

BASHERT'S BI-WEEKLY MAYORAL BULLETIN



CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

- **Recreational Marijuana:**
Passed by Council. (See below for more info.)
- **Arts Commission:**
Passed by Council and we are about to start taking applications starting Oct. 31.
A [Town Hall](#) for brainstorming ideas and applications for seats on the commission has just been scheduled for Wednesday evening November 13 at our Ypsilanti Senior/Community Center, 1015 N Congress Street.
- **Train Station:**
We have sent in the grant application for the CRISI Grant, which is the federal grant that could pay for the majority of the project. We asked for all but 33% of the construction costs to be covered. The balance is in our reserve funds and has been set aside for this project.

TOP TEN HALLOWEEN DOINGS IN YPSI

- #10: [Halloween at Ypsi Alehouse](#)
- #9: Trick or Treating in our fifteen city neighborhoods
In Ypsilanti City and Township - 6-8pm
- #8: [Fall Fest at the Michigan Avenue Library](#)
- #7: [Nightmare on Cross Street at 734 Brewing Co.](#)
- #6: [Halloween's Celestial Origins at the EMU Planetarium](#)
- #5: [Drag Queen Story Hour at the Tap Room](#)
- #4: [Treat Street Depot Town Block Party](#)
- #3: [NPNA Children's Halloween Parade](#)
- #2: [Ypsi GLOW](#)
- #1: SHIVERS & MOONLIGHT
...all over our beloved Ypsilanti Michigan!



HISTORIC CEMETERY LANTERN TOURS

Highland Cemetery just north of Depot Town is the best example of the historic "rural" style cemetery. It is a cemetery with grounds that are landscaped with rolling hills, and plots that are set out in patterns and shaded by tall trees. Here are the final resting places of some of the most famous people who have lived in Ypsilanti, as well as some of the more infamous inhabitants of the community.

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So please come and spend a quiet evening visiting beautiful Highland Cemetery and stop by the graves of a few of those who have been here before us. Tours are led by local historian James Mann.

There are three upcoming dates: at 7:00 pm on Fri Oct 25, Sat Oct 26 or Sun Oct 27. Cost is \$10.00 per person, Cash Only. Children 12 and under are free. No need to RSVP.

Tour guests are to meet at the main entrance gates of Highland Cemetery. Tour is approximately 2 hours. Please note, this is a walking tour that will be on partially paved and gravel roads. Lanterns are provided. Please dress for the weather. Parking is available inside the cemetery.

MAYORAL ROUND UP

Just a quick update to keep you in the loop about what I am working on as your Mayor. I have about 10 meetings per week, sometimes with individuals, or with groups/organizations, about a broad range of topics. I also attend lots of events around town and City Council meetings. Current projects I am supporting and/or directly involved with include but are not limited to:

- Crafting a truancy ordinance that will rely on the restorative justice model to engage families and youth.
- Continuing follow-up regarding the removal of Peninsular Dam.
- Forming the new Arts Commission and outreach to arts businesses and organizations.
- Follow-up regarding Parking Strategy implementation.
- Meeting with developers interested in available city properties.
- Establishing Ypsilanti's upcoming Bi-Centennial Celebration Committee.
- Writing this bi-weekly newsletter with the help of staffer Elize Jekabson, who makes it beautiful and functional.

It is Ypsilanti's great professional staff who provide the heavy lifting on many of the above projects. If you call the City Hall office number listed for the Mayor on the city website, it is forwarded to my personal cell phone. I do my best to respond to emails in a timely manner as well. However, I do hold a full time job in addition to serving as Mayor, so thanks for understanding if I get behind on email!

REST IN PEACE

Rodney Hutchinson, Judge, former City Council representative, and past Mayor of Ypsilanti, passed away peacefully this month.

I did not know Mayor Hutchinson personally. I do know his grandson; he had kept me up to date on our former Mayor's health and informed me of his recent passing. It was my honor to read and present to the family a proclamation celebrating the life of this long-time public servant at his memorial.

Mayor Hutchinson kept Ypsilanti close to his heart all through his life. He spent his 99th and 100th birthday celebrations at our own Haab's Restaurant!

Click through to read Mayor Hutchinson's [full obituary](#).



RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA



What does it mean to all of us, now that we have passed an ordinance legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Ypsilanti?

Taking a controlled substance that has been sold illegally for generations and regulating it is a paradigm shift. Many of the problems associated with cannabis are related to it being illegal with no testing or checks on the product.

For instance, illegal marijuana might have additives that are harmful. Tested and regulated marijuana will not.

Purchasers can be assured they are buying what they request if it is a legal purchase vs taking a chance that a dealer is honest and/or knowledgeable about the type of cannabis they are selling.

Violence related to illegal drug sales could drop. There are many other illegal drugs that also invite violence into our community. That makes it hard to predict. It is a possible outcome.

Public Consumption is still illegal and will remain so for an unknown period of time. This will not change. People might feel free to consume publicly -- however, that will be a mistake on their part and they could be cited.

Businesses have been successfully selling medical marijuana for years in our City. To date, they have had good track records with little crime associated with their businesses, about the same rate as other storefront businesses. That is likely to continue to be true.

This is a short summary and I hope it is helpful. Rules and processes are mostly in place after a hectic period at the state level. While there are still some bumps and grinds likely in the future at the state level, for the most part we know enough to take this on in our City.

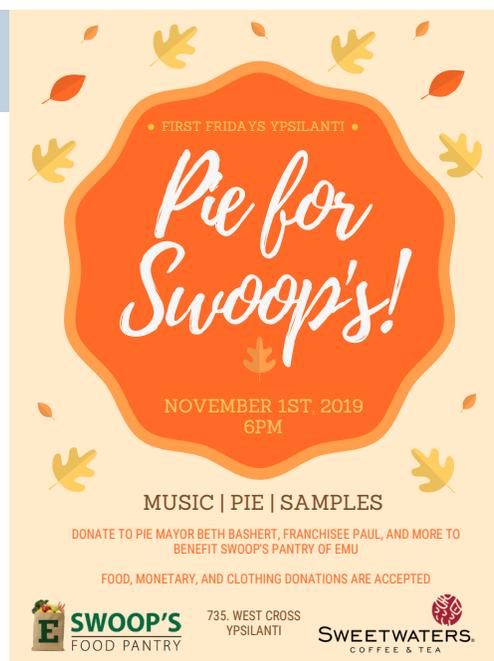
SAVE THE DATE

- **Nov 1: Sweetwaters Ypsilanti**

735 W. Cross St. 6-7p

Pieing for Swoop's!

Join us for First Fridays Ypsilanti to pie special volunteers, including Mayor Beth Bashert, to benefit Swoop's Food Pantry of Eastern Michigan University. To pie our volunteers, please bring donations (food, clothing, etc) for Swoop's. We'll be sampling pies from Crust Bakery and our signature fall drinks from 6p-7p.



HIGHLIGHTED UPCOMING EVENTS



PRIDE

Wine Tasting Fundraiser for YCS artists

Friday 11/1, 7-9p
Ladies' Literary Club
218 North Washington Street
[Eventbrite](#)

We could not be more proud of our YCS art students! This fundraiser will support YCS students as they travel to see their work on display at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington D.C. in May 2020. They are the first ever to be selected for this honor of representing Michigan and we are so proud of them! Help us send them to Washington D.C. for the grand opening of their art show and an exciting tour of our Capitol.

The wine tasting fundraiser is being hosted by the Rotary Club of Ypsilanti and Alpha Delta Kappa Educational Sorority with assistance from Ypsilanti Community Schools art teachers, students and parents.

Our event will feature six Michigan wines, bread and cheese compliments of Zingerman's and other assorted tasties. Rod Johnson, Beverage Coordinator for Plum Market and his wife Shari, Sales Consultant Emeritus, have graciously volunteered to pour for us, and to describe each featured wine. Please join us for wine, tasties, friendship and fundraising!

Suggested donation is \$35.00

DIVERSITY

All Hallows Illumination of Frog Island sponsored by The Eyrie

Friday 11/1, 7-9p

Frog Island Park,
699 Rice Street

[Facebook Event](#)



Please join [The Eyrie](#) and all our pumpkins on All Hallows! Walk, red wagon, or carpool your aging jack o'lanterns over to the Frog Island amphitheater. We will light up our track & amphitheater with hundreds (or maybe even thousands!) of jack o'lanterns, for a festive gathering of all our wonderful Ypsilanti neighborhoods. Costume encouraged, of course. Nothing fancy, just us neighbors, a few volunteer performers (tips encouraged!), and a park full of glowing jacks. [Drop off your donation for the YCS student artists (above) on your way over -- we'll wait.]

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HERITAGE

Ypsilanti's 19th Century Black Barbers

Wednesday 11/13, 6:30p

Ypsilanti District Library- Michigan Ave

229 W Michigan Avenue

[Facebook Page](#)

As did their counterparts nationally, Ypsi's Black barbers played an important role in the social, political, economic, and cultural life of their communities in the 19th century. Join historian Matt Siegfried as we look at the position of the Black barber in 1800s America, the lives of Ypsilanti's African-American barbers and hairdressers, their influence on abolitionist and Reconstruction politics, and the changing role of the Black barbershop under Jim Crow.



IN COMMUNITY,

Mayor Beth Bashert

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

Email: mayor@cityofypsilanti.com

Phone: 734-368-3573

We now have live-streaming and recording of City Council and many Commission meetings. See the link below to see how it looks from our last streamed Council meeting.

Note the icons on the agenda (on the left sidebar) that look like movie cameras. Clicking those icons will take you directly to that agenda item. This feature allows you to focus on the agenda item or discussion that interests you the most.

[STREAM HERE](#)

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

Arts Commission Town Hall

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2260645230814086/>

#10 Halloween at Ypsi Alehouse

<https://www.facebook.com/events/430445524270374/>

#8: Fall Fest at the Michigan Avenue Library

<https://www.facebook.com/events/943516869380508/>

#7: Nightmare on Cross Street at 734 Brewing Co.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1459414287531401/>

#6: Halloween's Celestial Origins at the EMU Planetarium

<https://www.facebook.com/events/866040647122709/>

#5: Drag Queen Story Hour at the Tap Room

<https://www.facebook.com/events/371930626839133/>

#4: Treat Street Depot Town Block Party

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2430723557165102/>

#3: NPNA Children's Halloween Parade

<http://normalpark.org/2017/10/13/childrens-halloween-parade-2/?fbclid=IwAR3vDt-jlwhUB1mKcMoXVQn-tg-mkJuvGL-0FRc-G1N90BXb6AYPTKOAqLGY>

#2: Ypsi GLOW

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2321828474799450/>

Rodney Hutchinson Obituary

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/annarbor/obituary.aspx?n=rodney-e-hutchinson&pid=194177393&>

Wine Tasting for YCS DC Trip

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wine-tasting-fundraiser-for-ypsilanti-community-schools-dc-art-trip-tickets-75416030377?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

All Hallows Eve at Frog Island Park

<https://www.facebook.com/events/376147886421192/>

The Eyrie

<https://www.facebook.com/TheEyrieYpsi/>

Ypsilanti's 19th Century Black Barbers

<https://www.facebook.com/events/403784496970664/>

Council live stream:

<https://cityofypsilanti.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=95>