighbors while doing it. It's just more fun that way.

Together, we can make things better!

MSU SCIENCE FESTIVAL AT YANKEE AIR MUSEUM



Here is a three-in-one big event coming our way! This combines museums (I LOVE museums), education, collaboration (I LOVE that word), and opportunities for our young people to get excited about STEM education. I highly recommend this event to families with children. Enjoy!

MAYORAL OFFICE HOURS

Sunday, April 21, 2019 1- 4pm

Biggby Coffee

1510 Washtenaw

This is a drop-in event. Ask me/tell me anything. What is on your mind? There is certainly a lot going on. Parking on your mind? Peninsular Dam? Got a complaint or need? Question about how to handle an issue? Seriously, I offer you complete access. Come on down and let's chat!

I rotate locations for my office hours throughout the City, spending one month in each Ward. I come to you! Last month, I was at Parkridge Community Center in Ward 1. Next month, I will be at Cutivate in Ward 3. Biggby Coffee is in Ward 2 for this month. If you wondered how I make my choices about location, now you know.

HIGHLIGHTED UPCOMING EVENTS



The producer of this event is a young man I have been meeting with for a couple of years now. He is talented, driven, smart, and making something real happen in the music scene. I may not be cool enough to know the groups, yet I DO know when to watch someone who is moving forward making positive change happen here.

In addition to great music, here is a community giving element that will make many of you happy. From Bryan Roberts, the Producer Producer or Ceo of Mack Delfino Agencies he band graduated from YCS we wanted to give back to the high school so a percentage of the money made will go to the performing arts program and there will also be a food vendor and the money made from that will go to the dollars for scholars program.

DIVERSITY

Music of New Zealand

Wednesday 4/24/19 7-9pm

Ypsilanti Freighthouse

100 Market Place

[FB Event Page](#)



Want to take a trip to New Zealand? Short on cash? Airbnb all booked up? Don't want to travel the distance? Join us instead for a one evening whirlwind tour of the Kiwi experience! This program offers a glimpse into the topography, culture, and perspective unique to New Zealand. From the moment you walk in, you will be immersed in the sights and sounds of a country that has more sheep than humans and more Kiwis (both bird and human) than Hobbits. Come learn about people with a humble, but distinctive (and definitely NOT AUSTRALIAN) culture influenced by its blend geographic isolation and amalgamation of its native Maori people as well as the multi-ethnic waves of migrants and British colonization.

Our Program will consist of music written by New Zealand grown composers, all living, 50 percent of whom are female (not your average composer- no dead European guys here!) Experience the wonderful geographic features of New Zealand in Salina Fisher's Coastlines, see if you can compare elements of Gareth Farr's Warriors of Pluto to the traditional Maori Haka and see what some of New Zealand's finest musicians have to offer. Reception featuring New Zealand pavlova. Presented to you by ArcaSonica and the University of Michigan graduate percussionists.

PRIDE

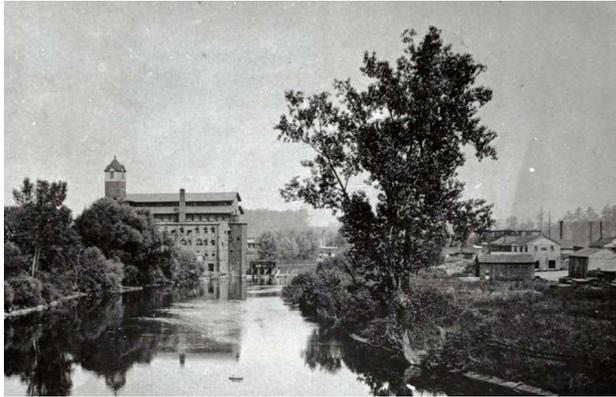
COMMUNITY JAZZ CONCERT SERIES

Saturday 4/13/19 5pm

Da'Ja Theatre

235 Spencer Lane

Tickets \$20



HERITAGE

Social History of the Huron River Talk:

Saturday 4/13/19 1-3pm

Riverside Arts Center,

76 N. Huron St.

[FB Event Page](#)

Not to focus too much on Matt Siegfried (and what is too much, after all, anyway? He is a great, local historian) but check out this Social History of the Huron River this weekend. I am a bit of a history geek, in my own dyslexic way. I love having so many people working on local history right here in our tiny but mighty City of Ypsilanti.

A spring talk about Ypsilanti's place on the Huron River! Join historian Matt Siegfried as he presents on how the River has shaped the lives of the peoples who have lived here. From work to play, as a connector and a divider, as a means of transportation and a means of staying, the Huron River has played many roles in defining the lives lived by its banks. We will look at the River and how it and its watershed were seen and used by indigenous peoples, through the American settlement with its speculation, drainage, its mills and mill workers, at industry, political and economic power, the fight over rights to the River, its pollution and emergence as a place of recreation as well as the historic class differences between the west and east side neighborhoods of Ypsilanti among many other topics.

Meet Saturday, April 13th at 1 PM at Riverside Arts Center. The talk is FREE and open to all. If you have a group, please contact Matt. For more information please email msiegfr@gmail.com.



IN COMMUNITY,

Mayor Beth Bashert

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READING THIS OFFLINE?

Here's a list of links I mentioned in the articles above.

Solar Ypsi Award

<https://spring.smartcitiesconnect.org/Smart50Awards/>

MSU Science Festival at the Yankee Air Museum

<https://www.facebook.com/events/252050259047154/>

Music of New Zealand

<https://www.facebook.com/events/384157252355125/>

Social History of the Huron River Talk:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1281029128703010/>