

BASHERT'S BI-WEEKLY MAYORAL BULLETIN



ART COMMISSION ORDINANCE

On 8/27, City Council will hear the first reading of the ordinance to create the Arts Commission. This commission will seek opportunities for public art in all forms, seek opportunities for events/festivals/etc, to do economic development in the arts, and coordinate community engagement.

The first step in forming an Arts Commission in Ypsilanti is to pass an ordinance creating it. All ordinances are read at City Council twice. The first reading includes a public hearing, as well as an opportunity for the public to speak to issues the ordinance addresses.

The second step will be a community engagement meeting to have a public conversation and take applications to be on the commission. There will be several opportunities to apply. Hope to see you at City Council on 8/27!

MASTER PLAN INPUT SESSIONS

The success of our City's updated Master Plan depends on widespread community input -- turn out at one of the following upcoming sessions. Information on this will be updated on the [City of Ypsilanti Website](#)-- have you been there? Lots to learn! If you can't make one of these dates, contact your City Council reps [HERE](#).

- Ward 1 - TBD
- Ward 2 - Thurs 8/22 7pm at the Senior/Community Center, 1015 N Congress, Ypsi
- Ward 3 - Wed 8/14 7pm at Riverside Arts Center



TAKE PART IN THE
**MASTER PLAN
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
&/OR
PARKS PLAN
PROCESSES** cityofypsilanti.com/plan2019

GUN VIOLENCE CONCERNS

Police Chief DiGuisti and Sheriff Jerry Clayton attended a recent meeting of the southside Parkridge Roundtable and discussed their efforts to control the local uptick in gun violence. DeGuisti sees the recent violence as being tied mostly to drug crimes. He is working with Public Housing to restrict parking in the New Parkridge homes to residents and also working to enforce trespassing ordinances. He is working closely with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). Clayton stressed that he wants to engage residents to address the root causes. He has worked with the recent outreach of the [Interrupters](#) and his office is open to suggestions from the public. Ypsi Police have been deputized by the WCSO to remove any jurisdictional problems. Clayton said that deputies have

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NOT been profiling but have used "specific credible information" to give early warnings to past offenders to stop gun crime before it starts. In addition, they are both working with the [Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance](#) (a collaboration of law enforcement including WCSO, EMU, and YPD) as well as the [Washtenaw Community Action Team](#) to address the problem.

GUN BUYBACK EVENT

Local organizations are collaborating on a Gun Buyback event and you can help!

The Cream Incorporated, along with the Ypsilanti Police Department, will host a firearm & assault rifle buyback on August 24th. The aim of this program is to leave Ypsilanti a safer city by removing stolen, bartered, and/or illegally-owned firearms and assault rifles. It is these very types of illegally-owned weapons that are more likely to end up in the hands of children and/or untrained/licensed individuals, leading to tragic and often deadly situations. Secondly, they're more likely to end up in the hands of criminals, feeding the problem of gun violence. Unlike traditional gun buybacks, the aim is to acquire high power handguns as well as assault rifles. The gun buyback will be offering cash with No Questions Asked! There will be a \$250.00 base rate for all high powered handguns and \$500.00 for all assault rifles. Prices may increase depending on the additional magazines and accessories accompanying the firearm or assault rifle. Full details will be released Aug 15.



The Cream Incorporated is a 501c3 nonprofit organization geared towards the economic and moral edification of individuals that reside in areas that have been identified as Urban which provides a variety of classes and workshops that are geared towards self-sufficiency. In addition, they also provide services related to experiences of violence, especially trauma stemming from gun violence. The local chapter of Moms Demand Gun Sense will support this buyback program.

You can learn more and contact The Cream through their [Facebook page](#), by phone at (855) 202-1955 or via email at: contactk@thecream.org

[Here is a link to Support the Gun Buyback event with your donation.](#)

ANONYMOUS TIP LINE DO'S AND DONT'S

Ypsilanti's new Anonymous Tip Line has been added by the YPD. **Call 734-292-5429.** This number is NOT for emergencies. All emergency calls should still go to 911. This line will be checked regularly by an officer. No personal information will be available to that officer, this will be entirely anonymous. Folks can call this number and leave information for the police department regarding crime, guns, drugs, or other illegal activity.

The strength of this Tip Line is that our public safety staff will have access to more information. People who do not feel safe talking directly with the police can still do something to help reduce violent crime. We want to make it safe for anyone to report information that could help reduce violent crime in our community.

The weakness of this Tip Line is that some of the information received through it will not be actionable. Warrants and other steps are often dependent on a verifiable witness. Anonymous does not fit that description.

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Do: Use it!

Do: Trust that it is totally anonymous

Do: Encourage someone who is afraid to talk to the police to use this phone number

Don't: Expect contact, call backs, or follow up directly to you

Don't: Expect guaranteed results

Don't: Use this for emergencies

Don't: Use this for ordinance enforcement complaint, like yard, parking, other small issues

RECYCLING CHANGES AND CLARIFICATION

From Ron Akers, Director DPS

The City of Ypsilanti provides curbside recycling as a service to city residents. After we collect the recycling in our city vehicles we take the recycling to the Western Washtenaw Recycling Facility (WWRA) in Chelsea where it is sorted and recycled. We have what is called single stream recycling, where residents can deposit a variety of different recyclables in one container rather than sorting different recyclables in different containers based on type of recyclable. The main advantage to this approach is that it makes recycling easier for Ypsilanti residents. The WWRA facility has specific rules for the types of waste that it accepts for single stream recycling at this facility. The WWRA facility no longer accepts glass, milk cartons, or juice boxes in single stream curbside recycling streams. There is an information page that is on WWRA's website and the link can be found [HERE](#). The website states, "Glass that comes in with the single stream curbside pick-up ends up getting broken and mixed in with the other materials. That means it can't be separated and sorted into the glass collection area at our Werkner Road facility." To put it simply, due to this change by the WWRA the City cannot guarantee that the glass deposited at curbside is properly recycled.



Photo by earth911.com

In order to ensure that glass is properly recycled we want to notify city residents of this change and highlight an alternative solution to recycling glass and other items that WWRA does not accept in curbside single stream recycling. Recycling services are provided to the City of Ypsilanti households and businesses at the Recycle Ann Arbor Drop-Off Station located at 2950 E. Ellsworth Road in Ann Arbor. These services include acceptance and processing of traditional recyclable material, including glass, on a year-around basis during normal business hours at no cost to Ypsilanti residents including glass. Passes to the Recycle Ann Arbor facility can be picked up at the City Clerk's office and they also can be requested from the City of Ypsilanti website [HERE](#).

After reading some of the Facebook comments, it seems as if there is some confusion as to what is allowed or is not allowed for curbside recycling. The WWRA has a list of what it accepts on their website.

The link to that webpage can be found here: <https://www.wwrarecycles.org/what-can-i-recycle/>.

Hopefully this should help clear up any confusion.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

UPCOMING END OF SUMMER FESTIVALS

Don't miss the highlight events of the summer here in Ypsilanti: YpsiFest (formerly known as the Heritage Festival) and Summerfest/Joe Dulin Day.

These are the two signature events that no "Ypsified" local resident can miss!

The **YpsiFest** takes place 8/23-8/25 at Riverside Park. See their [website](#) for details.

For the eighth year, a great party will take place on the southside of Ypsilanti: **Parkridge Summer Festival/Joe Dulin Community Day** is Saturday, Aug. 25th from 11am-6pm at Parkridge Park in Ypsilanti (591 Armstrong Drive).

The all-day festival will feature music, back-to-school giveaways, local vendors, and a non-profit resource tent from Noon-2:30pm.



GROWING HOPE FARMERS MARKET NEWS

by Dayna Popkey

Happy National Farmers Market Week! The [Ypsilanti Farmers Markets](#) are celebrating with a visit from [Regie's Rainbow Adventure](#) on Saturday August 10th in Depot Town. Pick up a [Washtenaw County Farmers Market Passport](#) and visit some or all of the 13 markets in Washtenaw County for a chance to win fun prizes! And don't miss the downtown market on Tuesday August 13th! Join special guest chef Ji Hye Kim of [Miss Kim](#) as she shares her favorite ways to prepare seasonal, farmers market produce. Ji Hye's engaging, approachable demonstration will leave you with simple and flavorful ideas for adding local produce to your plate. Each demo will include delicious samples, recipes, and the opportunity to ask your burning culinary questions.

DHHS OFFICIALS BLAST FOOD STAMP PROPOSAL

A new federal proposal limiting how many people may be eligible for food stamps is a "radical break from a long-standing, bipartisan approach to food assistance," and will hurt state families, Health and Human Services executives said Wednesday.

State officials are still assessing how many of the 1.1 million Michiganders getting food stamps could be affected by the policy the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced on Tuesday (See Gongwer Michigan Report, July 23, 2019).

While most getting assistance are still expected to continue to get food assistance under the proposal, a DHHS spokesperson said nonetheless: "This proposal would gravely hurt hard-working families who are struggling to put food on the table."

The proposal, which is now in its public comment period and could take effect in two months, was aimed at closing what the USDA called a "loophole" allowing some people to get food assistance.

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And while the proposal has been described by the federal department as a way of ensuring that people working toward self-sufficiency get their appropriate benefits, DHHS Director Robert Gordon said, "Instead of supporting work, this proposal punishes full-time earners."

Mr. Gordon rejected the federal argument the proposal would keep undeserving individuals from getting food assistance. "Instead of targeting fraud and abuse, this proposal goes after families playing by all the rules. It is a radical break from a long-standing, bipartisan approach to food assistance," he said.

Some 3.1 million people across the U.S. could be affected by the proposal. While state officials have not yet completed an estimate on how many people could be affected in Michigan. Peter Ruark of the Michigan League for Public Policy, said an initial estimate of 20,000 households that could lose benefits, was likely, "regrettably an understatement."

The proposed policy would end state practices of allowing individuals who qualify for various assistance programs to be automatically eligible for food benefits. Instead, only people who have been getting benefits through the temporary assistance for needy families for a "substantial, ongoing" time would be automatically eligible for the benefits.

LOCALS CLAIM A WIN -- COURT RULING'S IMPACT ON STATE FUNDING TO CITIES IS REVIEWED

Local officials and attorneys for the state are reviewing a ruling issued by the Michigan Court of Appeals for how significant an effect it will have on state funding to local governments, but at least initially local governments are hailing the ruling as a victory that will force greater transparency from the state and mean some additional funding, possibly considerably more.

The much-anticipated ruling released Wednesday in [Taxpayers for Michigan Constitutional Government v. State of Michigan (COA Docket No. 334663)] does not hand a group of local governments the complete victory they sought on allegations state government has rampantly violated Headlee Amendment requirements in how the state funds local governments, but does side with them on some key points in a way that will have some budgetary impact.

How big that impact will be is yet unclear with the ruling only a day old and under scrutiny from a battery of attorneys.

In 2016, a group called Taxpayers for Michigan Constitutional Government – a coalition of about 20 local governments – filed suit against the state accusing it of violating the Michigan Constitution's requirements on how the state funds local governments.

At issue is the 1978 Headlee Amendment to the Constitution, which bars the state from reducing the total of state spending paid to all local units of government as a whole below the proportion in effect for the 1978-79 fiscal year, 48.97 percent.

The state critically prevailed on the claim from the plaintiffs that it improperly included payments to local school districts and charter schools in the total of state spending paid to all local units of government. Had the state lost on those counts, the budgetary effect would have been massive.

But the court, in a published opinion by Judge Stephen Borrello, unanimously ruled that the state cannot count, as it does now, state spending to fund state-mandated local services and activities in the calculation of the proportion of state spending paid to local governments. The court said it agreed with the plaintiffs that the

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Constitution requires the state to “fully fund the necessary implementation costs of any new mandate imposed on a unit of local government and to provide this funding in addition to the funding paid in satisfaction of the state’s ... revenue-sharing obligation.”

Mr. Borrello said if the state had the ability to count funds appropriated to pay for new mandates, it would undermine the 1978-79 funding floor. “If state spending to fund new state-mandates ... may be included in the state’s calculation of the proportion of total state spending paid to units of local government ... state funding for new mandates would supplant state spending intended for local use and, thereby, allow funding for new mandates to serve two conflicting purposes, i.e., to fund new state mandates as well as to the 1978-1979 level of state funding to local governments,” he said. “This double-duty would force units of local government to choose between cutting services or raising taxes to make up for the funds lost to pay for the necessary costs of new mandates.”

Exactly how this would affect state funding to local governments is unclear. State Budget Office spokesperson Kurt Weiss said the state is reviewing the decision. “We will continue to review the ruling, working with the attorney general’s office, but it’s too soon at this point to know what our next steps will be,” he said. “No determination has been made as to whether the state will appeal the decision.”

Steve Duchane, a longtime local official who founded the group that brought the lawsuit, said it clearly will be a positive for local governments, but how much is unknown because the state has never produced the report the Constitution requires disclosing the amount required to make disbursements to each local government for the necessary cost of each state requirement for that fiscal year and the total amount required for all local governments.

And on that point, the court issued an order for the state to begin producing that report, using the writ of mandamus the plaintiffs requested. “It is clear that (the Constitution) establishes a legislatively mandated duty that the state, through its officers and departments, collect, report and place on the public record certain information regarding the state’s compliance with the Headlee Amendment,” Mr. Borrello said. “The state has breached this duty. It is equally clear that the acts required by these statutory provisions are ministerial, and that the failure of the state to undertake such acts undermines the right and role of taxpayer oversight and enforcement.”

With the state having never produced the required report, local governments have had to rely on anecdotal stories about unfunded mandates, Mr. Duchane said. “I feel good,” he said. “It’s the first time somebody representing local governments as a unifying group has prevailed in a Headlee matter that I’m aware of that helps define mandates and helps define the state’s responsibility to follow the Constitution.”

Mr. Duchane said the financial impact is probably in the tens of millions. He did not know whether the plaintiffs would appeal the dismissal of their claims arguing that payments to local school districts and charter schools should not count toward the funding floor. Judge Patrick Meter dissented on the charter school portion of the ruling, saying funding for charter schools should not count toward the floor, but Mr. Borrello and Judge Douglas Shapiro said it should.

“I’m happy with the decision. I consider it a win when you’re up against Goliath that uses every trick in the book from politics to influence to take money that’s supposed to go to local services under the Constitution to other things,” Mr. Duchane said. “It’s like a Division III team winning an initial game in a series against the monster.”

Craig Thiel of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, which consulted with the plaintiffs, said the case “could have been a big budget-buster.” However, Mr. Thiel said in the 2017-18 fiscal year, the state was at 55 percent of total state spending paid to local governments, well above the 48.97 percent floor. By Mr. Thiel’s calculations, pulling the funding the state appropriated to schools for the Durant and Adair cases, where the courts ordered the

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state to spend additional money to comply with Headlee's prohibition on unfunded mandates, the state would still be above the threshold.

The unknown is how much the state is already appropriating to local units of government to pay for state mandates because the state has never produced a report detailing that information, Mr. Thiel said. "The court decision was telling the state to start doing these calculations, so we'll have to see," he said.

Michigan Municipal League CEO Daniel Gilmartin said his organization, whose legal defense fund aided the plaintiffs, appreciates the court recognizing something it has said for years, that the state is failing to fulfill its duty to fund mandates, forcing communities to choose between cutting services or raising taxes.

"These choices have harmed our roads, denied emergency services and caused other valuable services to be denied to the residents who need them the most," he said in a statement. "While we're still reviewing the ruling, we're optimistic that this decision will ensure transparency and proper funding for local services that improve residents' quality of life across the state."

SAVE THE DATE!**YCS DC Art Exhibit fundraiser**

YCS student artists have been invited to display their artwork at an exhibit taking place in May-June of 2020 at the United States Department of Education in Washington DC, the only school in Michigan to be so invited. The Washtenaw County Democratic Party will host a fundraiser on 10/10/19 at their office on Michigan Avenue (next door to Dos Hermanos). The art will be on display -- save the date and don't miss it!

Can't wait to give?? Learn more and support our YCS students at [TeacherFunder.com](https://www.teacherfunder.com).

HIGHLIGHTED UPCOMING EVENTS



Ypsilanti! Bryan Roberts, CEO of Mack Delfino Agencies will be having a hiphop showcase in Canton. This event was designed to provide a platform for local talent to not only showcase their skills but also further progress their careers as recording artists by providing professional acts and environments. This event will feature some local artists from Ypsilanti such as Jnue, Vivid, SB, Mitch Billions, Atlanta artist Eddie Jones, Philup Banks, Mo Clérmon, Polo Frost, Nu Moni Zeus and Bullie Marley. Sounds will be provided by Detroit legend RJ Lamont with a special guest host! This event will be sponsored by Ypsilanti's very own Cultivate as well as SNS Media, Mo P's, Rep 734, Tiffadelic Media and Urbanoutrage Productions.

PRIDE

Second 2 None

Sat. August 31

9p-1a

50400 Cherry Hill Rd, Canton

DIVERSITY

EMU Campus Connect Tour

Tuesday, August 13

12-3p

EMU Student Center Room 300

900 Oakwood



Campus Tour for local businesses! Lunch will be from 12-1, EMU will pay for your parking, and then join Engage EMU for a walking tour of campus and a "speed networking" activity. Learn how your local business can partner with EMU and how to connect with programs and departments who can help you.

RSVP by Friday 8/9/19 and [register online](#)



HERITAGE

YHS Quilt Tour

Sept. 8th through Sept. 29

Ypsi Historical Museum

220 N. Huron St.

Ypsilanti Historical Society's annual Quilt Show will take place Sept 8-29 at the Museum located at 220 N Huron Street, Ypsi. The Quilt Show is free and open to the public. It includes a combination of modern locally quilts and historic heirlooms for your viewing pleasure. They are scattered throughout the Museum exhibit rooms allowing you to get up close and personal; each quilt is accompanied by a detailed description by the lender. The Museum is open from 2-5pm Tuesday through Sunday. Closed on Mondays.

PARKS PLAN!

The City's last Parks Plan was adopted in 2013, and much like the Master Plan, we're obligated to update it every five years. Plus, so much has changed and improved since then! Help us continue this success and let us know what you'd like to see in our parks in the future.

[Take a survey about how you use the parks now, and how you'd like to use them in the future!](#)

MAYORAL OFFICE HOURS

I will be holding my monthly Mayoral Office Hours on:

Sunday, August 18

1-4 PM

Biggby Coffee on Washtenaw

I look forward to hearing your questions, concerns, ideas, perspectives or just plain meeting and getting to know each other. This is a drop in event, no appointment needed.

See you soon!



IN COMMUNITY,

Mayor Beth Bashert

FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/bashert4ypsi/>

Email: mayor@cityofypsilanti.com

Phone: 734-368-3573

READING THIS OFFLINE? Here's a list of links I mentioned in the articles above.

City Website: cityofypsilanti.com/plan2019

Contact City Reps: <https://cityofypsilanti.com/323/Elected-Officials>

Interrupters: <https://www.washtenaw.org/1685/Interrupters>

Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance: <https://www.emich.edu/police/alliance/index.php>

Washtenaw Community Action Team: <https://washtenawcat.org/>

The CREAM: <https://www.facebook.com/TheLearnt1>

The CREAM GoFundMe: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/tru039s-campaign-for-the-cream?member=2672070>

Glass Recycling: <https://www.wvrarecycles.org/recycling-your-glass-video-now-available/>

City Recycling info: <https://cityofypsilanti.com/302/Recycling-Drop-Off-Service>

Ypsi Fest: <http://ypsifest.com/>

Ypsi Farmers Markets: <https://www.facebook.com/YpsilantiFarmersMarkets/>

Regie Rainbow: <https://www.facebook.com/regie.rainbow/>

Market Passport: <https://www.washtenawmarkets.org/passport>

Miss Kim Ann Arbor: <https://www.facebook.com/misskimannarbor/>

Support YCS Art: https://teacherfunder.com/y/cs-artdepartment?fbclid=IwAR0FFeEsQ_Ve13wiKuii9QUeIXQjjXsU2BKBFrxwW655ayTerAlqR-JEMnJk

EMU Connect: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/emu-campus-business-connection-tickets-66480078705>

Park Survey: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8SGBzfXlyCcHo49TT8j_cggyzhDYV2sbsUkiHaYlgizKrSw/viewform