

THE CITY OF YPSILANTI NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2022

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

Greetings from the City Manager's Office; it's hard to believe it's August.

We have many events in Ypsilanti over the summer, and with still a few months left, I hope residents have been participating. Please refer to our [city calendar](#) for the events within the city.



I wanted to inform you that Ypsilanti has reached Gold Certification through the 2021 Michigan Green Communities Challenge. The certification status is the first time our city has earned the gold level advancing from the Bronze status. What an incredible achievement! Many thanks to the Staff and residents of Ypsilanti for improving our city's sustainability goals within our master plan.



Looking back on July, we had so much going on within the community; no wonder it flew by quickly. I must mention the fantastic turnout of the fourth of July parade; thank you to everyone who attended. Glad that we can continue traditions after a few years of delay due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

As the COVID-19 pandemic remains a threat in our community. We can support one another by getting vaccinated and getting boosted. If we are following state and county guidelines, it is our best effort to reduce the spread of the virus. Please contact the local health department regarding vaccination and testing opportunities in the community. If you're feeling ill, wear a mask or stay home. We must work together as a

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR LOIS ALLEN RICHARDSON

Happy August! As we come to the last of the "dog days" of summer, I hope it was a fun-filled time for you and yours. It is not over yet, and there is still plenty of time for barbecues, pool parties, and outdoor sports and gatherings. We certainly have had some hot days, and there are some more hot ones in the forecast. Please remember to drink lots of water, Stay

in a cool place as much as possible and check on your neighbors, especially the elderly ones. August also brings us to the beginning of school for several of our children. Remember when school didn't start until after Labor Day and the official closing of the pool? Please advise the children to be careful in the heat.



community to keep one another safe.

As the weather is getting hotter every day. I'd like to share all of the [cooling centers here in Washtenaw County](#). We all must stay hydrated and take breaks when exposed to direct sunlight.

Also, a reminder that Tuesday, August 2nd, is the primary election. Please see the City Updates section for all of the voting locations. We must show up to vote for what we believe in, it's our right, and we must exercise our freedom for our voices to be heard.

Staying Connected,
Frances McMullan

CONT. MAYOR

Last August, following the shooting death of three young men in a short period, I called together a group of individuals from a variety of community agencies along with elected and appointed officials, and community members who have years of personal experience in navigating, surviving, and in some cases perpetuating violence in our community. Our goal was to begin work towards intervening and stopping the gun violence that has been prevalent in our area.

The Community Violence Intervention Team (CVIT) developed a fourteen-point plan which provides a road map for community organizations, government, and

residents to end the violence. Currently, CVIT members have been presenting the road map throughout our community. The presentation is approximately thirty minutes, and we are willing to present to anyone willing to listen. So far, we have presented to the Washtenaw County Commissioners, Ypsilanti City Council, Washtenaw Public Health, and various community organizations. There have been several fundamental steps that have come from these presentations. Resources have been allocated, programs have been started, work is being done, and lives are being saved.

Gun violence is a Public Health Crisis,

and it is going to take all of us to bring it to an end. If you, your agency, neighborhood group or community organization are interested in a presentation and becoming a part of the solution, please reach out to me for more information. We must save lives by putting an end to gun violence.

COVID is on the rise again, so please get a booster, wear a mask when needed, and stay safe.

Be blessed and enjoy the rest of the summer.

LOVE is the answer,
Lois Allen-Richardson

CITY UPDATES

AUGUST PRIMARY

The City of Ypsilanti will hold a Primary Election on August 2nd for the following items:

- **Governor**
- **Representative in Congress 6th District**
- **State Senator 15th District**
- **Representative in State Legislature 32nd District**
- **County Commissioner 6th District**
- **Mayor**
- **Council Member**
- **Delegate to the County Convention**
- **Judge of District Court 14A District Incumbent Position**
- **Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority, a proposal for Millage to Maintain and Expand Public Transportation**

Primary Election will be held in the City of Ypsilanti on Tuesday, August 2, 2022. The polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

At the following locations:

Ward 1, Precinct 1:	Perry School, 550 Perry St. (Harriet St. at Hawkins St.)
Ward 1, Precinct 2:	Senior Citizens Center, 1015 N. Congress St. (at Oakwood)
Ward 1, Precinct 3:	Second Baptist Church, 301 N. Hamilton.
Ward 2, Precinct 1:	Estabrook Elementary, 1555 W. Cross Street.
Ward 2, Precinct 2:	Estabrook Elementary, 1555 W. Cross Street.
Ward 2, Precinct 3:	Estabrook Elementary, 1555 W. Cross Street.
Ward 2, Precinct 4:	EMU Honors College, 511 W. Forest.
Ward 3, Precinct 1:	EMU Honors College, 511 W. Forest.
Ward 3, Precinct 2:	Ypsilanti International Elementary School, 503 Oak St. (N. Prospect Street at Oak St)
Ward 3, Precinct 3:	Ypsilanti International Elementary School, 503 Oak St. (N. Prospect Street at Oak St)

[Sample ballots are now available on the City's website](#) for viewing. If a registered voter in the City of Ypsilanti would like to vote absentee for November election, please contact the

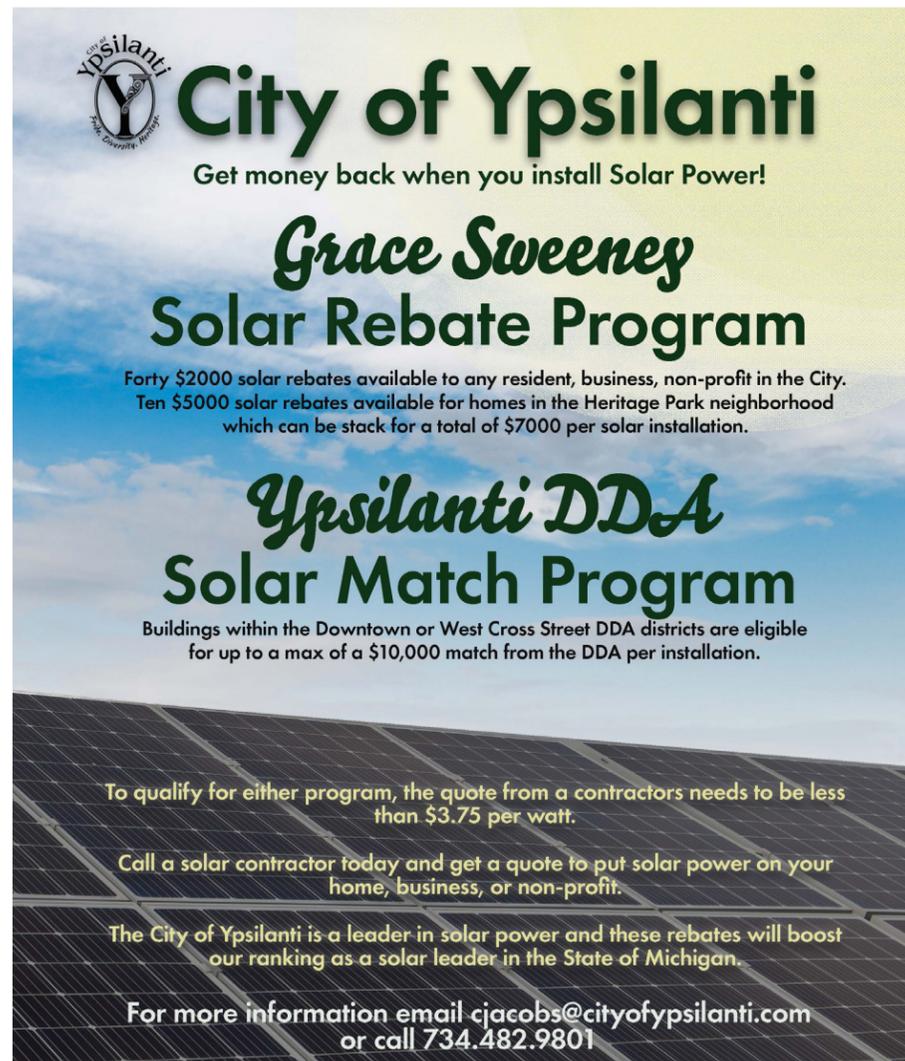
City Clerk's office at (734) 483-1100. Or visit the City's website to access a [printable application](#), or the [Secretary of State's website](#) to apply online.

SOLAR REBATE PROGRAM

Residents can get at least a \$2,000 rebate for installing solar panels on their homes or business. There is \$80,000 available for rebates for anyone interested, that's enough to accommodate 40 different homes. The project has been named the Grace Sweeney Solar Rebate program and is named for the late Ypsilanti

resident and wife of longtime city leader Pete Murdock.

To the businesses in Downtown and West Cross Street, beginning on July 1, 2022, there is a \$50,000 rebate for both districts. More information about the DDA Solar Rebate program in the DDA section of this newsletter.



City of Ypsilanti
Get money back when you install Solar Power!

Grace Sweeney Solar Rebate Program

Forty \$2000 solar rebates available to any resident, business, non-profit in the City.
Ten \$5000 solar rebates available for homes in the Heritage Park neighborhood which can be stack for a total of \$7000 per solar installation.

Ypsilanti DDA Solar Match Program

Buildings within the Downtown or West Cross Street DDA districts are eligible for up to a max of a \$10,000 match from the DDA per installation.

To qualify for either program, the quote from a contractors needs to be less than \$3.75 per watt.

Call a solar contractor today and get a quote to put solar power on your home, business, or non-profit.

The City of Ypsilanti is a leader in solar power and these rebates will boost our ranking as a solar leader in the State of Michigan.

For more information email cjacobs@cityofypsilanti.com or call 734.482.9801

POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Ypsilanti Police Advisory commission still has open positions, For those who are interested, they meet on the fourth Thursday of every month.

- Monthly presentation from YPD with an overview of stats, department staffing and activities, use of force incidents,

and citizencomplaints if any.

- Presentation and discussion of the use of body cameras. You can find YPD policies and procedures involving body cameras [here](#).
- YPAC chair submitted the first annual report to the city council.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Arts Commission

Three Commissioners
Two Youth Members

Dangerous Bldgs

Dangerous Buildings Officer

Ethics Board

One Board Member

Human Relations Commission

Three Commissioners
Two Youth Members

Parks & Recreation Commission

Two Commissioners
One Youth Member

Planning Commission

One Commissioner

Police Advisory Commission

Two Commissioners
Two Youth Members

Sustainability Commission

Two Youth Members

Ypsilanti DDA

One Board Member

Zoning Board of Appeals

Three Commissioners

Fill out this [online form](#) if you are interested in the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions.



FROM THE POLICE CHIEF'S DESK



Chief Anthony DeGiusti and Accreditation Manager / Sgt. Ashley Kofahl.

At the 7/26 City Council Meeting YPD was awarded their accreditation credentials from the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission by MACP Executive Director Robert Stevenson and Director of Professional Development/Accreditation Neil Rosso. What started out slowly three years ago turned into an organizational journey that caused the department to maneuvered through 108 standards and accomplished over 450 tasks required under this extensive program. There is a saying that goes "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you." This process proved to be challenging and at times daunting. It forced YPD to take an introspective

look at every aspect of the department. We adopted new policies and changed processes and procedures to ensure that we were following law enforcement best practices. As part of the process the department was required to provide "proofs" which showed the outside assessment team that the department was actually adhering to the policies, processes and procedures that are demanded by the accreditation standards.

Out of the nearly 600 police agencies in the state of Michigan, YPD is the 44th and one of only 47 agencies in the state that have achieved this status. This achievement has been a heavy lift for the entire department. Everyone had to participate and adapt to the many changes that we have made. There are a couple of people that need to be acknowledge that were instrumental through-out this process. Lt. Yuchasz was a sounding board and an effective editor. His insight and many corrections made our policies tighter and more comprehensive. However, the major force behind this initiative was YPD Accreditation Manager Sergeant Ashley Kofahl. Her

persistence and determination to meet deadlines that most people would have thought impossible was remarkable. She was dedicated to making this happen and making our department better. As with most things the best in people comes out during adversity and Sergeant Kofahl's character certainly served her, the department and the City of Ypsilanti extremely well. Last but certainly not least we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge someone from one of our neighboring departments. I would like to publicly thank Officer Adam Byrd of the Van Buren Police Department who lent us great guidance and advice and conducted a mock assessment for us which made us ultra-prepared for our on-site assessment.

There is no question that this process has elevated our department, increased our professionalism and is an outward sign that we are committed to providing the best possible police service to our community. We look forward to continuing this spirit of improvement and excellence and the challenge of maintaining our accreditation going forward.

FIRE STATION UPDATE



On July 21st, Treasuring Christ Church (TCC) participated in Serving Week at the Ypsilanti Fire Department, revamping the landscaping in front of the station with nine members of TCC.

Mike Luginbill of Pittsfield Township joined the organization at the beginning of this year. Since joining, he has already engaged in many volunteer opportunities. A few people drove up from Wichita, Kansas, to participate in the Serving Week project in our beloved city. We are fortunate to have people of

CONT. FIRE DEPT.

our surrounding communities care for the well-being of Ypsilanti. After finishing the project, they had a small barbeque and parted ways. When driving down Michigan, passing the fire station, please take a moment to recognize these efforts.

BICENTENNIAL



Ypsilanti's Bicentennial is coming in 2023! The bicentennial planning committee (Bicentennial City Commission) is hard at work planning a full year of Ypsilanti-inspired events and meaningful community gatherings to recognize Ypsilanti's 200th anniversary, since its incorporation on April 22, 1823.

Expect family-fun entertainment, historic-driven happenings, and even a few surprises, including opening the time capsule from the Ypsilanti Sesquicentennial in 1973!

The group meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7 PM. For more information and upcoming plans, visit the [Facebook event page](#) or email ypsibicentennial@gmail.com.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATES

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Thank you to everyone for your continued patience with the current construction situation on Hamilton and Huron. Now, added to the Ypsilanti Road Renovation is the I-94 intersection, where MDOT will

begin assembling the safe crosswalk long overdue at this overpass. In the last month, Amtrak has repaired all of our Railroad Crossings (Forest, LeForge, and Superior). Please seek alternate

routes and remain safe around traffic areas. Please visit [Ypsilanti Road Renovations](#) for more information on the construction projects within Ypsilanti.

PARKRIDGE SUMMERFEST

2022
PARKRIDGE SUMMER FESTIVAL
and
JOE DULIN COMMUNITY DAY
Sat. August 27, 2022 • 11am-6pm
SUMMER FEST
COMMUNITY RESOURCE BOOTHS
12:00 pm - 2:30 pm Including
 •On-Site Career Support
 •Water/Sewer Bill Assistance Sign up
 •Youth Mentoring
 •Public Health Services
 •MI Bridges sign-up, giveaways, and much more...
 Kids Korner
Bring Your Own Chair • Family-Friendly Games
FREE FOOD • MUSIC • FUN
Grills, Alcohol & Dogs are NOT Allowed
 SPONSORED BY THE PARKRIDGE SUMMER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE AND WASHTENAW COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NEWS FROM THE DDA

OUTDOOR MOVIE SERIES



The Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority has sponsored six summer movies at Frog Island Park and the Normal Street Parking Lot near the Water Tower.

The first of six movies and will feature the classic Space Jam on June 2nd, 9pm at Frog Island Park.

Movies at the Water Tower are Drive-in movies.

We recommend you bring your own blankets, chairs, and bug spray to the Frog Island Films. All movies begin at sunset and the tentative schedule is as follows:

August 25
(Classic) Willy Wonka at the Ypsilanti Water Tower

September 29
Encanto at the Ypsilanti Water Tower

October 27
The Rocky Horror Picture Show at Frog Island Park

Please help us get the word out and bring all your friends!



DDA BUSINESS FEATURE: WOK MANDU



Wok Mandu, located at 10 N Adams in Downtown Ypsilanti, has recently changed to woman owned management and revamped their menu. New offerings include more than 7 different types of MoMo, a traditional Nepali dumpling stuffed with a blend of fresh vegetables or meat and served steamed with a dipping sauce or wok-fried and sauteed in garlic. Wok Mandu also features many different types of curry and build your own style stir fry with dozens of options. Wok Mandu only serves halal meat and vegan or gluten free options are available.

Wok Mandu's new hours of operation are:

- Monday: 11am - 8:30pm
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 11am - 8:30pm
- Thursday: 11am - 8:30pm
- Friday: 11am - 8:30pm
- Saturday: 11am - 8:30pm
- Sunday: 11am - 7:30pm

Both carry-out and sit-in options available.

Online ordering closes at 8pm on M, W,TH,F,Sa and 7pm on Su.

DDA SOLAR REBATE

Did you know there's a new DDA Solar Rebate program available to businesses in Downtown and West Cross Street? The DDA approved \$50,000 for both districts to help encourage property owners to install solar for their commercial properties! This program will help cover 50% of your solar installation up to \$10,000.



CONT. DDA SOLAR

Ypsilanti has been a leader in solar power for the past 16 years. Ypsilanti currently has over 1.5MW of solar power which equates to 85.6 watt per capita and ranks Ypsi at 22 in the nation, on par with San Francisco, Seattle, New York, and other big cities. This is the first DDA based solar rebate program in the State of Michigan and hopefully a model for other communities to follow.

This investment represents the YDDA commitment to sustainability by leveraging up to \$100,000 in DDA TIF Revenues to complement the existing programs recently approved by City Council. Combined with the \$80,000 Grace Sweeney Solar Rebate

program approved by City Council and the \$50,000 CDBG solar allocation for homes in the Heritage Park Neighborhood, there are \$230,000 of new solar rebate dollars available in the City of Ypsilanti.

The first come first serve process to apply is easy:

- 1) Owner gets a written quote from one or more licensed solar contractors. [A list of contractors can be found here.](#)
- 2) Owner verifies that they have a quote that is \$3.00/watt or lower to qualify for rebate.
- 3) Owner sends the quote to City Hall (email or hardcopy) to reserve a rebate slot.
- 4) Owner is sent a notice by letter or email that the project is eligible for 50% rebate not to exceed \$10,000. A rebate slot is not

reserved until the owner/contractor pays for all required city building permits.

- 5) Owner tells the solar contractor to perform the work.
- 6) Owner/Contractor pulls and pays for all required City permits. Once permits are paid in full, the project will be notified by letter or email that a solar rebate slot has been reserved for the project.
- 7) Solar project is complete and passes all inspections within the 6-month time limit.
- 8) 50% Rebate check is sent to the named owner on the city permit.
- 9) Rebate award decisions are at the sole discretion of the YDDA
- 10) Owner will sign a hold harmless agreement with the City of Ypsilanti and YDDA for protection against any liability arising from solar installation.

For more information, contact us at: cjacobs@cityofypsilanti.com

NEW MURALS DOWNTOWN



If you've visited Downtown Ypsilanti recently, you may have noticed two new murals underway in our parking lots!

The Ypsilanti DDA commissioned local muralists to bring life to the three dumpster enclosures in N. Huron, N. Adams, and S. Huron Lots. Last month we highlighted artist Lavinia Hanachiuc, who recently completed her mural in the N. Adams lot.

Artist Narooz Soliman is recently completed painting the N. Adams enclosure with beautiful and bold colors. In mid August, artist Gary Horton will be painting a mural in the S. Huron Lot.

We will include updates on Gary's work in next months newsletter.



CIGARETTE WASTE RECYCLING IN THE DDA

Did you know that 65% of all cigarette butts are littered? The Ypsi DDA cigarette butt recycling program has diverted over 20,000 cigarette butts from our district streets and planters so far.

For each pound of cigarette waste we collect, Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company donates \$1.00 towards the Keep America Beautiful Cigarette Litter Prevention Program.



HOW ARE CIGARETTE BUTTS RECYCLED?

If you are a member of the Cigarette Waste Recycling Program, then you've probably asked yourself at one point or another: how in the world do you recycle a cigarette butt? Well, the answer may surprise you! Cigarettes are comprised of multiple components, and require a unique process for recycling.

Collection

Cigarette butts are collected and shipped to TerraCycle by organizations and individuals like you. The collected butts are aggregated and stored in our local warehouse where they are prepared for processing.



Processing

Cigarettes butts are comprised of residual tobacco, paper, and a filter.

- The residual tobacco and paper are separated out and composted.
- The filter, which is made of a white synthetic fiber called cellulose acetate, is thoroughly cleaned, melted, and pelletized using a method called extrusion.



Conversion

The cellulose acetate powder is used in the manufacturing of recycled plastic lumber. This lumber can be used to build park benches, picnic tables, fencing, decks, playground equipment and more.



FIRST FRIDAYS YPSI

First Fridays Ypsilanti is on August 5!

First Fridays Ypsilanti is a self-guided art and culture walk event that happens on the First Friday of each month.

Created for artists, by artists.

All FFY venues provide free events: art openings, live music, art workshops, performance arts, discounted prices and more!

22 North

22 N Huron; 6-9p
Opening: Judi Warren Blaydon: A Retrospective
A survey of the work of master quilt maker Judi Warren Blaydon (1937-2022) whose 50 year career influenced countless artists

734 Brewing Company

15 E Cross St; 4p-12a
Famous Faces by Curtis Wallace
Curtis Wallace of the Be Creative Studio is wrapping up his exhibit of 25 portraits
7p- Join Curtis in a paint and brew - Paint the Brick Dick - \$30 to participate in guided painting.

Back Office Studio

13 N Washington; 5-6:30p
Tales by the Teaspoon: An evening of stories and connection
Sit down and chat one-on-one with folks from Growing Hope. Learn about their experiences in cooking, gardening, farming, and more.
- Cristi Rodriguez-Alfaro: Garden Manager
- Christopher Hallett: Farm Manager
- Bee Mayhew: Incubator Kitchen Manager
Complimentary refreshments will be served.

The Conjure Goddess Botanica and Metaphysical Shop

226 W. Michigan Ave; 3-8p
Magick hour
First 20 customers will receive a ritually made bath bomb or conjure oil.

Evenstars Chalice

36 N. Washington St; 5-7:30p
Meet the Artist - Chloe Press
Chloe Press, whose work explores human and non-human personified emotion, and dream-like states - the poses and facial expressions of fairies, plants, insects, and animals. Chloe finds inspiration in the works of Frida Khalo and Happy D., and in the magic surrealism of the fae and queer feminine experience.

Riverside Arts Center

76 N. Huron St; 6-8p
Selfie Stations & Paint Night with BBBS & RAC
Join us to experience our Love is Love Art Exhibition, a fully interactive show of selfie stations created by local organizations that support equality in our community. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to paint a 3-inch tile and add it to a collaborative art piece we stated at the Ypsi Juneteenth celebration last month. Drop in anytime between 6-8pm and check it out!

CONT. FIRST FRIDAYS - JULY 1

The Rocket Candy & Novelties

122 W Michigan Ave; 5-8:30p
FFY Official Merch Stop
Get your First Fridays merch here! All proceeds benefit FFY!

Stone & Spoon

110 W. Michigan Ave; 5-8p
Gorgeous Greeting Giveaway
Join us to celebrate another spectacular First Friday! The first bunch of attendees to join us with get a very special free gift... chandelier cards anyone?! Greeting cards have never looked better! We can't wait to see you all!

The Gallery at Stone & Spoon (upstairs)

110 W. Michigan Ave; 5-8p
"Making the Cut" Opening Reception
A celebration of the physical act of cutting away materials to bring forward the image. Whether woodblock or linoleum block, it is a process of revelation and exploration between tools, inks and paper. That exhilarating moment of peeling back the paper from the block, reveals what has only existed in the artist's mind.

This, That & the ODDer things- the Hideaway

50 E. Cross St; 5:30-9p
MADE BY STARDUST | by artist Sophia Von Stardust
Wearable art in the forms of jewelry along with hair adornments and other things, to one of a kind mixed media art, collage and painting. Based in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Stardust is inspired by the glamour and smut of yesteryear with a healthy dose of smashing the patriarchy. Adorn yourself in her amazing designs and meet Sophia Von Stardust yourself for great conversation!

Tipsy Ypsi

5 S. Washington St; 6-9p
DIY Paint Party and Karaoke
Join us for Ypsi's greatest DIY paint party. Come in and Karaoke for free, or painting prices ranging from \$10 - \$20, so there is something for everyone! FREE If you do not wish to paint, you are welcome to come in and Karaoke/hang out!

Unicorn Feed & Supply

144 W. Michigan Ave; 5-8p
Picnic Fun Giveaway
Join us to celebrate another magical First Friday! The first bunch of attendees to join us with get a very special free gift to accompany all of their picnic fun this summer. While you're at it, sample our candy of the day & get sparkled!

Ypsi Farmers Market

16 S. Washington St; 6-9p
Downtown Ypsilanti Maker Market
Join us August 5th for our first Maker Market! In collaboration with Growing Hope and Stardust Ypsilanti, this event features local artists, makers, and more!

Ypsi Food Co-op

312 N River St; 5-7:30p
Steve Somers and Friends Jazz
Live jazz music in the parking lot- Set 1 Steve Somers and Friends Jazz- Set 2 WCC and YYO music students join in Set 3 Open Jazz Jazz Session - FREE

Ziggys

206 W. Michigan Ave; 9p-close
Live Music
Thunderbuck Ram, The State and more! No cover on First Fridays. Doors open at 6, come in and have

a drink, stay to enjoy the music.



Tales by the Teaspoon...

An evening of stories and connection



August 5, 5-6:30pm

The Back Office Studio

13 N Washington St, Ypsilanti



Cristi Rodriguez-Alfaro
Garden Manager



Christopher Hallett
Farm Manager



Bee Mayhew
Incubator Kitchen Manager

Chat one-on-one with the experts at Growing Hope!

- Learn about their experiences
- Ask questions
- Listen to their stories



Free Event - Masks Required
TheBackOfficeStudio.com



AROUND TOWN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - COUNTY CLEAN-UP DAY

Help our Clean-Up Day be a success and give some time to keep your community clean. County Clean-Up Day volunteers may help direct traffic or work together to unload materials from resident cars. Help is needed for the Saturday, August 27th event at EMU. Two shifts are available from 8:30am - 11:00am or 10:45pm - 1:15pm, or sign up for both to earn more hours.

Long pants and closed-toed shoes required for safety. Snacks, drinks, and lunch are provided. [Sign up](#)

We rely on the help of volunteers to run a smooth event for the community! Volunteers primarily help direct traffic and unload materials from resident cars. We provide volunteers with a t-shirt, snacks, drinks, and a lunch.



Questions about Clean-Up Day volunteering? Contact Angela at portaa@washtenaw.org or (734)222-3810.

YPSI THROWBACK WITH PRESERVATION PLANNER ELLEN THACKERY



Get out and enjoy a park this month, like these ladies in Prospect Park, 1905. Photo courtesy of the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

FREE BUS RIDE WEEKENDS

RIDE FREE THIS SUMMER
on weekends with your library card!

JUNE 11 — AUGUST 28

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority – or [TheRide](#) - is teaming up to offer free bus rides every weekend through August for anyone who presents their library card.

Local library officials see [The Free Ride Weekends](#) as a way to help incentivize those who maybe haven't tried taking the bus around town or to a library branch.

Every Saturday until August 28, library cardholders can ride any of TheRide local fixed-route buses for free. All you need to do is show the driver your valid library card when boarding the bus.

While riding, look for the YDL's code on Summer Challenge ads inside the bus. The Summer Challenge includes fun incentives, friendly competitions, and prizes to keep kids—and adults—reading and learning all summer long.

Use the code on the bus to win the "Ride TheRide" badge! Each badge earns you a chance at a prize basket of your choice, which include great experiences and cool stuff donated by local businesses.

Need to get your Library Card? Visit ypsilibrary.org/library-cards.

MEET UP AND EAT UP

MEET UP and EAT UP

YCS Locations

<p>Ypsilanti Community High School</p> <p>June 20th through August 11th</p> <p>No Meals during the week of July 4th</p> <p>Monday-Thursday</p> <p>Breakfast 9 -9:30 am</p> <p>Lunch 12:30 -1 pm</p>	<p>Willow Run Middle School</p> <p>June 20th through August 11th</p> <p>No Meals during the week of July 4th</p> <p>Monday-Thursday</p> <p>Breakfast 8 -9:30 am</p> <p>Lunch 11:30 am -1 pm</p>
<p>Perry Early Learning Center</p> <p>June 20th through August 11th</p> <p>No Meals during the week of July 4th</p> <p>Monday-Thursday</p> <p>Breakfast 8 -8:30 am</p> <p>Lunch 11:30 am -12 pm</p>	<p>WIMA/WIHI</p> <p>June 20th through August 11th</p> <p>No Meals during the week of July 4th</p> <p>Monday-Thursday</p> <p>Breakfast 9 -9:30 am</p> <p>Lunch 12 pm -12:30 pm</p>

Meet Up Eat Up was created to ensure all children have access to healthy meals over summer vacation. Meals are open to all children 0-18 years of age or persons up to 26 years of age who are enrolled in an educational

program that is recognized by a state or local public educational agency. Below are the locations opened in our District for meals. [Please continue to link](#) to view all other sites in Washtenaw County.

ANNUAL BICYCLE RODEO

5th Annual Eastern Michigan University Bicycle Rodeo and Safety Event

Saturday August 6th
9am-12pm
799 N. Hewitt Road, Ypsilanti MI

- Free Safety Checks
- Free Helmets
- Free Obstacle course
- Free giveaways for the whole family
- Some refreshments provided

Gene Ballman Ford, State Farm Ben Torres Agency, REI, GP, GAME ABOVE EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY, FRESH THYME FARMERS MARKET, POLICE

BIRDS AND DAMS -BY JULIET BERGER, ORNITHOLOGIST, NAP



Photo credit: Great Blue Heron at Island Lake State Recreation Area in the Huron River watershed by John Lloyd

Across Michigan, and throughout the country, old, obsolete dams are being removed from rivers with a quickening pace. There are many reasons why, but the science is overwhelmingly clear that dam removal is good for fish, plants, and birds, and other wildlife.

Restoring a river corridor improves biodiversity and allows native species to flourish in the locations they've evolved to be over thousands of years. Experts in ecology, hydrology, and river restoration know that the change to a landscape after a dam comes out can be dramatic, but the science is overwhelmingly clear that removing a dam is good for birds. The ponds above dams are usually dominated by a single type of habitat, an open-water lake. River restoration with dam removal recovers a variety of topography and creates diverse bird habitat.

The benefits of dam removal on fish are easy to understand. Removing dams is also better overall for bird populations, but the reasons why are more nuanced. In some cases, understanding the benefits requires us to

look at the landscape as a bird would.

The benefits of dam removal on fish are easy to understand. Removing dams is also better overall for bird populations, but the reasons why are more nuanced. In some cases, understanding the benefits requires us to look at the landscape as a bird would. Michigan rivers, and the Huron River specifically, are extremely segmented by dams. There are 19 dams on the main stem of the Huron River and about 100 in the watershed. Each of these dams creates some sort of pond behind it, obstructs flow, and alters the ecosystem's natural state. Birds, such as the Prothonotary Warbler, need a natural, free-flowing river corridor, and dams damage their habitat. While bird species that thrive in flowing water struggle to find habitat and food sources, bird species that do well in flatwater have an overabundance of options. This causes an imbalance in biodiversity that stresses the entire ecosystem.

READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE AT [Birds and Dams - Huron River Watershed Council](#) (hrwc.org)

BLACK CAT CABARET



Neighborhood Theatre Group's Black Cat Cabaret Auditions August 8 and 10 at Riverside Arts Center (Off-Center Gallery) 76 N Huron St, Ypsilanti

[Signup for an audition slot here.](#)

Please prepare a 32-64 bar cut of a song that best shows off your voice, any genre. Music MUST be memorized. An accompanist will be provided; please bring sheet music in the correct key. You may sing with a backing track. If you do, bring a portable Bluetooth speaker. You may not sing a capella. Bring all known conflicts and a headshot/resume if you have one. You must be available Oct 15-20. Performances are Oct 21-22 at Riverside Arts Center Art Gallery.

Callbacks will be Wednesday, August 10 at 8:15 pm. Please note that not everyone cast will be called back. Walk-ins will be seen, but those with an audition time will be seen first.

You must be over 18 to audition. All vocal types, age ranges, gender identities, races and ethnicities are encouraged to audition. For more information on rehearsals as well as COVID, protocols visit [this website](#).

For more info, email kristin@ntgypsi.org

YPSI FARMERS MARKETS

Ypsilanti Farmers Markets 2022

<p style="text-align: center; color: green;">Tuesday Online Preorder</p> <p>Order Thurs-Sun for pickup on Tuesday from 3-7pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">growinghope.net/ypsi-area-online-market</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: orange;">Tuesday Open Air Market</p> <p>Shop in person on S. Washington st. Tuesday 3-7pm</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">Use your EBT/P-EBT Card in person or online!</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">Saturday Open Air Market</p> <p>Shop in person in Depot Town Saturday 9am-1pm</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;"> </div>
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CHEERS TO QUEERS

CHEERS TO QUEERS PRESENTS

PROM TAKEOVER

TAKING. BACK. PROM.

08.12.22 8PM-12AM

- 21 & OVER
- \$25/TICKET
- DJ THROWING DOWN BEATS
- AT THE YPSILANTI FREIGHTHOUSE
- N/A & ALCOHOLIC DRINKS INCLUDED
- GO TO C2QYPSI ON INSTAGRAM FOR MORE INFO

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Washtenaw County Literacy Group Washtenaw Literacy is looking for volunteer tutors. They're an adult literacy organization based in Ypsilanti, working with adult learners in basic literacy and English as a Second Language. It's a great way to meet new people and learn together. Training is provided, so you don't need to have experience. If interested and want to know more, click [HERE](#).

The first step to becoming a volunteer tutor with Washtenaw Literacy is to attend a one-hour informational session, the ABCs of Washtenaw Literacy. These engaging sessions provide interested folks with all the information they need to get involved. Please select a date below or call (734) 337-3338 to register.

Upcoming events are August 2nd a 1:00 PM, August 19th at 6:00 PM, and September 6th at 12:00 PM. All sessions are virtual.

You must register to attend the events, and registration will close at 6:00 pm the day prior. If you have questions, feel free to contact kim@washtenawliteracy.org.

EMPOWERMENT MOBILE



The Fifth Third Bank Empowerment Mobile (or "eBus") is coming to Ypsilanti on August 12th!

Have questions on financial topics, getting that next job, or your credit score? Come visit us in front of the Ann Arbor SPARK East Innovation Center at 215 W. Michigan Avenue, where the Fifth Third eBus will be parked between 10:30 and 4:30 on August 12th.

The eBus will offer 12 computer stations, a classroom area, and advice from the Fifth Third team. Visitors will have access to a range of free services, including:

- Access to their credit report and score, as well as one-on-one discussions with 5/3 bankers on credit improvement
- EverFi online courses: participants will be able to browse more than 40 topics, including payday lending, estate set-up, investments, and more!
- NextJob: registrants can receive an online job coach, instruction on resume building, and interview tips

[Sign up to attend and be notified of event updates.](#)

YPSI VINTAGE FLEA & SWAP

YPSI VINTAGE FLEA & SWAP

TOYS, VINYL, CLOTHES, KITCHENWARE, ANTIQUES & MORE!
PLUS GOODS MADE BY LOCAL ARTISTS OUTSIDE ON THE DECK!

SUNDAYS

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ALL SUMMER LONG

DEPOT TOWN FREIGHTHOUSE
100 MARKET PLACE YPSILANTI, MI 48198

INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THIS EVENT?
CONTACT AMANDA: ypsifleaswap@gmail.com

FIRETRUCK MUSTER IS BACK!

After three years, the Michigan Firehouse Museum's annual Firetruck Muster is back. This year it will be held on Saturday, August 27, from 10 AM - 2 PM, in Ypsilanti's beautiful Riverside Park.

Admission is free, and no preregistration is needed. Antique fire trucks will be displayed (some will be pumping water) and kids' activities, including pedal cars, a hand pumper, and a bucket brigade. [More Info Here.](#)



EMPOWER U

Empower U
 In collaboration with Youth Enrichment Program at Community Family Life Center
 For youth 11 years old & up!

Enhancing the knowledge and skills of youth in ways to help them succeed.

Fun & Interactive Activities
 Team Building
 Guest Speakers
 Interactive Cooking
 Games
 Fieldtrips

Program Topics:
 Self-Esteem
 Value Identification
 Communication
 Stress Management
 Goal Setting
 and more

Empower U is a leadership and empowerment program designed to build knowledge and skills in adolescents in ways that enable them to succeed. The purpose is to improve self-sufficiency to make choices to manage life adversities more effectively.

The program engages youth ages 11-18, in culturally responsive and interactive workshops on social-emotional learning, job skills and college/trade school preparation.

Empower U is an initiative of the Program for Multicultural Health, part of Community Health Services (CHS) at Michigan Medicine. It is currently funded by CHS and collaborative partners include the Parkridge Community Center, Pathways to Success Academic Campus and Community Family Life Center. United Way of Washtenaw County was the initial funder of the program.

CITY CALENDAR - AUGUST 2022 FOR UPDATES AND MORE INFO CLICK [HERE](#)

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CALENDAR

ALL HELD AT CITY HALL - 1 S. HURON UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Administrative Hearings Bureau
 August 4, 2022, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sustainability Commission Meeting
 August 8, 2022, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

City Council Meeting
 August 9, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Historic District Commission
 August 9, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
 Freighthouse - 100 Market Pl.

Administrative Hearings Bureau
 August 11, 2022, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Arts Commission Meeting
 August 11, 2022, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Fire & Police Retirement Board Meeting
 August 15, 2022, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
 August 15, 2022, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Planning Commission Meeting
 August 17, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Administrative Hearings Bureau
 August 18, 2022, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

City Council Meeting
 August 23, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Historic District Commission
 August 23, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
 Freighthouse - 100 Market Pl.

Administrative Hearings Bureau
 August 25, 2022, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Bicentennial Committee Meeting
 August 25, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
 Freighthouse - 100 Market Pl.

Police Advisory Commission Meeting
 August 25, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

EVENTS AND RECREATION CALENDAR

RECURRING EVENTS

Ypsilanti Farmers Market
 9AM-1PM
 August 6, 13, 20, 27
 100 Rice St

Downtown Farmers Market
 3-7PM
 August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 16 S. Washington

Yoga at Ypsilanti Senior Center
 1-2:30PM
 August 4, 5, 12, 19, 26
 Senior Citizens Center - 1015 N. Congress
[Register HERE](#)

Family Empowerment Program National Night Out
 August 2, 2022, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM
 Recreation Park

First Fridays Ypsilanti
 Aug 5 - All Day
 Various events all evening around Ypsilanti.

Unified Wellness Fair
 August 5, 2022, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Frog Island Park

5th Annual - EMU Bike Rodeo
 August 6, 2022, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 799 N. Hewitt Road, Ypsilanti MI

Fun Fest 22
 August 6, 2022, 12:30 PM - 8:00 PM
 Frog Island Park

Home of New Vision Movie Night at the Park
 August 12, 2022, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
 Frog Island Park

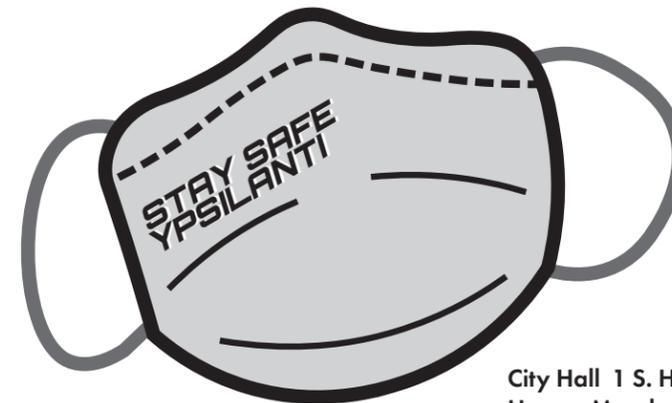
Kiwanis Club of Ypsilanti's Kids Triathlon
 August 13, 2022, 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
 Recreation Park

Michigan Firehouse Museum Firetruck Muster
 August 27, 2022, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Riverside Park

Ypsi DDA Outdoor Movie Series
 Free Drive-in Movie
 August 25, 2022, 8:30 PM
 Normal St. Lot (by the Water Tower)

2022 Clean Up Day
 August 27, 2022, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 EMU

ADD YOUR FREE COMMUNITY EVENT ON THE CITY CALENDAR TO BE LISTED HERE. MUST BE IN OR RELATED TO THE CITY OF YPSILANTI. EMAIL [TKOCH@CITYOFPYSILANTI.COM](mailto:tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com) WITH EVENT DETAILS.



Do you have something happening in the city you'd like to share in the monthly newsletter?
 Email your article to tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com
Submissions are due on the 15th of each month.

CITY OF YPSILANTI NEWSLETTER
 COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY: THOMAS KOCH
 DESIGN & LAYOUT: ELIZE JEKABSON

City Hall 1 S. Huron St. Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Phone: 734-483-1100
 Hours: Monday - Friday: 8am-4pm cityofypsilanti.com