CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY!

On April 7, YDL held a community celebration to break ground on a new Superior branch library on Harris Road. The weather was amazing, the crowd and speakers were fantastic, and the mood was jubilant. Elected officials from all levels of government came to show their support. We were excited to celebrate something positive outside, in person, safely.

Construction workers and equipment are now on site, building your new library! The 7,800 square-foot branch will have more than triple the number of computers, a much larger collection, meeting spaces, and the same hours as YDL-Michigan. It will put everyone in the district within a 10-minute drive of a full-service library. Watch our website for construction updates, and join us for the Grand Opening, anticipated summer 2022. We can’t wait!

HELP WRITE YDL’S NEXT CHAPTER

After 14 years in a “temporary” location, we’re building a new Superior Township library! Who could have predicted the new branch would become a reality during a global pandemic? As a resident of Superior Township, a librarian, and a community-minded citizen, I am passionate about this project. Why? Because libraries are proven to enhance neighborhoods and improve quality of life for residents. The new library will give our kids an inspiring place to learn and grow, and ensure everyone has easy, equal access to the vital services YDL provides.

There’s something special about a library. Each has its own vibe, its own voice. It reflects the people it serves. YDL-Whittaker and YDL-Michigan are unique community anchors and points of pride. The new YDL-Superior location on Harris Road will also stand out, featuring engaging youth and teen spaces, a popular reading area with a Motawi tile-surround fireplace, a clerestory cupola, a drive-up book return, and an accessible raised-bed learning garden. It will offer the meeting space needed to bring our most popular events to Superior for the first time.

The long journey to this vision took dedication and investment by the Library Board and Superior Township’s administration, hard work by our design team, and your valuable input and votes. Our mutual belief in the project is strong, and it’s been backed financially by key partners listed below. To open the new library with all the bells and whistles we’ve envisioned together, YDL is publicly launching the Next Chapter Capital Campaign on June 1st. It’s your chance to help us build a community hub that will inspire, inform, entertain, and welcome everyone in our district for generations.

So far, the Library Board has set aside $3.5M for the project. Working behind the scenes, the Next Chapter Capital Campaign Committee has already raised $1.5M in additional funds to supplement this investment. Our $2M goal is in sight, and you can help.

We’re kicking off the campaign with a unique opportunity to make your dollars go even farther: the Young Family Next Chapter Challenge. Superior residents Bill and Vivienne Young, who believe strongly in supporting education, have contributed $400,000 to help build the new library. Included in this gift from the Young Family Foundation is a two-to-one challenge incentive. Beginning June 1st, every dollar raised up to $100,000 will be matched by the Youngs with two. The Challenge runs through July 31st or until we reach our matching goal. Every donation matters!

Visit ypsilibrary.org/nextchapter to contribute, mail checks made out to Ypsilanti District Library to Next Chapter Capital Campaign / Ypsilanti District Library / 5577 Whittaker Road / Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197, or contact me to discuss sponsorship and naming opportunities. Thank you for supporting this effort and the Ypsilanti District Library!

Lisa Hoenig, Director
POP UP CONCERTS COMING
You’ll hear more music around Ypsilanti this summer.

Starting in June, the Ann Arbor Summer Festival (A2SF) is bringing a series of pop-up concerts to Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township. They’re hosting socially distanced performances around the area in partnership with community organizations including YDL, Superior Township Parks and Recreation, and Ypsilanti Community Schools (see page 8).

The family-friendly series is called “Live Here Now,” and A2SF organizers want the concerts to inspire connection to and around the community. “These are pop-up events that embed artists to neighborhoods and public spaces and support the community where they live,” said A2SF Programming and Operations Manager James Carter. “It feels like the start of something special and transformative.”

Some featured events are highlighted here, but the full schedule and concert information is available at a2sf.org.

During many of these events, you can expect to see YDL staff sharing activities you can do while practicing social distancing. These “Live Here Now” concerts have been in the works for a while, and A2SF hopes they will become a staple going forward. “We have planned for over a year to expand our programming into the Ypsilanti area,” said Carter, “and the pandemic has given us the time to plan and lay the foundation for a new series that will take us beyond our 2021 adaptation.”

SUMMER BOOST

It’s time again for the Summer Challenge! We’ve got great new challenges, including YpsiWrites challenges that take you around town to see art or write a mystery; a different geocache hunt; more how-to videos you can watch from home; a United Way Equity Challenge (see page 10); and colorful new digital badges.

Courtesy of Riverside Arts Center, we’ll also have portions of their Creativity Toolkit for families who sign up for the Challenge to pick up at curbside.

As always, we challenge you to Read, Learn, and Explore all summer. For kids, it’s a great way to prevent summer learning loss and be ready to return to school in the fall. For adults and families, we offer a range of fun activities to engage you around the community. Like last year, we have ideas you can do online and outdoors. Visit ypsilib.org/summerchallengeinfo for more information.

PUT YOUR SUMMER ON THE MAP

Get even more from your Michigan Activity Pass (MAP)

Metroparks has joined the MAP program! 13 Metroparks now offer free admission to library patrons! To claim your free daily vehicle pass*:

2. Fill out the details under “Plan Your Next Activity.”
3. Click the Metropark of your choice and fill out the corresponding form that appears when you click “Request Pass.”
4. Click the “Submit This Request” button that appears on the summary page.
5. Print the confirmation page!

*Good for one day of fun in this park! Allows one FREE daily vehicle pass. Can not be duplicated. Not redeemable for cash. The Michigan Activity Pass, and the Metroparks daily pass you will receive upon redemption, are not eligible to be used towards our Trade-up Program for annual passes.

For more information about the each park, visit www.metroparks.com.

MAP is available to YDL card holders thanks to a partnership with The Library Network (TLN) and offers free and discounted passes to more than 100 great Michigan destinations, including parks, museums, concert halls, theaters, and more! You can browse all of the passes at ypsilib.org/michigan-activity-pass.

How to play

1. Reactivate your account, or start a new one if you haven’t played before, by visiting ypsilib.org/summer.
2. Log activities between June 12–August 31. You’ll earn a digital badge every time you read a book, complete an Explore challenge, or attend a library program, virtually or in person. Log what you do on a computer, or download the free ReadSquared app.
3. Earn prizes! Kids who read at least six books can stop by a library on set days to pick out a free book to keep. Adults who read at least six books get a first aid kit. But don’t stop there! Every digital badge you earn is worth a chance at winning the grand prize of your choice.

Participating Metroparks:

- Delhi Metropark
- Dexter-Huron Metropark
- Hudson Mills Metropark
- Huron Meadows Metropark
- Indian Springs Metropark
- Kensington Metropark
- Lake Erie Metropark
- Lake St. Clair Metropark
- Lower Huron Metropark
- Oakwoods Metropark
- Stony Creek Metropark
- Willow Metropark
- Wolcott Mill Metropark

JUNE 12, 6:00 PM
at Fireman’s Park with YDL, YCS, and Superior Township Parks

JUNE 17, 7:00 PM
at North Bay Park with Ypsilanti Township

JUNE 23, 7:00 PM
at Library Plaza downtown with YDL

JUNE 25, 7:00 PM
at Ford Lake Park with Ypsilanti Township and YCS

Ypsilanti District Library | The Loop
Summer 2021
CELEBRATE TEEN ART
This summer marks our 14th Annual Noise Permit event!

Noise Permit is a summer celebration of the arts, created by teens, for teens. It culminates in a live concert with stage performances by youth in August. Originally created by the Ozone House Drop-In Center’s staff and youth, Noise Permit has evolved into a teen-centered collaboration between the Ozone House and the Ypsilanti District Library.

Noise Permit provides teens with summer arts programming in downtown Ypsilanti, by offering youth twice weekly mentoring and educational workshops, as well as providing a venue for teens to share their artistic “voice” at the end of summer concert.

LIBRARY SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES
Calling all athletes and non-athletes alike!

Can you throw a book the farthest, organize a pile of books the fastest, or accurately finish a literary quiz the quickest?

Find out on Saturday, July 24th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the YDL Summer Olympic Games!

Celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Olympic Games by joining us for these events and more, and see if you can become a YDL Summer Olympic Games Champion.

There are youth and adult categories for each event, which will be held outside at the Whittaker Road library with social distancing guidelines followed. To help make sure the games are safe and spread out, you must register for a timeslot. Register for individual, pod, or family starting times. To register call 734-482-4110 x2411 or x2412.

Find out on Saturday, July 24th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the YDL Summer Olympic Games!

TAG KITS MAKING A SPLASH
Who is behind the themed subscription packs we offer for teens each month? Our dedicated Teen Advisory Group (TAG) has been meeting throughout the pandemic, curating the contents of the packs and creating book lists, flyers, and videos to go with them. They’re even experimenting with a podcast.

You might have signed up for a pack, only to find that there is a waiting list because they’re so popular. To make the distribution of packs more equitable, TAG members have written two grant proposals and pitched the project at the Neutral Zone’s Youth Driven Spaces annual conference where they earned $900! If their second proposal is funded, we’ll be able to offer paid internships and expand the project.

Interested in joining us? If you’re looking for ways to earn volunteer hours this summer and work with other passionate teens on community service projects, sign up at ypsilibrary.org/tag. We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 4:30pm on Zoom.

TAKE YOUR COMMUNITY READ OUTDOORS
“My hope is that somehow I might move others to find themselves magnified in nature, whomever and wherever they might be.”
- J. Drew Lanham

YDL is proud to partner with Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum in their 2021 Community Read program. The program features books that portray the intersection of race and the environment. Two titles have been selected this year, one for adults and one for children. Both are available for request at YDL.

In connection to these two books, YDL will offer activities including a book discussion, a study guide, make your own birderfeeder kits, nest building, a birdwatching video, and bird-related booklist. Learn more at mbgna.umich.edu and ypsilibrary.org/nature-CR.

FOR ADULTS:
The Home Place: Memoirs of a colored man’s love affair with nature, by professor, poet, author, birder, and wildlife biologist J. Drew Lanham is the adult selection. Awarded the Southern Book Prize, the Reed Award from the Southern Environmental Law Center, and a finalist for the John Burroughs medal, The Home Place is Lanham’s memoir about his childhood in rural South Carolina.

FOR KIDS:
Ruby’s Birds, by ornithologist Mya Thompson, is the children’s selection. Ruby’s Birds tells the story of Ruby, a girl in New York City, who is fascinated by a birdwatching outing with her neighbor and spreads the love of birdwatching to her family. The book includes hidden pictures on each page and additional suggestions for bird-related activities at the end.

Accompanying YDL activity: Read aloud/bird nest building. Visit ypsilibrary.org/nature-CR.
LIBRARY REOPENING PLAN

**STAGE 1**

- **BUILDING CLOSURE**
  - All buildings closed
  - All library programs and services are virtual
  - Drop boxes are closed; patrons keep materials home
  - Staff monitoring special phone number while working remotely

**STAGE 2**

- **PRE-OPENING (STAFF ONLY)**
  - All buildings closed
  - All library programs and services are virtual
  - Drop boxes open with limited hours
  - Staff resume monitoring main YDL phone number
  - Staff prepare for Stage 3

**STAGE 3**

- **STRICTLY LIMITED PUBLIC SERVICE**
  - All buildings closed
  - Curbside service begins at Whittaker by appointment
  - Program supply pick-up permitted at curbside
  - Bookmobile used for public “drop off” of materials
  - Drop boxes remain open 24 hours
  - Homebound delivery service resumes

**STAGE 4**

- **LIMITED PUBLIC SERVICE**
  - Whittaker reopens for Grab & Go service; computer usage by appointment.
  - Michigan Avenue open upstairs only with closed stacks; computer usage by appointment
  - Superior remains closed
  - Meeting/study rooms remain closed
  - Copy/print/tax service resumes on-demand

**STAGE 5**

- **FULL PUBLIC SERVICE**
  - All locations, including Bookmobile, resume full public service
  - Meeting/study rooms reopen
  - In-person programs resume

*Activities in Stages 3 and 4 may not resume simultaneously.
**Subject to social distancing guidelines and capacity/time limits. Check the signage at each location for details.

## GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

It’s been more than a year since we’ve seen you in our buildings, and we’re eager to start providing more services. We’re currently in Stage 3 of our Reopening Plan (see above). As vaccination and COVID numbers allow this summer, we will move to Stage 4 while maintaining safety for all. Read on for what to expect.

### The Bookmobile is Back on the Road

You may already have seen the Bookmobile on the road again. Limited curbside routes have started, though you aren’t able to go inside the Bookmobile yet, and we ask that you reserve your materials at least two days in advance of your desired stop. You can find the schedule and COVID precautions at ypsilibrary.org/bookmobile.

### Expanded Hours

Starting June 14, staff will be back in the buildings for our regular hours to handle curbside appointments and answer questions over the phone. This means staff at Whittaker and Michigan Avenue will be in the buildings from 9am–9pm Mon–Thurs, 10am–6pm Fri and Sat, and 1–5pm on Sunday at Whittaker. An additional set of evening curbside hours will be added, details coming soon!

### Computer Use by Appointment

In June we will also start hosting computer use by appointment at Whittaker Road. The appointments will be limited and spaced out to allow for sanitizing the computer stations. Please stay tuned on our website and social media pages for details as they are finalized.

### From the Friends

Did you know that all of our curbside activity kits are made possible with funding from the Friends of YDL? This dedicated group of volunteers runs the book shop at Whittaker Road, hosts the book sales in the community room, and does a fair share of selling online. Since COVID, they have been mainly fundraising online, and have still been able to help us deliver kits and other great services.

Please keep monitoring our Friends page (ypsilibrary.org/friends-of-ydl) for updates about when they will resume accepting your donations. In the meantime, you too can become a Friend. Memberships start at only $10 and earn you early shopping rights at the book sales, plus incentives throughout the year. Membership dues support library programs such as the Summer Challenge, holiday and Kinderconcerts, senior activities and events, and more. Join today!

## NEW LOCKERS COMING TO SUPERIOR

Thanks to a generous gift of $10,000 from the DTE Foundation, the Superior Township library will soon see new and improved lockers for pick-up of library materials. This grant arrived just in time, as the old lockers at our tiny library failed.

Once installed later this summer, normal locker service at Superior will resume. The new lockers will then be moved to our new building at 1900 Harris Road once it opens in the Summer of 2022.

The DTE Foundation grants are intended to help community organizations continue to meet the needs of those who rely on our services.

## MAKE ONLINE LEARNING EASY

W e’ve missed seeing you at our in-person classes and training programs! Since COVID continues to dictate how we offer our services, we are pleased to announce new “e-training” you can do right from your phone or home computer.

Our new Niche Academy online learning programs feature short how-to videos that walk you through some of our programs and tools. Want help getting started with our Ancestry database for genealogy researchers or hoopla, for downloading eAudiobooks and music to your device? Look for “Learn to use” Niche logos on our Research page and across our website.

For example, are you a young adult looking to open your first checking account? Watch the Niche video on the differences between checking accounts, the questions to ask, and what you will need to bring to the bank. Are you a senior applying for Medicare for the first time? Watch the Niche video on the various coverage options before you start your application. These learning tools are brief, high-quality productions that have been vetted by librarians, so you know the information is accurate and up-to-date. Visit ypsilibrary.org/niche-collection for more details.

DTE Foundation
As YDL buildings are closed during COVID-19, all events are virtual, unless otherwise noted. In-person, outdoor events may be canceled due to weather or COVID rates. Visit ypsilibrary.org/events for updates or to access virtual events.

JUN–AUG EVENTS

MONDAYS

June 7, 8, 15, 16, 22, 23 | 3:00 PM
TEEN MANGA & COMIC BOOK DROP-IN

Drop in and draw with local artist, Kamron Reynolds! Learn the fundamentals of cartooning and comic strip-making. All materials provided. No registration required. Space is limited. Registration available online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 1360.

June 8, 13, 15, 20, 22 | 6:00 PM
TEEN SUBSCRIPTION PACKS

Curbside Bi-Weekly

Bored at home? Sign up for YDL’s teen subscription package! With a surprise package sent once a month with each book and a new creative project, all teens will love them. By the Teen Advisory Group (TAG). Subscribe, then stop by the library once a month to snag your swag.

June: Juneteenth
July: Summer Camp
August: Back to School
Pickup hours are 9:30am-12:30pm and 2:30pm-4:30pm. Please make sure to check your email for pickup instructions for your pack.

June 8, 15, 22, 29 | 6:30 PM
GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS

Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a document. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

June 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, Aug. 17 & 24 | 6:00 PM
TEEN ADVISORY GROUP

Looking for ways to help the community and earn volunteer hours? The Teen Advisory meets on Zoom twice a month to plan gaming meetings, develop teen subscription boxes, write grants, and plan events such as teen summer camp. Ypsi Teens. Fill out the application at ypsilibrary.org/tag to reserve the Zoom meeting link.

June 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, Aug. 17 & 24 | 6:00 PM
MYSTERY BOOK CLUB (Adults)
Bobbi Bonnies

From ancient hieroglyphs to modern Manga, the marriage of words and art has fascinated mankind. The Graphic Novel Book Club will meet outside every third Tuesday to discuss the graphic narrative at Bobbi Bonnies, a block from YDL-Michigan, at 200 W. Michigan Avenue. Books may be picked up during curbside hours at YDL-Michigan. Meeting may become virtual due to COVID rates or weather. Check event calendar for updates. Contact Scott Markiewicz at smarkiewicz@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x1360.

June 15 | 7:00 PM
ZUMBA & STRENGTH TRAINING

Join us for another fun, energetic fitness series with trainer Kerry Powell of Lifestyle Fitness. This class combines the high energy of Zumba with traditional weight training for the ultimate workout. Register online at ypsilibrary.org/events, or call 734-482-4110 ext. 1360.

June 15 | 10:00 AM
STORYTIME LIVE

Hear stories, sing along to your favorite stories, exercise, yoga poses, and more! Videos are available on YouTube for a limited time after the livestream. Visit ypsilibrary.org/storytimes for recent read alouds, more info about storytimes, and other activities for little ones.

June 15 | 11:00 AM
KNOTTING PLUS

6:00 PM
Meet virtually with other knitters and share your projects and ideas every Thursday through Zoom! Open to all, no handcrafts welcome!

TUESDAYS

June 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 | 10:30 AM
GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS (Adult)

Explore more advanced features of Google Sheets including formulas, conditional formatting, sorting, filtering, and linking data, and creating a print area. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 10:30 AM
REAL TALK ABOUT DENSITY: ADVANCED CARBON DATING WITH MERILYNE RUSS

Join us to learn to identify their wishes for future healthcare and learn how to discuss death and dying with their loved ones. To learn more about Merilynne Rush, visit thdeadyear.org. Participants will be emailed the Zoom link after registering online at ypsilibrary.org/events.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 10:30 AM
INTRODUCTION TO SELLING ON EBAY

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.

June 2, 7, 12, 17, 22 & 27 | 10:30 AM
NEW EPISODE OF YPSI STORIES

Our new podcast, Ypsi Stories, takes a look at the marriage of words and art has fascinated mankind. The graphic narrative at Bobcat Bonnie’s, a block from YDL-Michigan, at 200 W. Michigan Avenue. Books may be picked up during curbside hours at YDL-Michigan. Meeting may become virtual due to COVID rates or weather. Check event calendar for updates. Contact Scott Markiewicz at smarkiewicz@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x1360.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 10:30 AM
HOW TO HOST A ZOOM MEETING (Adult)

Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and methods for sharing a presentation for collaboration. Register online or by phone 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 10:30 AM
INTRODUCTION TO ZOOM MEETING ETIQUETTE (Adult)

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.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 10:30 AM
BEGINNING MICROSOFT WORD TIPS & TRICKS (Adult)

Explore more advanced features of Microsoft Word. Includes: adding graphics and multimedia, and methods for sharing a presentation for collaboration. Register online or by phone 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 10:30 AM
MERILYNNE RUSH

3:00 PM
“Marvels: The Secret War” by Lois Lowry

Join us for a two-part series, Marvels: Rush, an End-Of-Life Doula Training, will lead an open and honest discussion about death and dying. In collaboration with Merilynne Rush, visit thdeadyear.org. Participants will be emailed the Zoom link after registering online at ypsilibrary.org/events.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 10:30 AM
BEGINNING MICROSOFT WORD TIPS & TRICKS (Adult)

Explore more advanced features of Microsoft Word. Includes: adding graphics and multimedia, and methods for sharing a presentation for collaboration. Register online or by phone 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 10:30 AM
BEGINNING MICROSOFT WORD TIPS & TRICKS (Adult)

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**THURSDAY**

**THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP**
10:30 AM
June 3: The Gracekeepers by Kirsten Logan

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

Miniature garden kits
Feel like you could use a break? Stop by for one of our self-care kits. Kits are available starting the first Thursday of the month while supplies last. They are first-come, first-served, and RESERVATIONS are REQUIRED. To reserve a kit, call 734-482-4110 x 2411 or email Kim at krowe@ypsilibrary.org.

2021 Summer Schedule:
- June 10
- July 8
- August 5

**NOISE PERMIT WORKSHOP**
6:00 PM YDL-Michigan

In partnership with Eastern Michigan University, the Ypsilanti District Library invites all teens to attend our weekly Noise Permit workshops this summer on Thursdays at 6pm to celebrate arts and culture in our teen community.

June 17 | 6:00 PM: Pottery and Ceramics
June 24 | 6:00 PM: Shakespeare in Prison
July 1 | 6:00 PM: Songwriting
July 8 | 6:00 PM: Digital Design
July 15 | 6:00 PM: Drum Circle
July 22 | 6:00 PM: Phone Photography
July 29 | 6:00 PM: Production
August 5 | 6:00 PM: Poetry

For more information about these workshops, please email Kelly at kiscott@ypsilibrary.org. Activities may be canceled or moved virtually due to weather or COVID rates, so please check the events calendar for updates each week. This activity is supported by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOUNTY**
7:00 PM
June 27: The Supremes at Earl’s All You Can Eat by Edward Keelsey
July 27: Caste by Isabel Wilkerson
August 31: Just as I Am: A Memoir by Corley Tyson

**READ TO RUSTY THE LIBRARY DOG**
6:00 PM
Reading to a dog helps children develop confidence and become better readers. Sign up for a 30-minute session with Rusty and Miss Pat. REGISTRATION REQUIRED: email mitts@michigandrivers.org

**STORIES IN MOTION**
1:00 PM
Meet and learn from authors. Kids will get a mat to keep the movement and help maintain physical distance as well as breathing and mindfulness exercises.

**TEEN GAME NIGHT**
6:00 PM
Calling all teens for our STAR monthly game night hosted virtually on Zoom! You’ll need two devices: one to play the online game and one to join our Zoom hangout! We will have a $25 gift card raffle each time. Email Kelly at kiscott@ypsilibrary.org for more information.

Friday, June 25 6 pm: Trivia
Friday, July 23 at 6 pm: JackBox TV Games
Friday, August 12 at 6 pm: Among Us

**NOISE PERMIT SUMMER CONCERT**
6:00 PM YDL-Michigan Plaza
Join us for a teen-driven celebration of the arts concert during Ypsi’s First Fridays event in the YDL Michigan Avenue Plaza. All summer long, Ypsi teens have been attending workshops, teaching them a variety of skills and honing their artistic processes led by experts from EMU Camp. We will be celebrating their accomplishments at the 16th annual Noise Permit event. For more information about this event, please email Kelly at kiscott@ypsilibrary.org. Activities may be canceled due to the weather or COVID rates, so please check the events calendar for updates each week. This activity is supported by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

**GARDEN CATHERING**
1:00 AM YDL-Whitmore
Drop in and see what’s growing! Each week we’ll be near the garden with activities such as writing prompts, garden tours, scavenger hunts, art and nature, and fresh produce. On June 28 we’ll be partnering with Michigan Botanical Gardens on a bird nest building activity. It is nature inspired and free for kids, teens or adults.

**GUITAR CLUB FOR ADULTS**
6:00 PM
YDL Guitar Club is for guitar players of all levels and ages (18+). Starting May 22nd we will be meeting in person at Ypsilanti Public Library, where we will listen to songs, learn, collaborate, and learn to play together. Acoustic, electric and all other types of guitars are welcome. Guitar Club may be canceled due to COVID rates. Check YDL-Michigan Guitar Club Facebook page for updates or contact Scott Marlowe at smartwork@ypsilibrary.org or 734-482-4110 x 1360 for more information.

**WASHTENAW AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY**
10:00 AM
Each session will focus on a different resource or source to help you discover your family history. Program is held virtually via Zoom. Contact Joy Cichewicz at joy@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-726-2340 to get Zoom meeting information.

**SUNDAY**

**LIVE FROM THE LIBRARY**
10:30 AM
Join us for the library every Saturday morning on Ypsilanti Instagram. Watch storytimers share stories, songs, and activities you can do with the people at home.

**GUITAR CLUB FOR ADULTS**
10:00 AM–4:00 PM | YDL-Whitmore parking lot
Bring your unwanted computers, printers, phones, small appliances, and other items. Be sure to check our event pages for details before you load up, or call 734-482-4110 x 2411. Please enter Civic Center Dr. from S. Huron River Dr. and follow signs. There will be no access to this event from Ypsilanti Road.

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM | YDL-Whitmore packing lot
Bring your unwanted computers, printers, phones, small appliances, and other items. Be sure to check our event pages for details before you load up, or call 734-482-4110 x 2411. Please enter Civic Center Dr. from S. Huron River Dr. and follow signs. There will be no access to this event from Ypsilanti Road.

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Bring your unwanted computers, printers, phones, small appliances, and other items. Be sure to check our event pages for details before you load up, or call 734-482-4110 x 2411. Please enter Civic Center Dr. from S. Huron River Dr. and follow signs. There will be no access to this event from Ypsilanti Road.

**SUNDAY**

**GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS**
2:00 PM
Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and methods for sharing your presentation for collaboration. Register online ypsilibrary.org/events or by phone 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

**GUITAR CLUB FOR ADULTS**
10:00 AM–4:00 PM | YDL-Whitmore packing lot
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**SUNDAY**
As YDL buildings are closed during COVID-19, all events are virtual, unless otherwise noted. In-person, outdoor events may be canceled due to weather or COVID rates. Visit ypsilibrary.org/events for updates or to access virtual events.

OUTDOORS AT THE LIBRARY

From book browsing to art projects, this summer we will offer a variety of activities outside our libraries for families to engage in. At YDL-Whittaker, look for a large community art project. Add fabric to the weaving frame anytime, and watch it change throughout the summer. Sidewalks at YDL-Michigan and YDL-Whittaker will be decorated with silly walk challenges, and you’ll find storywalks at both locations. Stop by all three libraries to see what’s growing in the gardens and pick what’s ready to harvest. We’ll also be adding a bee house in the Whittaker garden, courtesy of The Bee Conservancy to help promote our pollinators. Be sure to take a selfie portrait in front of our Stories Give us Wings mural. You’ll also earn a Summer Challenge badge!

We are excited to partner with Matthaei Botanical Gardens Gaffield Children’s Garden staff, who are helping us develop nature and “loose parts” play opportunities. See page 3 for additional information about our Matthaei Botanical Gardens Community Read partnership. Watch for pop-up nature play at all three libraries and at storytimes in the parks. We’ll have bins of supplies you can use for creative nature play. We’ll also have permanent boxes of natural objects at YDL-Whittaker for building and pretend play. Use large branches to build a fort, or pinecones and small sticks to build a fairy house.

Play in the sandbox, take a walk along the edge of the woods, smell the wildflowers, and see what’s growing in the rain garden. We’ll be outside on Fridays to read aloud and answer questions, but you can visit anytime.

Browse new and popular items safely outdoors in the Library Plaza downtown. Carts will feature different genres of adult, teen, and youth books, audiobooks, movies, TV, and music for all ages. Limited to 15 patrons at a time, and social distancing is required. Book Browse may be canceled due to weather or COVID rates, so check the events calendar for updates each week.

What to expect outdoors at YDL

- Social distancing will be required
- Please bring your own water
- Feel free to bring a folding chair or blanket if you don’t want to sit on the grass
- Plan to use the restroom ahead of time

OUTDOOR BOOK BROWSE AT MICHIGAN AVENUE

Tuesdays, 3-5:30 PM
- Jun 15 & 29 • Jul 13 & 27 • Aug 10 & 24

Saturdays, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM
- Jun 12 & 26 • Jul 10 & 24 • Aug 7 & 21

DOCUMENT SHREDDING

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
Free shredding! Bring up to four copy paper boxes or grocery bags of documents per person. Binders and large binder clips must be removed; staples, paper clips, and rubber bands are OK. This event will end at 1:00pm, or earlier if the truck becomes full. Limited to residents of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti-Township, and Superior Township. Donations to the Friends of YDL will be accepted to help offset the cost. Recommended safety protocols will be in place. Funded in part by a Washtenaw County Waste Reduction Sponsorship.
Ypsilanti District Library | The Loop Summer 2021

YCS UPDATE

You will see Ypsilanti Community Schools out and about this summer.

YCS is kicking off the spring and summer months with a community-oriented campaign to promote the district’s educational program offerings and community resources. The campaign also aims to inform and empower families with the resources to help children succeed and increase enrollment. Working with our community partners, including YDL, YCS aims to establish meaningful relationships with families we meet throughout the summer by facilitating conversations in neighborhoods throughout the area.

There will also be numerous enrollment-focused events in the community, with fun activities for families. You’ll find YCS representatives at Fireman’s Park (6/12), West Willow Park (6/22), and Ford Lake (6/25) with community partners and the Ann Arbor Summer Festival providing students with a BBQ while they enjoy music in the park. See page 2 for more details about the A2SF music series.

YCS will host graduation on Thursday, June 3rd, at Ypsilanti Community High School Shadford Field (ticketed event only). They will also host a showing of the Washtenaw My Brother’s Keeper (WMBK) documentary Formula 734. The documentary showing is June 17, starting at 7:30pm; the movie will begin at 8:30pm. Jazz in the Parking Lot will be Friday, July 23rd, with trumpeter Lin Roundtree. All YCS events will follow COVID-19 guidelines.

Imagine seeing your child burst through the door after a day of learning, telling you all about their grand adventure at Frog Island, the museum, or the science lab at the University of Michigan.

YCS is offering a one-of-a-kind summer school experience. Students will be in small groups with YCS teachers participating in hands-on activities (Mondays through Thursdays). Representatives from organizations around the community will team up with your student’s teacher to provide a unique, fun, and educational experience.

Students will visit museums, studios, gardens, parks, and other area businesses. Transportation will be provided, and students that enroll in summer school will also receive breakfast and lunch.

Look for more information and registration material from your student’s school or at www.ycschools.us

Child care options will be made available for younger students. Students, staff, and partners will follow all COVID-19 safety protections.

WANT TO TALK?
¡HABLEMOS!

Text TALK to 75547 to subscribe to Text and Learn for Kindergarten.

Take a picture of this QR code with your phone to learn more.

LCS UPDATE ON NEW INDOOR TRAINING FACILITY

New Lincoln Athletic Building is a “Game Changer”

Imagine a quarterback working out on one side of the field as a small group of soccer players runs drills on the other side. Nearby, a few softball players hit in a batting cage, while golfers blast drives into nets and pole vaulters practice their technique. At the same time, members of the broader community lift weights and run on treadmills.

That scene is becoming reality as Lincoln Consolidated Schools opens a new indoor athletic facility on campus. The expansive 118,000-square-foot Lincoln Athletic Building, known as the LAB, that voters approved as part of a 2018 bond, features a 300-meter track and about 90 yards of artificial turf that provides dividable indoor practice space for most every outdoor school sport. Plus, the public can use the facility on a membership basis, with revenue offsetting expenses and supporting the school district.

In addition to providing indoor practice space for Lincoln Railsplitters athletics teams, the LAB will also be available for private rentals and is ideal for local soccer, lacrosse, and indoor track clubs - giving local students more options for playing sports outside of school. Other rental possibilities include family reunions, corporate outings, and even proms or graduation parties.

The public can use the facility— including an on-site exercise room — for monthly membership fees of $20 for school district residents age 18 and up, and $5 for residents under 18. Rates for non-residents and for Lincoln students and staff also are available. Learn more at SplitterNation.com or call 734-484-7007.
MORE ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD

A new pilot project aims to make it easier to use food assistance benefits, like SNAP, to get fresh produce.

With the ongoing pandemic, many businesses have added e-commerce platforms to safely connect with their customers. This includes local farms and farmers markets that have added online sales systems over the past year. At the same time, the pandemic has worsened food insecurity and more consumers across the state are eligible for food assistance benefits.

Partly inspired by these realities, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Taste the Local Difference (TLD) launched the Fresh Food Box campaign. The goal of this pilot is to increase fresh food access for SNAP-eligible communities in Detroit and Ypsilanti by connecting them to farmers offering fresh produce through online stores.

“Everyone deserves convenient, safe access to fresh food, and this program supports that,” said Kelly Wilson, Director of Community Partners for Taste the Local Difference.

Six farms and markets, four in Detroit and two in Ypsilanti, are currently participating in the program with plans to expand next season. Each participating farm or market accepts SNAP/EBT through their online store, and some offer Double Up Food Buck (DUFB) - a program that gives SNAP shoppers a 50% discount on produce purchases.

Individuals and families interested in fresh food can select the Fresh Food Box farm that meets their needs based on location, delivery, payment option, and type of products offered. They can then register directly with their desired farm and pay using SNAP/EBT (and P-EBT) or their other preferred payment method.

In Ypsilanti, the participating organizations are Old City Acres and the Ypsilanti Area Online Market. To find more information about how to sign up with any of the nearby community farms, or for information about the Fresh Food Box program, visit localdifference.org/freshfoodbox.

FOOD RESOURCES

LOOKING FOR FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS AND TEENS?

After distributing a record number of meals last year, Food Gatherers will again offer meal pickups at summer food sites across Washtenaw County.

Starting at the end of June, multiple meal packs will be available for all kids and teens ages 18 and under. Individuals up to the age of 26 who are enrolled in educational programs for those with disabilities also qualify. Parents and guardians can collect meal packs on behalf of any eligible participant, and children do not have to be present at distributions.

Service dates and times will vary by site, but YDL will help distribute food at the Perry and Sycamore Meadows sites. The most up-to-date schedule is always available at foodgatherers.org/summerfood. You can contact the Food Gatherers team at 734-761-2796 or summerfood@foodgatherers.org with questions.

The Summer Food Service Program, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), exists to make sure kids have access to complete meals even when school is not in session. Last year, the SFSP adapted to serve grab-and-go meals in Washtenaw County to help keep kids and families safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these changes — and thanks to significant support from Toyota and the Michigan Department of Education — Food Gatherers distributed over 75,000 meals and over 25,000 pounds of groceries and produce across 24 Meet Up and Eat Up sites during the summer of 2020. This was a record number of meals going to families across Washtenaw County, and we hope to rise up and meet just as many needs this year.
MEASURING OPPORTUNITY IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

A new, updated tool can help government officials, non-profits, and community members address disparities in Washtenaw County.

The Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED), in partnership with University of Michigan Poverty Solutions, recently launched the 2020 Opportunity Index—a benchmark tool that combines data from multiple sources to generate a score that measures access to opportunity throughout the county. This is the second index that has been created, and it’s already being integrated into community policy.

In April, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution to integrate the 2020 Opportunity Index into county operations and to inform local government decision-making and program development.

The 2020 Opportunity Index builds off the original 2015 Index to measure how geographic location within Washtenaw County directly impacts access to opportunity by combining 16 indicators into five defined categories:

- Health
- Job access
- Economic well-being
- Education and training
- Community engagement and stability

The updated index is also more user friendly. It uses national and local census data to determine the high and low access to opportunity throughout the county. Compared to the 2015 Opportunity Index, the new index more accurately maps access to opportunity across our county, identifying disparities in access to safe and affordable housing, quality education, employment, adequate healthcare, and stable neighborhoods.

In Washtenaw County, the index showed that race and place matter. The historical implications of racist housing and lending practices that were designed to exclude people of color have left stark disparities that impact communities today. For example, in eight of the county’s 11 census tracts with the lowest access to opportunity, the majority of residents are people of color. This is compared to all but one of the highest opportunity Census tracts, which have a majority of white residents.

Areas marked as high opportunity are more frequent in and around Ann Arbor, while the lowest opportunity areas appear in Ypsilanti and in rural townships on the outskirts of the county, including Lyndon, Northfield, Manchester, and Augusta Township.

To access the 2020 Opportunity Index, visit http://www.opportunitywashtenaw.org/. More information about findings of the index, related maps, and a user guide are available.

For more information regarding the Opportunity Index, contact OCED’s Communications and Policy Specialist Katie Hoffman at hoffmank@washtenaw.org. Training sessions and downloadable data are provided upon request.

UNITED WAY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY LAUNCHES 2021 EQUITY CHALLENGE

United Way of Washtenaw County (UWWC) invites the community to participate in a 21 Day Equity Challenge to build our community’s awareness on the ways that bias, prejudice, privilege, and oppression show up in our work and lives. UWWC has a vision that by 2030, your zip code will no longer predict your opportunity in life. At present, in Washtenaw County, it does. The Challenge will launch on Juneteenth (June 19, 2021).

“Our Equity challenges have brought more than 8,000 people together to uncover biases, learn about structural racism, and how to take action to build an equitable community,” notes Pam Smith, President and CEO of UWWC. “We appreciate Toyota recognizing the importance of this work and helping to build our community.”

The self-guided learning journey will take place from June 19 – July 9. The Challenge examines the history and impacts of racism and how it shapes people’s lived experience in Washtenaw County. Registration for the Challenge will open May 10th.

If you’re playing the YDL Summer Challenge (see page 2), earn a special Equity Challenge digital badge for every activity you complete.

About the Equity Challenge

The Equity Challenge is a commitment to devote 10–15 minutes a day for 21 days to learn about the history and impacts of racism in Washtenaw County and the different ways that bias, prejudice, privilege, and oppression show up in our everyday lives.

Explore this work on your own, with friends and family, or organization-wide. A discussion guide will be available prior to the Challenge.

Share your reflections and “a-ha” moments using the hashtags #unitedforequity, #equitychampions, #uwwequitychallenge.

Your participation in this challenge is 100% private, free, and anonymous.

Visit uwgive.org/equity to learn more about the challenge and review the topics.
FOLLOWING EVERY CENSUS, THE DISTRIBUTION OF CONGRESSIONAL SEATS ACROSS THE NATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON POPULATION MOVEMENT. EACH STATE MUST DRAW NEW LINES FOR U.S. CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE (HOUSE & SENATE) DISTRICTS.

THE COMMISSION MUST:

- Consist of four Democrats, four Republicans, and five Independents, and conduct all its business in the open.
- Draw lines that neither favor nor disfavor incumbents, any political party, or former politician.
- Hold public hearings both before and after it draws new maps, and the public may submit plans and underlying data for the commission’s consideration.

In addition to creating the Commission, Proposition 2 required attention to “communities of interest.” Communities of Interest are people with a mutual interest who may not currently be represented by organizations such as the League, Voters Not Politicians, and the NAACP, but whose representation in voting districts is important. They might represent residents who are members of Hispanic/Latino or Asian or Native American populations, or an adjacent school district with similar issues, or agricultural groups such as dairy farmers or orchard growers, or groups sharing watershed or lake shore areas.

These groups matter because under Michigan’s Constitution, they are meant to be the building blocks for legislative districts. Why? The fundamental purpose is to group members of Communities of Interest in a single district, allowing them to elect and influence legislators. To learn how you or your group can testify before the Commission, or propose maps that represent Communities of Interest, reach out to the League of Women Voters at league@lwvanarbor.org.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 UPDATE

What You Need to Know about COVID-19 in Washtenaw County

COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. They will help us slow the spread of COVID-19 and end the pandemic!

- Everyone who lives or works in Washtenaw County is eligible to schedule an appointment with the Health Department. Check for an open appointment online using the link on our website at www.washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine, or check other options like pharmacies.
- For the latest on COVID-19 vaccines, see www.washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine. You’ll find information on where to get a vaccine, our plans for equitable vaccine distribution, the latest Washtenaw County vaccine data, and more.

Washtenaw County COVID-19 Cases

Widespread vaccinations will eventually help us end the pandemic, but we aren’t there yet. A third surge in the spring led to increased COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Help keep others safe from COVID-19 by continuing to use these precautions:

- Wear face coverings when out in public or around anyone outside of your household.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from anyone outside of your household.
- Wash your hands often and well.
- Stay away from others if you have any symptoms.
- Follow isolation procedures if you test positive or have COVID-19 symptoms. Follow quarantine procedures if you’re a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Learn more about isolation and quarantine: https://bit.ly/39FNuqQ
- We all need to be vigilant and use COVID-19 precautions at every opportunity," said Juan Luis Marquez, medical director with Washtenaw County Health Department. “We can effectively prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 by continuing to use masks and distance as well as avoiding gatherings and following isolation or quarantine when necessary.”

Even if you’re fully vaccinated, continue to use these precautions when out in public. These prevention strategies are most effective when combined! Stopping this pandemic will take ALL our tools: handwashing, masks, social distancing, and vaccines. Taken together, these tools offer the best chance of getting our communities, schools, and workplaces back to normal sooner.

Have a safe summer!

- Get your COVID-19 vaccine
- Wear a mask
- Stay 6 feet apart from others
- Wash or sanitize hands often
- Follow isolation or quarantine guidance if needed

Please note this information was written in April 2021. Up-to-date local COVID-19 information is always available at www.washtenaw.org/covid19. For up-to-date information: Follow WCHD on Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, and Twitter (@washtenawhealth). You can sign up for COVID-19 email updates at https://bit.ly/WCHD555. You can also call 734-544-6700 or email L-wchdcontact@washtenaw.org.
YPSIWRITES
WRITING
MATTERS

Children’s writing workshop roundup

Have you ever thought about writing a children’s book? Participants at a recent YpsiWrites virtual workshop have, and they received advice from three successful authors.

Three questions author Lisa Rose suggested posing were, “What does your character want?” “What are preventing your character from getting what they want?” and “How is it resolved?”

Rose, author of Smulik Paints the Town, A Zombie Vacation, and the just-released A Singer and a Scientist, talked about knowing your characters and developing your plot. “You should know your characters like you know your friends and family,” Rose said.

Debbie Ann Taylor, author of Sweet Music in Harlem and Over in Motown, talked about the key elements of great children’s books, including a “sturdy structure, engaging plot, something at stake… and a surprise or unexpected element.” She said, “A strong beginning can pull the reader right into the story.” Taylor also writes magazine stories for young readers.

Another important element the authors talked about was setting, which shapes the story and the challenges a character faces. Jennifer Torres posed these questions to help think about time and place: “Where does the story take place?” and “Is it set in the past, present, or future?” The award-winning author of Stefl Soto, Taco Queen, The Fresh New Face of Guelata, and other books for young readers, Torres writes stories about home, friendship, and unexpected courage inspired by her Mexican-American heritage. A former newspaper reporter who lives in Southern California, she said “Being observant and aware, and nurturing curiosity about the world are practices that have fueled my fiction writing as much as they did my journalism.”

The authors also encouraged the aspiring writers to connect with other writers through workshops, critique groups, and the local and national Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).

Write a mystery in your hometown

If you love a good mystery, and love writing even more, join YpsiWrites for its upcoming, family-friendly Mystery Maker Challenge, starting June 21. You’ll choose an Ypsilanti landmark, park, museum, or spooky setting and develop your own characters and plot with the help of our mystery-writing prompts.

Create a floorplan of the scene of your mystery, draw a chalk outline of the victim, or make a timeline of the events leading to the crime. Earn a Summer Challenge badge (see page 2) for each mystery-writing activity you complete. Supplies to complete the challenges will be available at ypsilibrary.org/mysterymaker starting June 21. YpsiWrites and YDL Librarians can also suggest good mysteries for book lovers of all ages and reading levels!

Browse area art

Be on the lookout for YpsiWrites’ upcoming Public Art/Public Writing activities. Walk through Depot Town, downtown Ypsi, and EMU’s campus, following our maps that point out sculptures, murals, architecture, and other works of public art. Each piece of art will have writing prompts you can try.

For example, try writing a story from the perspective of one of the people in the sculpture at the Michigan Avenue library branch. Write about what you think they see, smell, like, dislike, think, or do—even what their conversation might be.

Stay on top of all YpsiWrites activities by visiting ypsiwrites.com. Keep an eye out for newly created resources on starting a Pen Pal program and writing and publishing feature stories and news articles. At YpsiWrites, everyone’s a writer, and everyone’s writing matters!