

BASHERT'S BI-WEEKLY MAYORAL BULLETIN



CITY UPDATES!

2020 is going to have many exciting things for Ypsilanti!

1. A possible Train Stop/Station coming to Depot Town.
2. The opening of Thompson Block (Have you seen lights on in the building, for the first time in decades? I nearly shouted with joy when I did.)
3. Recreational Marijuana sales will begin in Ypsi, including a
4. social equity program and new opportunities for local businesses
5. New and thriving businesses coming to Washington Street soon, like Bobcat Bonnies, and watch for Hamburger Mary's.
6. Updated parking! Ypsi's new parking programs will begin soon; we are rolling them out in stages. No magic bullet here, folks; however, over time these reforms will make parking easier, resulting in lots that will be well-maintained, smoothly surfaced, and well-lit with clear signage.



Photo by Linda French

Of course, it wouldn't be a new decade/year without some challenges;

1. Still too many people unemployed or underemployed in our City.
2. Our roads and bridges are in rough shape and there is not enough money to fix them. Welcome to Michigan, right? Ypsilanti will do everything we can, yet I guarantee you it will not be enough.
3. Ypsi will still be tight on public safety staffing, despite us likely adding staff for the third consecutive budget year. That should tell you how much our City had to cut staff in the key departments of Police and Fire over the last 15 years or so. Our officers and firemen are doing a lot with a little, our hats are off to them.

EMPOWERMENT SESSIONS

The Cream Incorporated is at it again! A reminder: The Cream organized a highly successful gun buy-back program last year. This new series of Empowerment Sessions is directed at neighborhoods and entrepreneurs -- facilitating community strength through community organizations and businesses.

Empowerment sessions will vigorously support members of The Ypsilanti Community establish, grow, and sustain grassroots neighborhood organizations, block clubs, community groups and for-profit ventures... in an effort to retain existing businesses, promote entrepreneurship, and encourage Cooperative Economics that will allow them to identify and explain economic concepts and theories related to the behavior of economic agents, markets, industry & firm structures, legal institutions, social norms, and government policies in a collaborative effort.

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Participants will be able to self-incorporate businesses and organizations that will encourage economic sustainability and community development. These sessions will develop the confidence and self worth of local entrepreneurs and individuals in the community.

This is a free [Empowerment Course](#) and open to all!

WARMING THROUGH WINTER

Our Ypsilanti local ordinance requires that property management companies keep building temperatures at 65 (or higher) during certain months. Residents can file formal complaints to the City.

The heating requirements are in the Property Maintenance Code. The owner is required to provide heat from September 15 – April 15, (see full code section below).

Complaints can be submitted to the building department using the following form:

[Property Maintenance Complaint](#)

602.2 Residential occupancies. Dwellings must be provided with heating facilities capable of maintaining a room temperature of 68°F (20°C) in all habitable rooms, bathrooms, and toilet rooms based on the winter outdoor design temperature for the locality indicated in Appendix D of the International Plumbing Code. The following may not be used to provide the required heating: cooking appliances, portable unvented fuel-burning space heaters, portable electric space heaters.

Exception:

In areas where the average monthly temperature is above 30°F (-1°C), a minimum temperature of 65°F (18°C) must be maintained.

602.3 Heat supply. Every owner and operator of any building who rents, leases or lets one or more dwelling units or sleeping units on terms, either expressed or implied, to furnish heat to the occupants thereof shall supply heat during the period from September 15 to May 15 to maintain a minimum temperature of 68°F (20°C) in all habitable rooms, bathrooms and toilet rooms.

Exceptions:

1. When the outdoor temperature is below the winter outdoor design temperature for the locality, maintenance of the minimum room temperature shall not be required provided that the heating system is operating at its full design capacity. The winter outdoor design temperature for the locality shall be as indicated in Appendix D of the International Plumbing Code.
2. In areas where the average monthly temperature is above 30°F (-1°C), a minimum temperature of 65°F (18°C) shall be maintained.
3. Structures with closed loop HVAC systems must provide heat within 30 days of the dates in section 602.3, based upon fluctuant weather conditions.

Further, Michigan law provides utility shut-off protection and payment assistance for qualifying customers. The [Michigan Public Service Commission](#) (MPSC) has information available for residents in need of home heating help. People who are struggling to pay their energy bills may also contact 2-1-1 for assistance.

WASHTENAW 350

Ypsilanti Council passed a resolution to make Ypsilanti Carbon Neutral (Net Zero) by 2035 last year. This is a huge goal and I look forward to our city taking on this task. Please join us to learn more about what we can do together to lift our city up towards this goal.

The City of Ypsilanti recently partnered with the City of Ann Arbor and other local groups in the A2Zero Carbon Neutrality initiative. The goal is to devise a regional plan by Earth Day 2020 to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030-2035. Both are ambitious timelines but well worth the efforts. The partner groups are coming together in local meetings to share information and ideas to help achieve our common goals for our community and the planet. Washtenaw 350 is hosting a meeting this Saturday morning (11am-1pm) at the Ypsilanti District Library (5577 Whittaker Rd., Ypsilanti MI, 48197). Elise Matz (MPSC) will explain the nature of special monopoly status utilities currently have in Michigan and how that intersects with rate increases and citizen service concerns. Senator Jeff Irwin will give an overview of Powering Michigan Forward, bicameral and bipartisan bills that will loosen utility's hold over homeowners. Congressperson Debbie Dingell will introduce the 100% Clean Economy Act 2019 (HR5221). Local officials will open the meeting with brief overviews of the efforts their municipalities are undertaking to further the quality of community life, where taking care of the environment takes care of people. (Superior Township: Brenda

McKinney, Ypsilanti Township: Monica Ross Williams, City of Ypsilanti: Steve Wilcoxen)



Brenda McKinney/Superior Twp
Monica Ross Williams/Ypsilanti Twp
Steve Wilcoxen/city of Ypsilanti

Municipalities
sustainable future
quality community life

Elise Matz
Consumer Participation Board of MPSC
talks about **utility monopolies** and consumers' access to rates, services, and more

Jeff Irwin/MI Senate district-18
Debbie Dingell/Congress MI district-12

Michigan & USA
climate change & energy demographics & fairness

washtenaw350@gmail.com facebook.com/Washtenaw350



Public Power & Environmental Justice

JANUARY
Saturday 11th
11am - 1pm



YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY
 5577 Whittaker Rd,
 Ypsilanti MI 48197

washtenaw350@gmail.com facebook.com/Washtenaw

HIGHLIGHTED UPCOMING EVENTS



Join us at the Michigan Avenue branch of the Ypsi District Library to meet representatives from local foundations and organizations to learn about scholarship opportunities for receiving financial aid! Also get help applying for scholarships and filling out financial need forms.

PRIDE

Scholarship Open House

Sat. Jan 18th 2-4P
Ypsilanti District Library
229 W Michigan Ave
[FB Event](#)

DIVERSITY

DisabiliTea

6P every Third Thursday
Riverside Arts Center
76 N. Huron St.
[FB Event](#)



DisabiliTea is a place for d/Disabled people to come together to share their thoughts, stories, and experiences in a casual setting. Join us at Riverside Arts Center (76 N Huron Street, Ypsi) at 6pm every Third Thursday.

RISE UP AGAINST INJUSTICE

JANUARY 16-22, 2020

HERITAGE

Rise Up Against Injustice

Jan 16-22
EMU
[More Info and Schedule](#)

Join members of the university and local community from January 16-22 as Ypsilanti celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with six days of events including academic sessions, performances, a luncheon with awards, a keynote address by Dr. Terrence J. Roberts, a Day of Service, a commemorative march, and more.

MAYORAL OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours: Sunday, Jan 12, 1-4 PM, Cultivate Coffee and Tap House (307 N River Street, Ypsilanti)

Happy 2020! My Mayoral Office Hours, a casual, drop-in opportunity to talk about any question or need on your mind, starts off with a BANG at Cultivate this Sunday. Please come by! I would love to chat with you about anything on your mind.

Mayor@cityofypsilanti.com

734-368-3573 cell



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.

Free Empowerment Course

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1017135578649944/>

Property Maintenance Complaint Form

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/DocumentCenter/View/79/Property-Maintenance-Complaint-Form>

Michigan Public Service Commission

<https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/>

YDL Scholarship Open House

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2668781719824866/>

Council live stream:

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

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](#)