

THE CITY OF YPSILANTI NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2023

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER



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

Ypsilanti has once again reached [Gold Certification through the 2022 Michigan Green Communities Challenge](#). The certification gold status is the second time our city has earned the gold level advancing from the bronze status two years ago.

Also, Lincoln Land Institute highlighted Ypsilanti as a model city in their Focus Report, "Greening America's Smaller Legacy Cities." Many thanks to the city staff and residents

of Ypsilanti for improving our city's sustainability goals within our master plan. [View the entire report](#) (Ypsilanti mentioned on pages 38-39)

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.

After the parade, we had our time capsule reveal from our sesquicentennial celebration in 1973 held

by our hard-at-work bicentennial commission. Please consider attending our main event on August 19th at Riverside Park, starting at 11 AM. Find more information at [ypsi200.com](#)

The Ypsilanti Community County Clean-Up Day will be held on August 26th, 2023. Registration is required to attend the event this year, and please visit [washtenaw.org](#) to register

Staying Connected,
Frances McMullan



City Council in the Fourth of July Parade

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATES

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE(S)

Michigan Avenue:

We're finalizing the hard part of construction in the Downtown area. Though we have been at the final phase of YCUA's project, within Michigan Avenue from Huron Street west to Ballard Street, the completion is near. The watermains have all been

restored, and the contractor is filling in the voids on our Downtown main roadway area. Now, at this point, we ask you to brave the area and visit your favorite businesses that you may have avoided during this period.

The next step is in MDOT's hands, following into the Michigan Avenue

corridor after YCUA's essential utility work. Although every effort was made to minimize disruptions caused by the water and wastewater system improvements, the construction work has resulted in some unavoidable inconveniences.

CONT. CONSTRUCTION

Downtown Construction Update from YCUA:

PUBLIC NOTICE (July 17, 2023):

As part of the ongoing dedication to provide top quality, cost effective, and environmentally safe water and wastewater services to our customers, YCUA's improvements to both existing water and wastewater utilities within the M-17 and US-12 corridors in the City of Ypsilanti is now substantially complete. With the underground construction essentially done, replacement of the curbs and pavement surfaces disturbed during the pipe work is underway. Michigan Avenue and those portions of the connecting side streets will be restored first and, weather permitting, should be completed within the next several weeks. Areas disturbed by the pipe work in the alleyways and parking lots north and south of Michigan Avenue will then be restored with that work anticipated to be complete by Labor Day.

Similar to the earlier phases of the project, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will follow YCUA's construction into the Michigan Avenue corridor.

Every effort was made to minimize disruptions caused by the water and wastewater system improvements, all construction work invariably results in some inconveniences. Although there were a couple of unplanned, emergency service disruptions and related adverse effects, there were much less of these types of events than expected. YCUA recognizes the stress the project put on the businesses and residents in the vicinity and sincerely thanks everyone for their patience and understanding as these important improvements were successfully completed.

The improvements were constructed for YCUA by DiPonio Contracting, Inc. (DiPonio), of Shelby Township,

Michigan. OHM Advisors, Inc., of Livonia, Michigan administered the construction contract and provided full-time, on-site observation of the work by DiPonio on behalf of YCUA. If you have any questions regarding this project please call YCUA at (734) 484-4600 and ask for Scott Westover, Engineering Manager, at extension 220 or via electronic mail at swestover@ycua.org.

Huron River Drive:

The eastbound traffic will soon shift from the north section of the road to the newly-resurfaced south side! Sidewalks on the south side

are now open for pedestrian traffic with minimal intermittent closures as work progresses. Crews will soon be starting work in the northern half of the right-of-way, starting removals in preparation for paving, storm sewer work, and sidewalk installation. Vehicle traffic is still detoured; westbound traffic is advised to use Washtenaw.

Forest Avenue Bridge:

This project remains on schedule. Rice remains closed at Forest until the middle of the fall for repairs. More information on the [City Website](#).

Below: Forest Avenue bridge repair.



Parkridge Park:

Update: Pavilion concrete work remains, as does restoration. The ramp on the west side of the park is substantially complete.

In Parkridge Park, we're currently in the process of replacing the concrete slab under the pavilion and adding an accessible, ADA-compliant walkway

from the Community Center sidewalk to the walking path. The pavilion work is planned to be completed by mid-July, and the walkway is planned to be completed by mid-August. This work is funded largely by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administered by Washtenaw County, with a portion from City funds.

BICENTENNIAL UPDATES

CELEBRATE YPSILANTI'S BICENTENNIAL



[Explore Ypsilanti's timeline](#) over the past 200 years! Learn more about impactful moments in #Ypsi history leading up to this year's celebration.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - MAIN EVENT!

The official Ypsilanti Bicentennial Celebration day-long event will take place on August 19, 2023, at Riverside Park. Expect historical tributes, family fun, live music and entertainment, and much more in celebration of 200 years! Prior to the event at Riverside Park, Ypsilanti Rotary Club Annual Pancake Breakfast starts at 8 am to kick off the celebration. Tickets will be available at YpsiRotary.org.



YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY WALKING TOUR

August 20, 2023; Noon to 5:00p.m. The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's Bicentennial Historic Home Tour will feature a number of homes along N. Huron St., highlighting the best examples of the various architectural styles popular throughout the city's history. The tour will start at the Towner House located at 303 N. Huron St. In celebration of Ypsilanti's Bicentennial, there will also be a VIP ticket option which includes food and drinks at the Newton of Ypsilanti, 220 S. Huron St. Free parking is available at the First Presbyterian Church - 300

N Washington St. Ypsilanti, MI 48197

[Link to purchase tickets.](#)

Since 1977, Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has proudly showcased our community's wealth of historic architecture and heritage. This year's 43rd tour will showcase the inside and outside architectural treasures found on Huron Street built from 1836 to 1921, sharing the results of historic preservation and investment in Ypsilanti.



CONT. BICENTENNIAL

BICENTENNIAL WALKING TOURS

Join upcoming Bicentennial Walking events throughout 2023! Explore Ypsi every second Sunday of each month and discover the natural world along the Huron River.

Or take a new guided tour each month and discover Ypsilanti's rich history. These events include visiting historic neighborhoods, the Bicentennial Volksmarch, touring the bridges of Ypsilanti, and more.

The following tours will be led by a Ypsilanti native and resident of one of Ypsi's oldest houses, Stefan Szumko, also known as SlugWhisperer. [Find updates and more information here.](#)

All walking tours will happen rain or shine (unless *SlugWhisperer's* basement floods or there is a significant chance of lightning).

Monthly Riverside Rambles Through December, Second Sunday of Each Month - 10am

We will explore the natural world along the Huron River for nature nerds of all ages. (2 hours - approximately 1 mile round trip). *April through December* Meet at the pavilion at Waterworks Park (40 Catherine Street)

Bridges of Ypsilanti Walk September 4, Monday - 10am

If you count the Tridge as 3, there

are 14 bridges within roughly a mile from downtown Ypsi (not including the freeway overpasses). The walking route is just a bit over 10K. The 5K route has 10 bridges. Meet at the Freighthouse (100 Market Pl).

Ypsilanti Bicentennial 5K/10K Volksmarch

Fall 2023 - Date TBA
Created especially to highlight Ypsilanti's history - from Depot Town to Woodruff's Grove, Independence Island to the Water Tower, walkers can purchase a map or walk with a guided group. Meet at the Freighthouse (100 Market Pl)

GET INVOLVED!



Find more info all about the bicentennial at Ypsi200.com. If you would like to get involved, donate, sponsor, or have questions, email us at ypsibicentennial@gmail.com.

OTHER CITY UPDATES

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Ofr. Dennis Masterman

*Police Officer
Ypsilanti Police Department*

The City of Ypsilanti would like to recognize Officer Masterman for proudly serving and embracing the vision and values of the organization while assisting a local business in Ypsilanti. The owners shared their satisfaction with the service they received and wanted to say thank you for his hard work and kindness.



CITY PROMOTIONS

Carl Augustine



Carl has served the City of Ypsilanti as an Equipment Operator since the beginning of 2022.

Hector has served the City of Ypsilanti in various roles and capacities, as a YPD Records Clerk, and as a DPS Equipment Operator beginning in 2021. He is excited to move to this new capacity as Code Enforcement Officer and welcomes the opportunity to grow in his new role.

Both are excited to move to this new capacity as Code Enforcement Officer with the following responsibilities: issue citations for property standards/

Hector Schmidt

*Code Enforcement Officers
Building Department*



ordinance violations for items such as trash, snow and litter removal; obtains quotes/bids for private contractors for property cleanup and mowing, monitors private contractors for contract compliance, coordinates actions with the county health department and city housing inspectors assists the city attorney in court cases and testifies, bills property owners for abatement actions; authorizes contractor payments, investigates, tags and coordinates the removal of junk vehicles, performs daily inspection of equipment, and is responsible for the safe operation of assigned equipment.

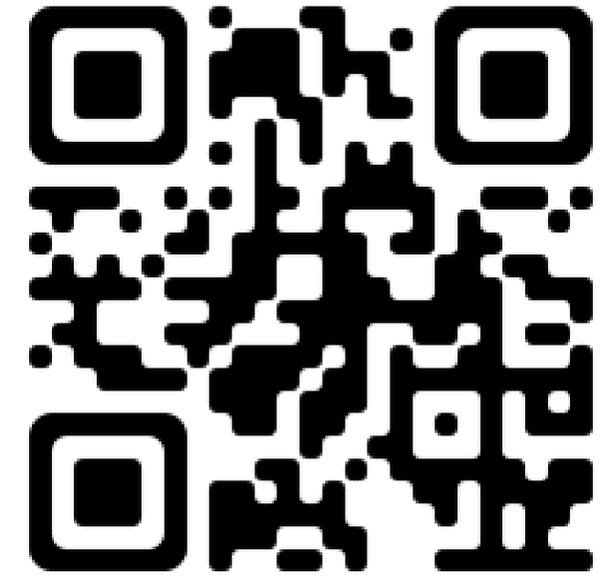
CITIZEN NEIGHBORHOOD INTEL TOOL

New on our website-Neighborhood Intel by Munetrix. Currently available to citizens is a neighborhood intel system through Munetrix that allows:

Examine metrics like historical, current, and predictive insights. Search and save data on specific properties by address.

View violations, certificates, permits, and licenses issued to particular properties. Create custom layer maps combining selected data. And much more!

[Make an account now on the city website under resources](#) OR by Scanning the QR code



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ypsilanti Police Department celebrates the Records Clerk Colleen Armatis' birthday. In the photo is Lt. Eggenberger, Lt. Yuchasz, Breann Urbani and Tom Koch.



WATER QUALITY REPORT



YCUA provides our drinking water and presents its [25th annual water quality report](#). The report follows the guidelines the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) set.

YCUA staff works around the clock to provide you with a safe and reliable supply of water. If you have questions about the YCUA water system, please contact Luther Blackburn, Director, at lblackburn@ycua.org or 734.484.4600 ext. 116. Additional information is available on www.ycua.org.

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, the DDA has made available \$150,000 in solar rebates.

Visit ypsilantidda.com/solar for more details.

[Click here for job postings at the City of Ypsilanti.](#)

UMS RETURNS TO THE FREIGHTHOUSE THIS SEPTEMBER!



UMS will launch a new season of events, the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, with four weeks of programming for all ages from Sep 12 – Oct 7! All events will be free or Pay-What-You-Wish, and Ypsilanti residents will have priority access to tickets starting Tuesday, July 25th.

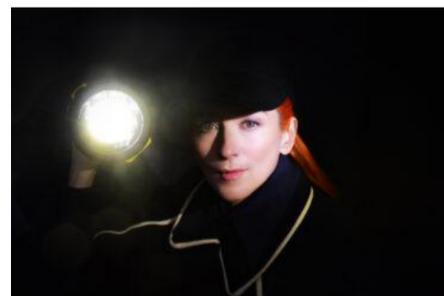
Our two-year partnership results in arts programming for Ypsilanti residents, families, and schoolchildren. A community-informed programming process is a catalyst for these dynamic residencies, activating the unique and historic civic space for performances, arts learning and participation, and creative exploration.



On September 12th & September 19th at 6 PM A workshop led by yoga instructor and Ypsilanti resident Marly Spieser-Schneider, will touch on fundamental physical and philosophical elements of the Iyengar

Yoga practice, accompanied by live music. This opportunity to stretch and breathe provides a unique experience for curious movers, providing a structure for developing awareness, exploring creative possibilities, and discovering new ways to move through the world. Participants will learn postures, ask questions, experiment, and play!

All levels are welcome (ages 12+), no previous yoga experience necessary. Bring your own yoga mat and a water bottle.



On Friday, September 15, 2023, at 7:30 PM Open Mic at the Freighthouse is back by popular demand! Singer, songwriter, and composer Shara Nova (My Brightest Diamond), who spent formative childhood years in Ypsilanti, hosts this open mic night and local artist showcase. Bring yourself, your

friends, and whatever creative contribution you can offer! Registration will open at 7 pm for those who wish to perform and continue on a rolling basis through 8:30pm, with names randomly selected for a starring moment on stage.

Recommended for 16+, alcohol will be available for purchase for ages 21+ with ID.



On Saturday, September 16, 2023 11:00 AM & Sunday, September 17, 2023 11:00 AM

Get ready to clap your hands, wiggle your fingers, stomp your feet, make some music, and have some fun!

What do you get when you cross DEVO with The Wiggles? Join us for a musical and theatrical adventure provided by the unique electric bassoon and percussion quartet slapslap, which brings together up-tempo dance, music, storytelling, and creative play in a unique interactive event just for families. Your family will delight in slapslap's technical musicianship and light-hearted absurdity, with a performance that is equal parts enthralling, wacky, and fun.

After the performance, participants will learn more about improvised music by making their own slapsticks and playing along with the musicians!

Recommended for ages 3-12 and their parents or guardians.

On Friday, September 22nd, at 7:30 PM and on Saturday, September 23rd, at 7:30 PM

CONT. UMS AT THE FREIGHTHOUSE



The Ypsi Experience: Sonic contributions to honor the past, present, and future of the Black community in Ypsilanti.

Detroit-based saxophonist Marcus Elliot leads a seven-piece band of musicians and artists in a new work by Elliot and collaborator Miles Lindsey — created especially for the Freighthouse to celebrate Ypsilanti's unique role in American history.

The Ypsi Experience celebrates the history of Ypsilanti as a refuge for Black Americans dating back to the 1830s. Stories from this significant time in history will inspire original music compositions that honor the bravery and resilience of those who sought freedom on the Underground Railroad and celebrate the important role Ypsilanti played in this pivotal moment in American history.

This multimedia work featuring saxophone, bass, drums, piano, guitar, voice, and narrator was commissioned by UMS to celebrate Ypsilanti's bicentennial and was developed in collaboration with the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County. The performances at the Freighthouse will be the world premiere of this new composition.

On Tuesday, September 26th @ 7:00 PM Join us for an evening of Square Dancing with the Detroit Square Dance Society. We'll start with light refreshments before heading to the dance floor as we bring the Southern Square Dancing tradition to the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, with



live music, non-gender calling, and line dances for anyone and everyone to enjoy. Each dance will be taught, rehearsed, and then danced to live music.

Recommended for 18+, no experience or partner necessary. Alcohol will be available for purchase for ages 21+ with ID. Doors open at 6:30 for light refreshments.



LIGHTNING: A One-of-a-Kind Drag Show Extravaganza

On Friday, September 29th @ 7:00 PM, Lightning rarely strikes in the same place twice, but UMS is delighted to collaborate with Heads Over Heels Productions and Chroma Productions for two different sets in this drag show extravaganza. This action-packed, special night celebrates queer performance art at the historic Ypsilanti Freighthouse.

Must be 18+ to attend; alcohol will be available for purchase for ages 21+ with ID.

West African Dance at the Freighthouse on Saturday, September 30th at 4:00 PM

Originating from the Malinke people of West Africa, Moribayassa is a



modality for their struggles.

Recommended for ages 14+. No experience is necessary.



For Families-Moving to the Beat: West African Dance and Visual Art on Saturday, September 30th & October 1st at 11 AM.

Get ready to feel the heat, listen to the beat, and move your feet. Created especially for families, participants in this workshop will experience traditional West African Dance as well as contemporary AfroBeat dance moves! Afterward, families will participate in an art-making workshop that connects movement to visual art.

Recommended for ages 3-17 and their parents or guardians.



On Saturday, October 7th, at 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM, see Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster

CONT. UMS AT THE FREIGHTHOUSE

Leonardo is a terrible monster. He tries so hard to be scary, but he just... isn't. Then Leonardo finds Sam, the most scaredy-cat kid in the world. Will Leonardo finally get to scare the tuna salad out of someone? Or will it be the start of an unlikely friendship?

Come experience the big, bold, colorful use of illustrations, playful use of scale, and the magic of cinema.

Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About A Terrible Monster uses hundreds of illustrated puppets, book pages, two-dimensional props, furry monster puppets, live music, and the wonder of real-time filming to bring Mo Willems' books to life. You can watch the big screen like a traditional movie, or watch the artists below as they create the story in real time — there

is no wrong way to watch the show!

Recommended for ages 3+ and their parents and guardians. The production contains some loud sounds, flashing lights, and furry monster puppets.

Find more information and tickets at the [UMS Freighthouse website](#).

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Arts Commission

Four Commissioners
Two Youth Members

Fire Civil Service Commission

One Commissioner

Police Advisory Commission

One Commissioner
Two Youth Members

Dangerous Bldgs

Dangerous Buildings Officer

Human Relations Commission

Five Commissioners
Two Youth Members

Sustainability Commission

One Commissioner
Two Youth Members

Ethics Board

Three Board Members

Parks & Recreation Commission

Five Commissioners
One Youth Member

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



DDA STAFF OFFICE HOURS

We are here offering open hours every THIRD Friday of the month 10-2pm. We will be rotating locations throughout each district.

Friday August 18, you can find us at Bridge Community Cafe (217 W. Michigan Ave.)

- Get updates on the board meeting.
- Learn what the DDA is, how it functions, and how to get involved.
- Discuss the DDAs strategic priorities and its equity and accessibility.
- Starting, expanding or relocating a business to the DDA district.
- Learn how the DDA is different

from the City Government and how it relates to the City Government

- Learn about upcoming projects/past projects
- Listen /discuss/ share ideas on how to improve the DDA landscape, organization, programming.
- Learn about grants or sponsorships we offer
- Get help with a grant or sponsorship we offer
- Get help navigating City processes (planning, permits, etc)
- Get connected to other DDA businesses/organizations/events
- Discuss the likeliness of a smeeet frog sighting during peak

business hours

- Hang out and talk about life with some likeminded Ypsi loving people.
- Etc.

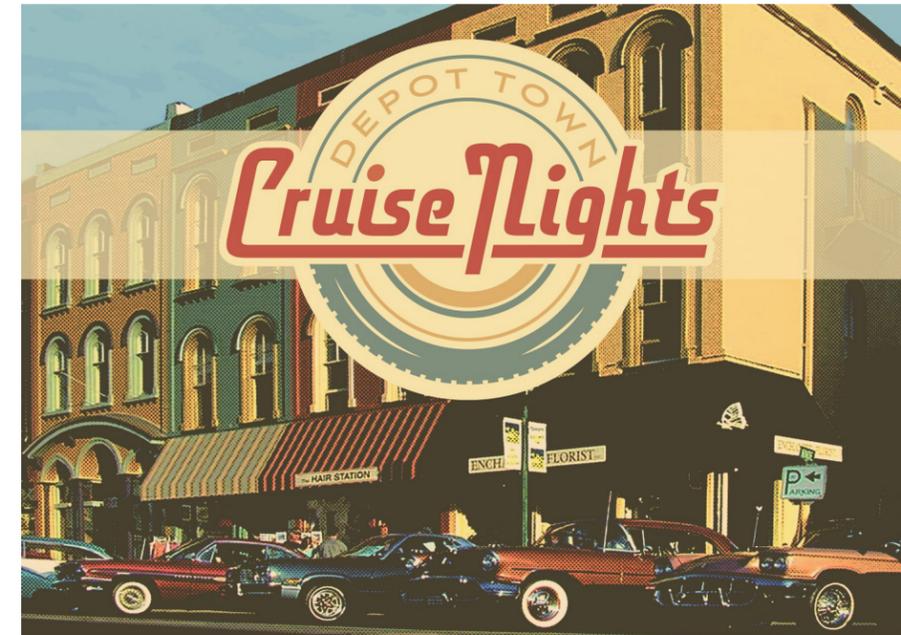
DDA BOARD MEETINGS

The DDA Staff and Board meet monthly to discuss various things that make Ypsilanti uniquely Ypsilanti. You can attend meetings every third Thursday at 8:30am (Freighthouse Cafe - 100 Market Pl.) or you can catch the minutes and packets online [HERE](#).

NOTE: THE DDA DOES NOT MEET IN JULY. NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 17

AROUND TOWN

DEPOT TOWN CRUISE NIGHTS CANCELLED

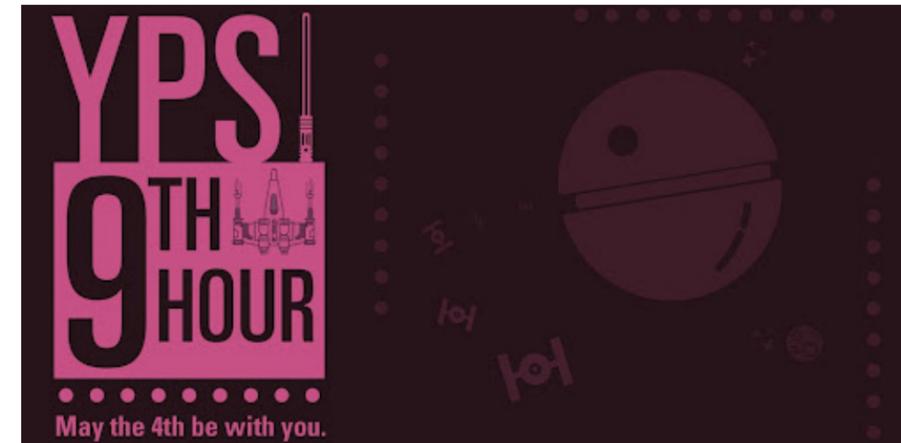


We are disappointed to announce we will be canceling the Depot Town Car Shows for the remainder of the summer.

Due to the road construction projects on Michigan Ave and the bridge repairs on Forest St., we recognize Cross St will be needed for residents. We don't want to add to the already challenging situation for people trying to drive through town.

We look forward to bringing the community together again in 2024 to celebrate our automotive history.

YPSI 9TH HOUR



Ypsi 9th Hour is back at the BOS Thursday, August 3rd! Join us for an after-work social scene of networking and camaraderie. We look forward to seeing you! Registration required.

On Thursday, August 3rd from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM at [The Back Office Studio](#) (13 N Washington St) [REGISTER HERE](#)

Whether you own a long-running business in Ypsilanti or are new to the community, come out for our 9th

Hour to meet other like-minded folks. Complimentary drinks and refreshments. Hope to see you there!

Sponsored and co-created by BOS and Ann Arbor SPARK East Innovation Center, this after-work networking scene is for anyone looking to socialize with like-minded entrepreneurs, business professionals, and independent contractors in a casual, relaxed atmosphere.

FIRST FRIDAYS AUGUST 4TH!



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.

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

FRIDAY, August 4

FIRST FRIDAYS AT FROG ISLAND PARK

669 Rice St
Putting in the park Disc Golf 6-9p
 Ever try disc golf? Now is your opportunity! Come borrow a disc and try your hand at playing our 9 hole pop-up course in Ypsilanti's Frog Island Park! Grit & Grace Ladies Disc Golf Club and Ypsi Dubs Disc Golf Club have united to organize this pop-up beginner friendly course. We are here to help guide you as you play along with us and learn the basics of the sport. Plus, We will have special First Friday stamped Discraft putters for sale! We'd love to welcome you to the adventure of disc golf! Come check out our course from in Frog Island Park. FREE!

First Fridays Movie Night 9-11p
 Please join us on Frog Island for a free outdoor showing of is "Good Burger" 1997 rated PG run time of 95 mins.

AUGUST VENUES:

2 West
 2 W. Michigan Ave; 5-9p
You are in Full Bloom!
 Dan Plummer's interactive exhibition of landscape photographs and hand-built devices for viewing them in 3D is fascinating for all ages.

22 North
 22 N Huron; 5-8p
Dan Plummer: American Landscapes in 3D
 Serious, uplifting, and moving, Valerie Mann's serious, moving, and uplifting installations explore collective and individual grief during the time of COVID, reflecting on "closing off, opening up, solitude, vulnerability and joy."

Bellflower
 209 Pearl St; 11p-2a
Bellflower After Hours: Ypsi Birthday Bash
 Happy 200th birthday to Ypsi and happy 3rd anniversary to Bellflower! Come out and kick off the month with a celebration to our delightful city and 3 years of service here at Bellflower! With a dope music set from DJ HIT, and a stellar lineup of speciality and zero proof cocktails, wine, and beer this will be the party of the summer!

Betty Green Salon
 25 N. Washington St; 6-8p
Funky Summer Nights
 We are excited to host Heather from

Greenshieldmacrame and her handcrafted plant hangers. We are also excited to host Jess, creator of punky tarot handmade. Jess's creations are inspired by the spooky, paranormal and pop culture. Enjoy our signature wine bar and tasty treats while you get to chat with our artists!

The Deep End Cafe & Gallery
 310 Perrin St; 7-10p
Art & Karaoke in The Deep End
 Join us to celebrate the art of local artist Evan Haywood as well as enjoy fun times doing Karaoke with Kay Bae singing all of our favorite hits!

Dos Hermanos Mexican Grill
 310 Perrin St; 7-10p
Fiesta at the Corner
 Come and enjoy good food and live music with el curioso de los teclados!

Keystone Bar and Arcade
 200 W. Michigan Ave; 8p-12a
Friday night karaoke (21+)
 Come and sing your favorite songs at keystone bar and arcade with DJ Big Booty!

Luna Gallery
 50 N. Huron St; 2-6p
Support Local Artists
 Displays of local handmade art.

MAIZ Mexican Cantina
 36 E. Cross St; 4-8p
Noche Folclórica
 Please join us for a wonderful night of Mexican Folkloric Dancing. Detroit-based dancers & sisters, Marcela & Maddy Orozco, will be performing at the top of the hour, every hour from 4-8pm. Come eager to immerse yourself in the beauty of Mexican culture!

Pearl Street Studios
 36 E. Cross St; 4-9p
Love Lives Here
 Love Lives Here is a multimedia storytelling project about Lisa-Erika James' elders that celebrates Black joy and triumph while showcasing the complexity of the human experience. James explores her own roots in the southern United States and western Africa. Go to LoveLivesHere734.com for more information!

Riverside Arts Center (2nd Floor Dance Studio)
 76 N. Huron St; 8-11p
Riverside Swings
 Learn to swing dance! 8-9pm Beginner swing dance lesson, 9-11pm Swing dance, 11-late Blues dancing. Learn to swing dance and make friends! No partner or experience required. Anyone is welcome to learn the lead or the follow role regardless of gender. FREE on First Fridays!

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!

SPARK East Innovation Center
Ypsi Walk of Writers - Powered by Ypsi Spark!
 215 W Michigan Ave; 5-9p
 Hub of the Ypsi Walk of Writers! Beloved authors, eager readers, and book enthusiasts will unite for an extraordinary experience filled with storytelling, book signings, and conversations.

At the hub, authors will enjoy hospitality and networking opportunities.

Speedys Big Burger
 10 N. Adams; 12-4p
Grand Opening
 Grand opening for speedys big burgers, free to the public, prizes, giveaways

Stone & Spoon
 110 W. Michigan Ave; 5-8p
Get Ready for Ypsi Vegan Fest: Detroit Jerky Sampling
 Come get excited with us for Ypsi Vegan Fest as we sample Detroit Jerky, one of the participating vendors at the festival!

The Gallery at Stone & Spoon
 110 W. Michigan Ave; 11a-8p
A Year Ago Today: A Solo Exhibition by Morgan Burgard
 "A Year Ago Today: A Solo Exhibition by Morgan Burgard" opens on Friday, August 4th and runs through Sunday, September 24th.

This, That & the ODDer things
 50 E. Cross St; 4-9p
The AURA Blob and the Look
 Leo Margolis is a multidisciplinary fashion designer, graphic designer & fiber artist. He will be performing live embroidered AURA readings and for a low cost you can take your personalized AURA patch home with you. SkinnyD is ours truly and works at TToT. Skinny's handmade couture style is remarkable at every stitch.

Triple Goddess Tasting Room
 93 Ecorse Rd; 7-10p
Citizens Dead - Days Between Tour (\$15 Cover)
 Grateful Dead Tribute Night!

Unicorn Feed & Supply
 114 W. Michigan Ave; 5-8p
Candy Club Sampling
 Let's celebrate Food Fest together we we sample our favorite Candy Club treats together!

Washtenaw Alliance for Virtual Education
 301 W. Michigan Ave; 5-7p
Student Project Showcase
 Come see the amazing things our students have created! You'll see a diverse showcase of student projects including multimedia artwork, videos, podcasts, large-scale murals, and much more! This particular First Friday will come with special guests as well - representatives from our sister programs (WIHI and ECA)

Wyrd Byrd
 9 S. Washington St; 8-10p
Wyrd Movie Night (18+)
 In honor of the food fest theme, join us as we watch "Flesh Eating Mothers" (1988 - Rated R). This is a horror/comedy B film that is a blast to watch with others. Bring your own drinks/snacks. Doors at 8 pm. Film at 8:15 pm.

Ypsi Alehouse
 124 Pearl St; 4:30-6:30p
Steve Somers and Friends Jazz Band
 FREE- WCC Jazz director Steve Somers leads a band that combines professional musicians with WCC students. Set 2 welcomes guests to sit-in with the band.

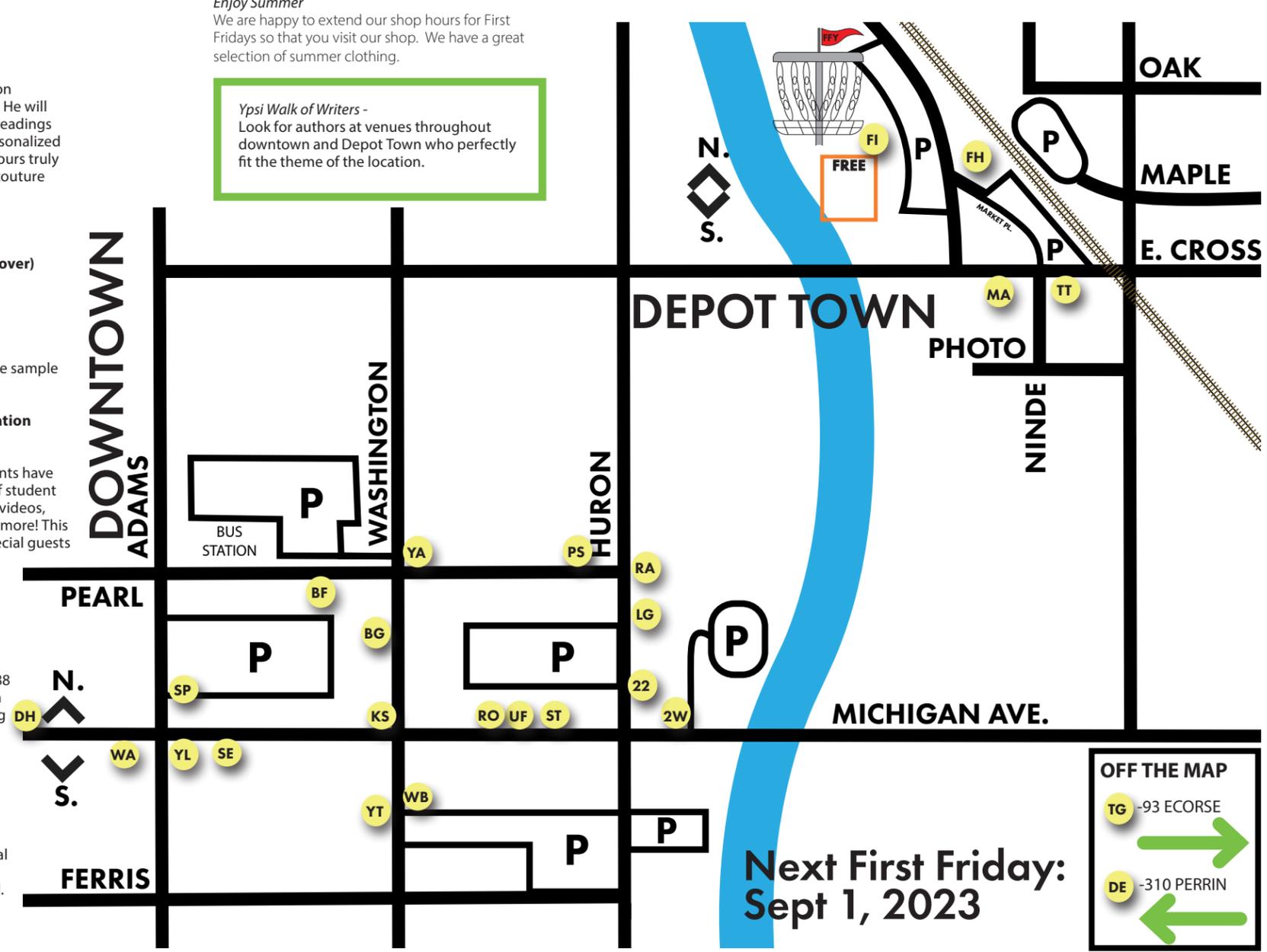
Ypsilanti District Library - Michigan Ave. Branch
 124 Pearl St; 5-6p
First Friday Storytime
 Join YDL for an all-ages family event during First Fridays! Families will enjoy books and stories, space to make arts and crafts together, and music and songs to get you excited for the weekend.

Ypsilanti Freighthouse
 100 Market Pl; 5-9p
Feast Your Eyes Artisan Market
 August's First Fridays theme is "Food Festival," so what better local nonprofit to partner with than Growing Hope! Check out the Freighthouse cafe for a lineup of talented local makers and their delicious creations, and get early ticket access to Growing Hope's annual fundraiser "Chefs in the Garden" which takes place in October.

Ypsi Thrift Shop
 14 S. Washington St; 1-8p
Enjoy Summer
 We are happy to extend our shop hours for First Fridays so that you visit our shop. We have a great selection of summer clothing.



Ypsi Walk of Writers - Look for authors at venues throughout downtown and Depot Town who perfectly fit the theme of the location.



YPSILANTI JAZZ FESTIVAL - 2023

YPSILANTI FREE
2023 JAZZ FESTIVAL
 Riverside Park-Ypsilanti, MI
 6-9 p.m. (Show starts at 7 p.m.)

July 1:
LADY SUNSHINE & THE X-BAND
 HOST: Cherisa Allen & Taryn Willis
 Girl Power Night

July 8:
DETROIT RSVP ALL STARS
 HOST: Big Dooley
 Pop-Up Shop Night

July 15:
JIBREEL JOHNSON
 HOST: Monica Bass & Kim Smith-Bass
 UAW Night

July 22:
NO SHOW
 YCS Jazz In The Parking Lot
 At Shadford Field

July 29:
SEAN DOBBINS
 HOST: Cherisa Allen & Taryn Willis
 Divine 9 / Black Org Night

August 5:
ALLEN DENNARD
 HOST: Keith Paul Jason
 Children's Entrepreneur Market

For Sponsorship and Vendor Information
 Email- ypsijazzfest@gmail.com
 Phone-734.485.8889
 Office Address -105 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

JOIN THE YPSILANTI BOOK CLUB!

Are you a person that reads books and then likes to talk about what you've read with other people, possibly while enjoying a cool beverage or a warm meal? Need an excuse to leave your house on a Friday evening? Then join our Ypsilanti Book Club (Ypsilanti residence not required)!

We've been reading roughly one book per month since January, then we get together over drinks & apps to talk about what we liked (or didn't) about

the most recent book. It's incredibly casual and welcoming, you don't have to be good at literary analysis or whatever. Sometimes people come even if they haven't read the (whole) book! Each month another member chooses the next book, so if you come then you could pick a future read!

On August 11th, starting at 7PM at Corner Brewery, we will hold a discussion based on the book Gilead by Marilynne Robinson.

UNDER THE ROCKS FEST



The Under The Rocks Art Festival hosted by Bug Pit Collaborative Arts will be taking place every weekend this August, platforming visual artists, drag performers, theatre artists, and musicians!

We will be at the Soft Projects Gallery at 306 W Cross St. Our free gallery opens Friday-Sunday at 5, with ticketed performance events starting at 7:30.

Tickets are limited, and we have a variety of performances to choose from, so I'd encourage patrons to check out our online ticketing portal, bugpit-collab.ludus.com! You can also check us out on Facebook under Bug Pit Collaborative Arts.

YPSI VEGAN FEST



Stone & Spoon proudly presents Ypsi Vegan Fest, which will be taking place on Saturday, August 12th, from 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM at Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti, Michigan!

This event is free to attend. There will be a suggested donation of \$2. Each vendor will have food/products offered for sale on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The vendor line-up is to be released SOON! Stay tuned!

FALL TREE AND NATIVE PLANT SALE

2023 FALL

TREE & NATIVE PLANT SALE



Order your conifers, native potted plants, and garden kits between August 11th & September 17!

Washtenaw County Conservation District is reminding everyone their pre-order for Fall Tree & Native Plant Sale opens on Friday, August 11th; the deadline is September 17th.

All the plants offered are great for private property or in backyards for Ypsilanti residents, with a pickup date of Friday, September 29th, which is a perfect time to plant. If interested, please find out more information on the WCCD Website.

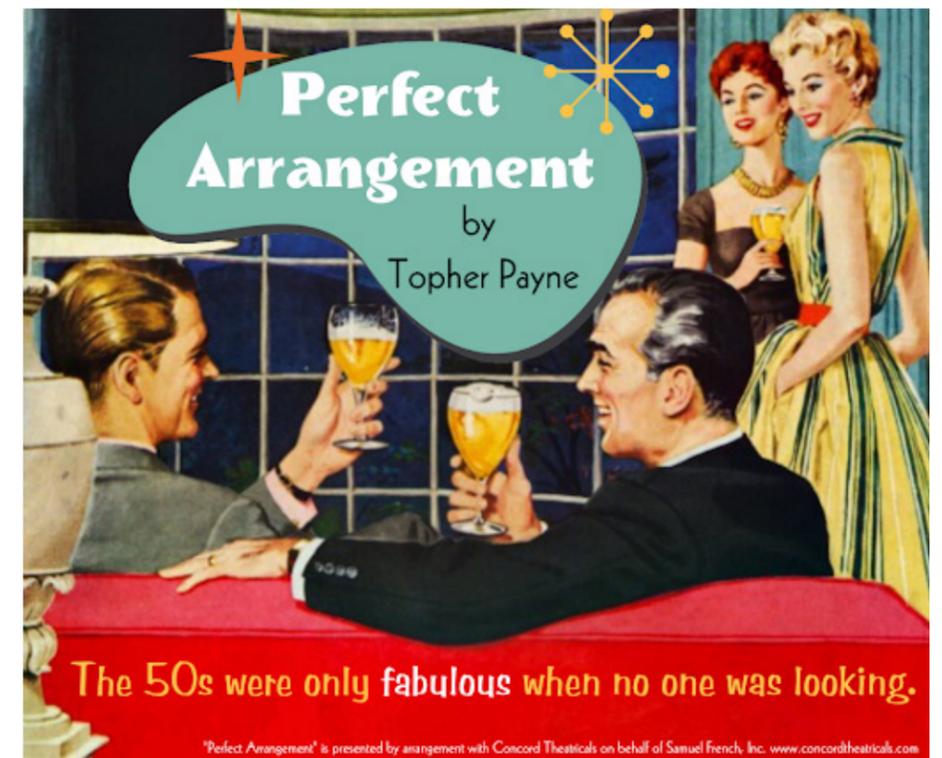
PERFECT ARRANGEMENT

PTD Productions presents Perfect Arrangements by Topher Payne at Riverside Arts Center on August 17th - 26th, 2023, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 PM, Sunday the 20th and Wednesday the 23rd at 2 PM.

PLOT: Two government employees have managed to keep their true identities a secret for four years until a new promotion threatens their comfortable lives. Will they uphold the harsh societal pressure of 1950s America or risk everything to live their truth?

Directed by Jacob Williams-Justin

[Tickets are available online.](#) or at the door Adults/general admission: \$20 -Students, seniors, and active military: \$15



MURAL COMING TO N. WASHINGTON ST.

Gary Horton, a local artist, is working with youth members of the community aiming to install another marvelous mural here in Ypsilanti, this time in the N. Washington parking lot (by the transit center). The outline for the mural will kick off on August 15th and 16th with the crew. If you want to witness the painting in progress, the team will start on the 18th, then continue every Tuesday and Thursday after beginning at 8 AM until they complete the project. We hope you're excited to see the upcoming installation. It's set to be unveiled to the community on September 1st. Thank you to all involved in the process.



3RD ANNUAL FUN FEST



The 3rd Annual FUN FEST is hosted by Fundamental Sound Co.!!!

Art, Food, Vendors, and Music all day long at Frog Island Park starting at 11 AM

Featuring: Gabriel Brass Band, Gayelynn McKinney, Sabbatical Bob, Violet Sol, Sophiyah E., Al Bettis, Plus a Secret Set...

This is a "free" event because it takes place in a public park. However, there is a \$20 suggested donation so we can pay our artists a fair and livable wage!

[Tickets are available here.](#)

JOIN PARKRIDGE SUMMERFEST & JOE DULIN DAY!

Parkridge Summer Festival & Joe Dulin Community Day
2023
SUMMER FEST

Sat. Aug 26, 2023 • 11am-6pm
Parkridge Community Center & Parkridge Park
Parkridge Park 791 Harriet, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Headliners
(Jazz sensation)
"DAJA"
& Prince Mark Jacobs (PMJ)

• **FOOD VENDORS • MERCHANDISE VENDORS**
• **Free Health and Community Resources**

Grills, Alcohol & Dogs are NOT Allowed

Sponsored by
The Parkridge Summer Festival Committee,
Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development

Join for the Annual Parkridge Summerfest and Joe Dulin Community Day!

This year's event will feature almost 100 community organizations, including a University of Michigan Health tent, which will offer breast cancer screenings, vision tests, and more! There will also be local, small businesses vendors, food, and exciting musical performances!

Saturday, August 26th, from 11 AM to 6 PM at Parkridge Park

Community Resource Fair will be from 11:30 AM to 3 PM

Music performances will begin at 3 PM. Grills, alcohol, and dogs are NOT allowed

We hope to see you there!

YDL EVENTS IN AUGUST

Michigan Avenue branch is closed for the summer, unfortunately. We don't have an exact time that they will open yet, but they're [posting some updates as we get them here.](#)

[Ypsilanti Emancipation Day - Superior, Aug 1, 7pm](#) Join local historian Matthew Siegfried and discover Ypsilanti's rich history celebrating Emancipation Day.

[Wild Super Powers - Live animals with Howell Nature Center: Aug 5, 3:00pm - 4:00pm, Whittaker](#) What do Batman, Spiderman, and Cat Woman have in common? They base their powers on amazing wildlife adaptations and abilities! Learn about wildlife "super powers" that help them survive in the wild.

Join the Ypsilanti District Library at the Ypsilanti Farmers Market for stories, songs, and play! In Depot Town near the Freighthouse. On August 19th from 10 AM to noon.

[Document Shredding - Aug 26, 10:00am - 1:00pm, Whittaker](#) Paper shredding for residents of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township. Bring up to four copy paper boxes or grocery bags of documents per person. Staples, paper clips, and rubber bands are OK.

Not accepted: 3-ring binders, spiral notebooks, large binder clips, photographs, magazines, newspapers, hanging files, plastic bags, or water-damaged materials.

Donations will be accepted by the Friends of YDL to help offset the cost of this event. Limited to residents of the City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township. Funded in part by a Washtenaw County Waste Reduction Sponsorship.

Note: This event may end earlier if the truck fills up!

COUNTY CLEAN-UP DAY

[County Clean-Up Day \(Ypsilanti\)](#)
ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023

Registration opens on July 14, 2023.

[Register here.](#)

This year, registration will be required to attend any County Clean-Up Day event. This change will allow us to better serve residents by spacing out event traffic arrival time. This strategy will significantly reduce wait times and reduce carbon emissions caused by idling cars at events.

Registration for each event will open six weeks before the event and close one week before the event or when all slots are filled.



Accepted Items:

- Appliances
- Bulk Waste
- Electronics
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Scrap Metal
- Tires (limit of 10 tires, agricultural tires cannot be accepted)

RIVERSIDE SWINGS!



Learn how to swing dance!
Where: 2nd-floor dance studio, Riverside Arts Center 76 N Huron St, Ypsilanti
All ages and experience levels welcome! [Facebook Page](#)

YPSI FINE ARTS CLUB

RIVERSIDE'S YPSI FINE ARTS CLUB

INSPIRED BY:
THE DETROIT FINE ARTS BREAKFAST CLUB

The first and third Wednesday of every month, join us at Riverside Arts Center to present two pieces of original art. Artists, art lovers, collectors, curators - everyone is welcome from Ypsi and beyond!
Attendees are not required to present.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

riversidearts.org
76 N. Huron St.

RIDE FREE!

RIDE FREE THIS SUMMER
on weekends with your library card!

JUNE 10 – AUGUST 27

AADL.ORG
YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

SUDS ON THE RIVER

Huron River Watershed Council Fundraiser on September 7th, 2023, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM at Delhi Metropark (3902 East Delhi Road)

Suds on the River is HRWC's annual fundraising event at Delhi Metropark on the Huron River. It's an evening under the stars with gourmet food and craft brews, live music around a campfire, fly-fishing demos, and great friends. Funds raised support our many programs that protect and restore the river. We recommend casual dress. [Get your tickets here.](#) Suds is a human-only (21+) event.



YPSI FARMERS MARKET



Visit the Ypsilanti Farmers Market in Depot Town on Saturdays from 9-1, adjacent to the Ypsilanti Freighthouse at 100 Rice St., running every weekend from now until October.

Each market features seasonal produce, plants & flowers, locally raised meat & eggs, honey, jam, syrup,

prepared foods, artisan jewelry and crafts, and more!

The Ypsilanti Farmers Markets accepts cash, credit cards, SNAP/EBT Bridge Cards, Double Up Food Bucks, Prescription for Health, WIC Project FRESH, Senior Market FRESH, and Market Dollars. Visit the Info booth to learn more.

RESOURCE CORNER

WASHTENAW COUNTY OED UPDATE - INCREASED INCOME LIMITS!

The Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development is offering FREE weatherization services to county homeowners and renters. The program aims to help residents lower their utility bills through home improvements. Clients who apply now can expect to have their homes serviced before the end of 2023.

To apply, visit washtenaw.org/weatherization or call 734-544-3008 if you have any questions

Examples of services we perform are:

- Energy audit to help decide what work needs to be done
- Insulation, ventilation, furnace replacements, and HVAC safety checks

Qualifying incomes:

Persons in family/household	*income before taxes
1	\$66,300
2	\$75,750
3	\$85,200
4	\$94,650
5	\$102,250
6	\$109,800
7	\$119,250
8	\$128,700

- Air sealing and weather stripping

Income limits were just increased! More people are eligible now than ever before.

To qualify, you must have a before-tax income of 80% of the HUD Area

Median Income. You automatically qualify for the program if a member of the household has received Supplemental Security Income (SSI), State Disability Assistance (SDA), cash benefits through the Family Independence Program (FIP) within three months of application.

LIHWAP STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PAST-DUE WATER BILL ASSISTANCE

Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development is offering past-due water bill assistance through the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). LIHWAP creates water accessibility widely throughout Washtenaw County by providing direct water utility payment

150% Federal Poverty Chart						
# of Household Members	1	2	3	4	5	6
Income Limit Annual	\$21,870	\$29,580	\$37,290	\$45,000	\$52,710	\$60,420

to qualifying households with an outstanding balance. Applications are now open for qualifying households to apply for up to \$1,500 in water arrearage relief and 90 days of guaranteed service.

- Qualifications include: Be a residential account holder
- Have water arrearages or disconnection notice
- Household is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Limit or automatically qualify are a part of select programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Social Security Income, State Emergency Relief, Food Assistance Program or SNAP.



Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

•Applicant's water provider must be providing
 To learn more information, check if your provider is participating, or to apply, visit: Washtenaw.org/LIHWAP or contact Arieona Klaus at klaus@washtenaw.org or 734-554-6721.

SeeClickFix
 POWERED BY CIVICPLUS

SEE AN ISSUE? LET US KNOW!

BROKEN PARK EQUIPMENT AND PUBLIC FACILITY ISSUES, POTHOLES, DEAD TREES OR BRANCHES, ABANDONED VEHICLES, GARBAGE, BLIGHT, BROKEN SIDEWALKS, ICE & SNOW, PESTS, GENERAL ORDINANCE ISSUES & MORE.

SEARCH **YPSI CONNECT** IN YOUR MOBILE APP STORE TO GET STARTED!

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CALENDAR

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

Huron River Drive CONSTRUCTION May 22, 2023 - October 27, 2023 Huron River Drive, Cornell to LeForge.	Arts Commission Meeting August 10, 2023, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Autumn Double Trash Week August 21, 2023 - August 25, 2023
Forest Avenue Bridge CONSTRUCTION July 5, 2023 - September 8, 2023 Forest Ave bridge over the Huron River	Non-Motorized Committee Meeting August 10, 2023, 7:00 PM Ypsilanti District Library Meeting Room #1 (First Floor)	Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting August 21, 2023, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
City Council Meeting August 1, 2023, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Sustainability Commission Meeting August 14, 2023, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Historic District Commission August 22, 2023, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Historic District Commission August 8, 2023, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting August 16, 2023, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Police Advisory Commission August 24, 2023, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

CITY EVENTS AND RECREATION CALENDAR

Senior Center
 1015 N. Congress

[Register HERE](#) for fitness classes
 All other inquiries, email info@ypsiseniorcenter.org

RECURRING EVENTS

Art 12:30-2PM August 4, 11, 18, 25	Bingo 12:30-2PM August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Euchre 12:30-2PM August 7, 14, 21, 28	Gentle Fitness 10:30-11:30AM August 7, 14, 21, 28
Gentle Fitness 10:45-11:45AM August 4, 11, 18, 25	Knitting/Crochet 12:30-2PM August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Norwegian Therapeutic Massage 12-1PM August 4, 11, 18, 25	
	Service Project 10-11:30AM August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Tech 10-11:30AM August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Memory Cafe 2-4PM August 8

Freighthouse
 100 Market Pl.

PUBLIC EVENTS

First Fridays - Local Artisans Market
 August 4: 5-9PM

Cheers to Queers - Prom Takeover
 August 11: 7-11PM [Tickets](#)

Ypsi Flea & Swap
 August 13: 10-3PM

Ypsilanti DDA Board Meeting
 August 17: 8:30AM

Housing Town Hall
 August 17: 7-9PM

Ypsi Bicentennial Celebration (Rain Plan only)
 August 19: All Day



Do you have something happening in the city you'd like to share in the monthly newsletter? **MUST BE IN OR RELATED TO THE CITY OF YPSILANTI.**
 Email your article to tkoch@cityofypsilanti.com

Submissions are due on the 15th of each month.

