WHILE YOU WERE OUT

We’re working hard to provide resources and services during the Covid closure, and we’re also doing some housekeeping. Read on to learn how we’re moving forward on important projects and addressing needed building improvements.

Boosting our Wifi
YDL now offers a new and improved wireless internet service! When the library reopens you’ll be treated to faster speeds and better connectivity thanks to a budgeted upgrade that added 16 access points across our three locations. Since three of the access points service outdoor areas, the upgrade provides a stronger signal outside the library buildings too.

Thanks to a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant, this upgrade will significantly increase the quality of the service in and around the libraries. Many of the parking spaces closest to our buildings will allow you to access the signal from your car. Enjoy surfing from a safe social distance with a faster and easier connection.

New Superior Library progress
Site clearing at the future Superior building location on North Harris Road began October 21st. Approved by the YDL and Superior Township Boards in September, a $50,000 capital improvements grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs partially funds this work. It will ensure we break ground as early as the weather will allow in the spring. When completed, the new 7,800 square-foot facility will have triple the materials, more than double the computers, and longer operating hours. For more news and progress on the new library, visit ypsilibrary.org/our-new-library.

Michigan Avenue spruce-up
When we’re able to reopen, you’ll find the main floor and basement stairway at Michigan Avenue freshly painted. We’ve also cleaned the blinds, valances, and windows, and purchased new chairs for the adult area tables.

Whittaker curtain wall windows
The towering windows at the rear of the library are a dramatic feature, but have suffered from leaking since they were installed in 2002. The library hired a consultant to find the root cause, and phase one of a remediation project is underway. This includes replacement of the sill at the base of the windows, and replacing the metal panel that connects the top of the windows to the roof. The work is not only important to keep water out and away from carpet, furniture, and materials, but also for the longevity of our beautiful building.

Mobile hotspots
Just in time for the holidays, YDL will begin circulating a limited number of hotspots purchased with funding from the CARES Act. Mobile hotspots create a WiFi signal that your laptop or smartphone can use to access the Internet if you don’t have service at home or will be traveling. The hotspots are small enough to fit in your pocket and have a battery life that can last a full day. The hotspots join YDL’s growing “Library of Things,” including puzzles, Tools for Senior Living, and Kill-a-Watt meters. Visit ypsilibrary.org/collections/things for information on how to borrow a hotspot or other item from the Things collection.

More on the horizon at Whittaker
LIGHTING: The lighting control system at Whittaker Road, original to the building, is no longer supported. If it fails, we will literally be in the dark! We’re evaluating proposals to replace the existing system and anticipate starting the work in the new year.

NEW LOUNGE: We want to open up a sunny, airy gathering spot near the triangular bay where people can sit to read and relax. Plans are in the works to remove the reception desk and clear out some stacks to create a cozy area to unwind. More details coming next year.

NEW TECH: When we’re able to welcome people back into our meeting rooms, you’ll find even more tech you can use! With donations from last year’s Annual Appeal, we’re adding collaborative tools and technology to make our spaces even more effective. Plans were put on hold due to Covid-19, but we can’t wait to safely share these improvements.
As YDL buildings are closed during Covid-19, all events are virtual. Find details to access them at ypsilibrary.org/events.

**Mondays**

**Nov 2-Dec 7**

**826MICHIGAN TUTORING**

3:30–4:15 PM

4:45–5:45 PM

Get access to live one-on-one tutoring through 826michigan’s Online Learning Lab. Visit tinyurl.com/826vss to sign up or call (801) 205-9035 between 10:30–6:30 to register by phone.

**Dec 7 & Dec 13**

**VISUAL BOOK CLUB**

Read and discuss graphic novels and other visually interesting books. We are meeting virtually during the pandemic. Contact Scott Marlowe at smarlowe@ypsilibrary.org for more information.

**Dec 14**

**AFRICAN AMERICANS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

7:00 PM

Join a virtual discussion of It’s All Downhill From Here, by Terry McMillan.

**Tuesdays**

**Nov 3-Dec 8**

**STORYTIME LIVE**

10:30 AM

Hear stories and sing along to your favorite storytime songs from home at 10:30am every Tuesday and Thursday on YouTube.

**Nov 3-Dec 30**

**826MICHIGAN TUTORING**

3:30–4:15 PM

4:45–5:45 PM

Get access to live one-on-one tutoring through 826michigan’s Online Learning Lab. Visit tinyurl.com/826vss to sign up or call (801) 205-9035 between 10:30–6:30 to register by phone.

**Nov 23-Dec 27**

**KNITTING PLUS**

6:00 PM

Meet virtually with other yarnies and share your projects and ideas.

**Wednesdays**

**Nov 4-Dec 30**

**YPSI STORIES: A NEW PODCAST.**

A new podcast from the Ypsilanti District Library. Ypsi Stories takes a look into our community’s past through storytelling. Featuring local historians and experts, we hope that by sharing more perspectives and voices from our past, we as a community can have a better understanding of our collective past, present, and future.

**Nov 6-Dec 30**

**THURSDAYS**

**ROUTE TO RETIREMENT**

6:00 PM

Thinking about what your future will look like when you stop working? This workshop, presented by Brenda Long of MSU Extension, will increase your awareness of retirement needs and decisions, plus provide you with knowledge and resources to increase your confidence and assist with your planning.

**Nov 5 & Dec 3**

**TAKE SOME TIME: MONTHLY SELF-CARE KITS FOR ADULTS**

1:00 PM

Learn the basics of navigating the Zoom meeting interface. While working with other seniors, you can see yourself on camera, test your microphone, learn to chat, and more. To register call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

**Nov 5 & Dec 9**

**VIRTUAL GARDEN CLUB**

3:00 PM

Our monthly Garden Chats have transformed into a YDL Virtual Garden Club! Hosted by Master Gardener Carol Brodock. Zoom meetings will combine expert tips and seasonal information with book reviews, and time for questions and shared experiences.

**Nov 17**

**COOK-ALONG: HAPPY HOLIDAY KITCHEN**

3:00 PM

Vicki Brett-Gach demonstrates how to make guilt-free plant-based Creamy Mac and Cheese, Fresh Raw Cranberry Sauce, and heart-healthy Mini Pumpkin Bars!

**Nov 18**

**GET TO KNOW YOUR METROPARKS**

3:30 PM

Hunnicutt Metroparks Director Amy McMillan will give a brief introduction to the parks, and talk about what you can do in the parks, even in winter. She’ll also discuss how the Metroparks support and serve our surrounding communities.

**Nov 24**

**AFRICAN AMERICANS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

7:00 PM

Join a virtual discussion of It’s All Downhill From Here, by Terry McMillan.

**Mondays**

**Nov 2-Dec 27**

**KIDS BOOK CLUB (Grades 6-8)**

6:30 PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org, Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss great books.

**Nov 2**

Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds

Nov 9

The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White

Dec 17

The Story School by Andrew Clements

**Registration required; supplies provided.**

**Friday**

**Dec 17**

**LNGO CRAFTARENOONOS (55+)**

2:00 PM

Visit Finland and see some reindeer in their natural habitat. Learn to make reindeer decorations with craft materials and take them home.

**Dec 25**

**TINKERLAB**

10:30 AM

Parents watch a short video to get ideas, then use materials easily found outside, in your house, or in a supply kit you’ll get from the library to do the activities with your little one. New themes each session! Visit ypsilibrary.org/ onlinetinkerbab.
MAKE HOLIDAY MAGIC

This holiday season, the memories you make with your loved ones might look different than in the past. YDL can help make sure they’re still magical! We have online tools and programs to inspire your cooking, crafting, and enjoyment of the holiday spirit.

Read on for information on new YDL subscriptions you can use to hone your skills, YpsiWrites programs to reflect on new traditions, a special Holiday concert, and more!

Creativebug
Choose from thousands of arts and craft classes taught by recognized design experts and artists with your YDL card. Creativebug has everything you’ll need to hone your skills or try something new. Learn to make your own felt stockings or hand-rolled truffles; discover new gift-wrapping techniques; or participate in a 30-days of gratitude project to take stock of the important things in your life!

Visit ypsilibrary.org/research, or access the YDL app, then log in to the Creativebug site. Use your YDL card number to set up an account. You’ll be able to tag programs to come back to and see images that others have uploaded for inspiration to fuel your work.

Food America
Want exciting recipes without the pop-ups or extra drama? Use your YDL card to explore the world of food! With our new subscription to AtoZ Food America, browse recipes and food culture by state, ingredients, ethnic food groups, and more. Want to make breaded morels? Visit the Michigan page! Take a trip down memory lane with vintage food advertisements and cookbooks in the Historical section. Find a new take on your favorite Southwest staple in the Region section. There’s a helpful reference section, videos that teach technique, and you can even search by ingredient. Visit ypsilibrary.org/research, or access on the YDL app, and use your card number to plan your holiday menu. Eat adventurously!

Holiday-Themed Events

Virtual events to fuel your holiday spirit

See the events calendar for details.

Dec 11 CAPTURING YOUR HOLIDAYS THROUGH WRITING
6:00 PM
See the events calendar for details.

Dec 17 COOK-ALONG: HAPPY HOLIDAY KITCHEN
3:00 PM
Vicki Brett-Gach demonstrates how to make guilt-free plant-based Creamy Mac and Cheese, Fresh Raw Cranberry Sauce, and heart-healthy Mini Pumpkin Bars.

Dec 6 THE PAUL KELLER ENSEMBLE HOLIDAY CONCERT FROM YDL
2:00 PM
This nationally-known local ensemble brings holiday cheer with both new and familiar tunes. Watch this recorded concert for some extra cheer!

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YPSIWRITES

YpsiWrites has creative new workshops for writers in the community, and continues to offer virtual writing support.

Workshops

See pages 2–3 for more information about the CAPTURING YOUR HOLIDAYS THROUGH WRITING and WRITING AS A GIFT workshops.

Celebrations

NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH (NANOWRIMO)

Are you up for the challenge of writing a novel in just 30 days? During November get NaNoWriMo writing prompts, activities, and support.

YPSIWRITES’ FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Visit ypsiwrites.com to see our 2020 featured “Writers of Ypsilanti” and to read stories or view videos from community members about “Why Writing Matters.”

Writing Prompts & Activities

FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE: VISUAL CULTURE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Experience this important exhibit on a deeper level using YpsiWrites’ writing prompts and activities. Look for more information at ypsilibrary.org or ypsiwrites.com.

WRITING BOXES

These genre-specific writing boxes contain prompts, tips, and examples to help you write resumes, cover letters, songs, memoirs, grants, and more. You can find these boxes on ypsiwrites.com.

HOUSING HELP

Eviction Diversion & Prevention Program

Households are continuing to struggle with rent payments due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Washtenaw County OCED is partnering with Housing Access for Washtenaw County and Legal Services of South Central Michigan to help people get the resources they need to stay in their homes. Along with legal aid, the Eviction Diversion & Prevention Program connects individuals facing foreclosure with financial assistance so they can catch up on rent payments. To learn more, call Housing Access for Washtenaw County (734-961-1999) and Legal Services of South Central Michigan (734-665-6181).

Washtenaw OCED Home Improvement Programs

Washtenaw OCED Home Improvement Programs help lower-income households make important repairs so their homes are safe, comfortable, and energy efficient. Those who need a new furnace, better insulation, or other weatherization services to keep their homes warm this winter without driving up their energy bill may qualify for free assistance. The Home Improvement Programs can also help install wheelchair ramps to make a home accessible when needed. In addition to these existing programs, they have a brand new program to help with emergency plumbing repairs until the end of 2020. Give the Home Improvement Programs team a call at 734-544-3008 to learn more.

YPSIWRITES

Writing Prompts & Activities

FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE: VISUAL CULTURE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Experience this important exhibit on a deeper level using YpsiWrites’ writing prompts and activities. Look for more information at ypsilibrary.org or ypsiwrites.com.

WRITING BOXES

These genre-specific writing boxes contain prompts, tips, and examples to help you write resumes, cover letters, songs, memoirs, grants, and more. You can find these boxes on ypsiwrites.com.

Schoolwork Support

See page 2 for more information on FREE Virtual Schoolwork Support for students ages 7 to 18 with 826michigan.

College Entrance Essay Writing Support

826michigan and YpsiWrites have compiled writing tips, guidelines, essay prompts, and exercises to help students draft and revise essays for college and scholarship applications. Materials will be available in November at ypsilibrary.org. Feedback is also available via YpsiWrites and 826michigan virtual support.

National Day of Listening: Home Interview Kit

In honor of StoryCorp’s National Day of Listening on November 27, YpsiWrites will share a virtual interview kit for families to use together. Get help asking great questions, tips on note taking and being a good listener, and templates for your interview preparation and follow-up. Materials will be available on ypsilibrary.org.

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LOCATIONS & HOURS

YDL-WHITTAKER

5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS Curbside service

YDL-MICHIGAN

229 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS Curbside service

YDL-SUPERIOR

8795 MacArthur Blvd
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
HOURS Locker pick up and curbside service

YDL-BOOKMOBILE

Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS Curbside service coming soon!

Board meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. They are open to the public. Visit ypsilibrary.org/board for updated meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes.

Visit ypsilibrary.org/contact-us or 734-482-4110

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