After 15 months of seeing you on computer screens or inside your car, we get to see you back inside the library!

YDL still has virtual programming and curbside service, but now you can also browse the stacks, use the computers, and visit with staff at Whittaker Road and Michigan Avenue. At Superior, brand new lockers are available for holds pickup (see page 2).

The library is still taking steps to stay safe. The vast majority of staff is vaccinated, and air purification systems installed at Whittaker Road and Michigan Avenue are designed to clean the air as well as surfaces. Staff will be following all current MIOSHA guidelines regarding mask wearing in the buildings, and patrons are encouraged to wear masks inside.

There will be a combination of indoor, outdoor, and virtual events this fall. See pages 4–7 for details and safety precautions in place. It’s wonderful to see everyone again, but virtual events mean expanded access. We’ll offer hybrid virtual/in-person events when it makes sense.

The library’s WiFi was upgraded during the closure, so come in and enjoy! YDL meeting rooms remain closed, but should be available to reserve soon. YDL has a brand new, easy-to-use room booking system. There will be kiosks at each location where you can reserve a room from inside the building.

The Friends of YDL Book Shop has also resumed normal hours of operation. For more details on the shop, upcoming book sales, and volunteering for the Friends, see page 12.

For the latest reopening news, visit ypsilibrary.org/reopening, or follow YDL on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Thank you! Your generous contributions to the Young Family Next Chapter Challenge in June and July totaled over $100,000. The Young Family Foundation will match this 2:1, giving YDL’s capital campaign an additional $200,000 to build the new Superior library!

Over 160 donors contributed, including a $35,000 gift from the Song Family Fund via the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation that put us over the top.

The Next Chapter Campaign is currently working to raise enough to purchase the new library’s opening day collection of picture books. If you haven’t made your gift yet, help us start the building’s first generation of little ones off right. Contributions of any size make a difference. Help our kids discover a love of reading by funding one book or 50.

On October 1st a new $100,000 matching challenge kicks off, sponsored by a generous local foundation donor. Visit www.ypsilibrary.org/nextchapter for details. We appreciate your support!
REFLECTIONS ON REOPENING

On March 13, 2020, when YDL closed its doors to prevent the spread of COVID, we planned to reopen two weeks later. Cut to June 21, 2021, when Whittaker finally welcomed patrons back inside after 15 long months.

It was unprecedented. Read on for how our staff felt during those lonely months.

What did you think when we first closed?

John (Circulation): I was working that last day. When it was announced we were closing, it became crazy busy. People came in to stock up. At the time I thought we’d be closed six weeks, tops!

Liz P. (Youth Librarian): Coming back to the library after the closure was like those post-apocalyptic movies where folks are walking through a city seeing evidence of what the people did on their last day. There were abandoned coats on the hooks, mugs in the drying rack, and flyers for programs long since cancelled.

Mary (Outreach): I was in shock and felt a little scattered, trying to tie up loose ends. I had a couple of hours to do that at my desk on the last day we were open, and that was a very busy few hours.

Kelly (Youth Librarian): When we first closed, I was relieved because we were facing this unprecedented pandemic and nobody really knew what was going to happen. It was a scary time, so being closed felt like the safest decision for patrons and staff.

Sheila (Adult Librarian): The seriousness of the pandemic started to sink in, and I truly worried about how many of our patrons would get along last day. There were abandoned coats on the hooks, mugs in the drying rack, and flyers for programs long since cancelled.

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Kelly (Youth Librarian): When we first closed, I was relieved because we were facing this unprecedented pandemic and nobody really knew what was going to happen. It was a scary time, so being closed felt like the safest decision for patrons and staff.

Any unexpected positives that emerged?

John: It really reinforced to me the amazing sense of community we have in our area.

NEW LOCKERS AT SUPERIOR

Thanks to a generous gift of $10,000 from the DTE Foundation, we have new and improved lockers at the Superior Township library for pick-up of library materials. If the library’s current hours are difficult for you, place your items on hold for pickup at YDL-Superior, then choose locker pickup when you make your curbside reservation. Simply scan your library card and the door with your items will pop open, already checked out to you.

GET “THE SMARTEST CARD”

This September, to celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month, we encourage you to open your world with a free library card. Your card lets you check out materials from the library and access all of YDL’s digital offerings, including books, audiobooks, movies, and more. Use our easy, online application to get started at ypsilibrary.org/library-cards.

Marley Dias, author, executive producer, and founder of #1000BlackGirlBooks, is joining the American Library Association and libraries nationwide in promoting the power of a library card this September as this year’s honorary chair.

“A library card provides opportunity for discovery and access to a rich and diverse world. It empowers you to make change and experience new stories,” said Dias.

For more information about Library Card Sign-Up Month and activities you can participate in, visit ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/card.
Bringing young people a sense of togetherness while they’re physically separated is the theme of a newly expanded teen subscription pack program organized by the Ypsilanti District Library’s (YDL) Teen Advisory Group (TAG).

Since January, TAG members had been creating packets of free take-home activities and conversational ice-breakers, using funds from YDL’s budget. Now they plan to expand the program, reach more teens, and provide paid internships. That major expansion is thanks to a $24,000 grant from Generator Z, an initiative of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation that supports teens and after-school programming providers.

“Teen mental health was something we wanted to prioritize and positively contribute to,” said TAG member Sophie Nepiuk, 17. “So we designed a program where we could get online resources and goodies to people to make them feel cared about during this time.”

In addition to handing out more packs, the grant will allow TAG members to expand programming and record a podcast. They’ll be vetting and interviewing candidates to become paid interns, who will help create and run teen programming through YDL. YDL is now taking applications for internships. Teens can apply for an internship, reserve a pack, or listen to the podcast at ypsilibrary.org/subscription-packs.

Nepiuk says the goal is to help connect young people to each other in an ongoing way, not just during the pandemic. The monthly packs usually contain a book, plus conversation starters, and each month focuses on a different theme. Topics tackled so far include social justice and the Black Lives Matter movement; Pride; Juneteenth; and self-care and mental health.

“We want our packs to tie into important issues like social justice, and global and community issues,” says TAG member Ayesha Nadeem, 14.

TAG is a group of teen volunteers who guide the library in selecting materials and designing programming for teens. They also write grant proposals, present to other youth organizations, and volunteer at YDL youth programs.

“They really feel passionate about making positive change in the community and the larger world. They’re tackling big topics—issues that are complicated for everyone, but especially for teens,” says YDL Youth Librarian Kelly Scott. Scott says a steady group of about 17 young people met throughout the pandemic.

With new grant funding, TAG plans to increase the number of packs it creates from 20–30 per month to 100 per month. Some packs will be distributed at the library, while others will go to youth-serving organizations like Ozone House and the Corner Health Center.

Nadeem is not only a TAG member but was one of 1,000 teens chosen to guide the Generator Z ideas lab, which launched in 2020. The teen “generators” shared their stories and insights, and nearly 100 organizations received grants to turn some of those ideas into programs.

Nadeem was part of a roundtable of teens that helped Generator Z define teens’ after-school needs, and she even gave feedback on Generator Z branding and marketing materials.

Scott notes that TAG truly is a youth-driven group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group. Teens take on the bulk of all projects they start and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our group.

With Scott and fellow youth librarian Jodi Krahnke note that the TAG members on the steering committee for the subscription packs are getting real-world experience that will help them later in life.

“We’re really excited,” Krahnke says. “It’s a large grant, and it’s great to be able to walk teens through managing a process like this.”

Scott says the work the teens have done in starting and expanding the teen subscription pack program is “a testament to how engaged our youth are in what’s happening in the world.”

Any local teens ages 13–18 interested in learning more about or joining TAG can find more information at ypsilibrary.org/tag.
TUESDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP 10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Join us for Tuesday morning discussions of a variety of books.

SUNSET IN THE SKY 6:30pm | Virtual
Learn about the effects of the sunset on the sky and atmosphere.

FRIDAY WALKING CLUB 1:30pm | Whittaker
Enjoy some exercise! We’ll meet in the Whittaker lobby. Questions? Call (734) 482-4110 x2411.


SEMINARS FOR BEGINNERS 2:00–4:00pm | Virtual (or Gmail) account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 x2411.

MICROSOFT OFFICE - ADVANCED 3:00pm | Virtual
Learn advanced topics related to Microsoft Office applications.

MICROSOFT OFFICE - ADVANCED 4:00pm | Virtual
Learn advanced features and productivity tips for Microsoft Office.

MICROSOFT EXCEL - ADVANCED 5:00pm | Virtual
Explore advanced features and optimization techniques for Microsoft Excel.

MICROSOFT PowerPoint - ADVANCED 6:00pm | Virtual
Learn advanced techniques and formatting options for PowerPoint presentations.

MICROSOFT Word - ADVANCED 7:00pm | Virtual
Explore advanced writing techniques and document formatting in Microsoft Word.

MICROSOFT Excel - ADVANCED 8:00pm | Virtual
Learn advanced data analysis, formulas, and advanced functions in Microsoft Excel.

MICROSOFT PowerPoint - ADVANCED 9:00pm | Virtual
Learn advanced slide design, animations, and advanced features in PowerPoint.

MICROSOFT Outlook - ADVANCED 10:00pm | Virtual
Explore advanced email management and calendar synchronization in Microsoft Outlook.

MICROSOFT Publisher - ADVANCED 11:00pm | Virtual
Learn advanced layout and design options for Microsoft Publisher.

MICROSOFT Access - ADVANCED 12:00am | Virtual
Explore advanced database management and querying in Microsoft Access.

MICROSOFT Outlook - ADVANCED 1:00am | Virtual
Learn advanced scheduling and meeting management in Microsoft Outlook.

MICROSOFT Publisher - ADVANCED 2:00am | Virtual
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Explore advanced data analysis, formulas, and advanced functions in Microsoft Excel.

MICROSOFT PowerPoint - ADVANCED 1:00am | Virtual
Learn advanced slide design, animations, and advanced features in PowerPoint.
**SAFELY TALK ABOUT RACE & RACISM: SCREENING “WHOSE VOTE COUNTS, EXACTLY?”**  
10:00pm | YDL-Whittaker  
Use paint, wire, beads, and more to embellish a small tree branch pieces to take home. There will also be a chance to collaborate with others on a small tree wall display in the Youth Department.

**TEEN BOOK CLUB DRAWING**  
4:00 PM | YDL—Michigan  
Drop in and draw with local artist Kimon Reynolds! Learn the fundamentals of cartooning and comic books and how to draw your own characters, faces, backgrounds, lettering, and much more.

**INTRODUCTION TO SELLING ITEMS ON ETSY**  
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker  
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

**MICROSOFT POWERPOINT - BASICS (Adult)**  
2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker  
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

**ONLINE DATABASES**  
11:00am | YDL-Whittaker  
Library Card & Register. Google (or Gmail) account is required for register. Details coming soon.

**GAMING 101**  
11:00am | YDL-Michigan  
Learn what games you can play on a computer, how to find and download games and install them, as well as how to use a game controller.

**STEAM Club**  
1:00pm | YDL-Whittaker  
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

**INTERACTIVE CARTOON DRAWING**  
4:00 PM | YDL—Michigan  
Open to all! Ideas and inspiration are provided, and materials are supplied! We will encourage creativity and imagination.

**NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY**  
Learn how to register, sign up for election reminders, request mail-in ballots, early voting options, and more. Details coming soon.

**MOTHER'S DAY GARDEN**  
10:00am | YDL-Whittaker  
Join us for a lighthearted afternoon to engage your mind, connect with others, work on a project, and play with a new technique! With support from The Creative Collab.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC NARRATIVE CLUB**  
7:30 PM Frog Island Park/Ypsi Alehouse  
The Graphic Narrative Book Club will meet outside every third Tuesday to discuss the graphic narrative from ancient hieroglyphs to modern Manga. Meeting may become virtual due to COVID rates or weather. Watch the Facebook group page for updates. Contact Matt Lawlor at smarlowe@ypsi.lib.mi.us or call (734) 482-4110, x1360.

**GRAPHIC NARRATIVE CLUB**  
7:30 PM Frog Island Park/Ypsi Alehouse  
The Graphic Narrative Book Club will meet outside every third Tuesday to discuss the graphic narrative from ancient hieroglyphs to modern Manga. Meeting may become virtual due to COVID rates or weather. Watch the Facebook group page for updates. Contact Matt Lawlor at smarlowe@ypsi.lib.mi.us or call (734) 482-4110, x1360.

**BIRDING WALK (All Ages)**  
11:00am | YDL-Whittaker  
Join us for an introductory look into birding with kid-friendly activities to spur a lifelong love. Members of the Washtenaw County Audubon Society will share tips on how to get started. Then, take a walk near the library to see what birds we can find. If you have binoculars, bring them along!

**PSYCHOS OLYMPIC WALLS**  
10:30am–12pm | YDL—Michigan  
Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulletted and numbered lists, and insert tabs. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

**SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE**  
9:00am | YDL-Whittaker  
Try out giant bubbles, baking soda science, cast a faux fossil, and plant a little grass head at our science stations. Event will be held outside but cancelled in the event of rain. No indoor library access will be available.

**COCA-COLA CALENDAR - BASICS (Adult)**  
7:00pm | YDL-Whittaker  
Learn the basics for setting up your Google Calendar, how to use software to show how your schedule changes. Fewer dates to remember, and no indoor library access will be available.

**WASHTENAW AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY MEETING**  
1:30 pm | YDL-Whittaker  
Washtenaw African American Genealogy Society meets the third Saturday of each month. We provide a welcoming environment to those interested in learning genealogy tips, techniques, and historical facts in order to trace their ancestry. All skill levels are welcomed and encouraged. Email ajk15@psu.edu to be added to the Zoom invitation.

**LOVE OF LEARNING CLUB (Adult)**  
11:00am | YDL-Whittaker  
Join us for lively discussions of books by African American authors. Each month we will be reading a nonfiction or picture book. Perfect for ages 10 and up.

**秈YPISLO LUMINAR WORKSHOP**  
10:30am–12pm | YDL—Michigan  
The Luminar symbolizes interdependence. Make a hexagon to add to the lighted community collage and create simple tortoise luminaries. Bring your light to ypsilinOW on October 29th! All ages welcome.

**THE MOTHER’S DAY GARDEN**  
10:00am | YDL—Michigan  
Open to all! Ideas and inspiration are provided, and materials are supplied! We will encourage creativity and imagination.

**DESSERTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS**  
5:00pm | Virtual  
2.5 hours | YDL-Whittaker  
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

**SAT Math Prep**  
4:30pm | Virtual  
Our SAT math prep tutor Geetha Eswaran returns! Geetha will be available each Thursday to help high school students prepare for the math portion of the SAT. Register for access to the Zoom link. Supporting materials and workbooks will be available for participants to pick up at the library. Call 734-879-1304 or email jodi@ypsilibrary.org with questions or to schedule pickup of materials.

**CLASSIC COMIC BOOK DRAWING**  
4:00 PM | YDL—Michigan  
Open to all! Ideas and inspiration are provided, and materials are supplied! We will encourage creativity and imagination.

**MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE**  
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker  
In this intermediate level class, learn to apply functions, filter data, create charts, and print worksheets. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

**PSYCHOSOLAR WORKSHOPS**  
10:30am–12pm | YDL—Michigan  
The Luminar symbolizes interdependence. Make a hexagon to add to the lighted community collage and create simple tortoise luminaries. Bring your light to ypsilinOW on October 29th! All ages welcome.

**MICROSOFT POWERPOINT - BASICS (Adult)**  
2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker  
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

**BIRDING WALK (All Ages)**  
11:00am | YDL-Whittaker  
Join us for an introductory look into birding with kid-friendly activities to spur a lifelong love. Members of the Washtenaw County Audubon Society will share tips on how to get started. Then, take a walk near the library to see what birds we can find. If you have binoculars, bring them along!

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**MICROSOFT WORD - INTERMEDIATE**  
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker  
Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulletted and numbered lists, and insert tabs. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.
**Event Schedule | Fall 2021 | Visit ypsilibrary.org/events**

### Celebrating National Book Month

#### Ypsilanti District Library

#### ES-L Book Club

Join Washinton Lee's ES-L book club for intermediates to advanced readers. Talk and learn about language, grammar, and cultural aspects of a different book each week. Members will be expected to read approximately 45 pages in advance of each session. To register, contact Washinton Lee at (734) 337-3338.

**Wednesday, Oct 6 – Dec 1**

**ESL BOOK CLUB**

10:30am | Virtual

Join Washinton Lee's ESL book club for intermediates to advanced readers. Talk and learn about language, grammar, and cultural aspects of a different book each week. Members will be expected to read approximately 45 pages in advance of each session. To register, contact Washinton Lee at (734) 337-3338.

**ESL BOOK CLUB**

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**ESL BOOK CLUB**

10:30am | Virtual

Join Washinton Lee's ESL book club for intermediates to advanced readers. Talk and learn about language, grammar, and cultural aspects of a different book each week. Members will be expected to read approximately 45 pages in advance of each session. To register, contact Washinton Lee at (734) 337-3338.

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TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR KIDS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES: A PARENTS & PROFESSIONALS GROUP
11:00 AM | YDL-Michigan
See Oct. 23 description.

FREEBIE FARM MARKET (Adult)
7:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 30 description.

THE ANALOGUE COMMUNITY TABLE: LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY
2:00 PM | Virtual
See Oct. 22 description.

WINTER VACATION WORKSHOP: MAKING MUSIC WITH LEGO
5:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 22 description.

SONORAN DESERT: PLANT & ANIMAL IDENTITY & INTERACTIONS
5:00 PM | YDL-Michigan
See Oct. 23 description.

SATURDAY STORYTIME, SING, PLAY, 10:30 AM
YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 23 description.

FALL TERRACE: COMFORTABLE BURLAP
11:00 AM | YDL-Michigan
See Oct. 24 description.

LAPTOP COMPUTER BASICS
11:00 AM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 26 description.

DESCRIPTION卡

MIDNOON MONSTERS: WEDNESDAY STORYTIME & ACTIVITY
10:30 AM | YDL-Michigan
See Oct. 27 description.

SLOW SAVVY IN THE CITY: LOCAL SLOW FOOD & SLOW MOVEMENTS
5:00 PM | YDL-Michigan
See Oct. 27 description.

ADULT YOGA CLASSES: VINYASA FLOW
2:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Sept. 27 description.

VENETIAN INTERACTIVE ART EXPERIENCE
12:30 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 21 description.

YOGA IN THE GARDEN (Adult)
7:00 AM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 22 description.

PRIMATOBURCH NETTING TO ACCESSIBLE
6:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 22 description.

ATTITUDE WORKSHOP: LEARN TO EXPRESS YOURSELF
6:00 PM | YDL-Michigan
See Oct. 23 description.

IMPROVING YOUR WRITING STRATEGIES: OCTOBER SESSION
6:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 24 description.

WILLIAM PENN'S PAPER: FROM PIGMENTS TO PRINTING
6:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 24 description.

SMART PHOTOSHOP TIPS: BASIC TO ADVANCED
6:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 24 description.

COMING TOGETHER: MUSIC AGED 50+
6:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 25 description.

THE GREAT HUG: DEEP TISSUE TOUCH WORKSHOP
6:00 PM | YDL-Michigan
See Oct. 26 description.

PUBLIC SPEAKING TIP-UPS for effective communication
6:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 27 description.

POSTER MAKING WITH ART FOAM STICKERS
6:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 27 description.

INTRODUCING BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY
6:00 PM | YDL-Michigan
See Oct. 28 description.

GROWTH MINDSET: UNDERSTANDING THE BRAIN
6:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 28 description.

COMING TOGETHER: MUSIC AGED 50+
6:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 29 description.

LAPTOP COMPUTER BASICS
11:00 AM | YDL-Whittaker
See Oct. 29 description.

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SCHOOLS

YPSI CONNECTED COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS K-8

Ypsilanti Community Schools has rolled out a learning-at-a-distance option to students in the community. Using lessons learned during the pandemic school year, YCS has created the YPSI Connected Community School. In this learning-at-a-distance school, teachers conduct daily live instruction for K-8 students via the Internet. YPSI Connected Community School, which will be called YC2 (why-see-squared) for short, will also offer in-person opportunities for students.

During the pandemic, students missed out on field trip opportunities and other safe ways to see other students and teachers in person. While YC2 will offer field trips and gatherings to students, they are not required. YC2 will have classrooms, meeting rooms, offices, and labs on the A.C.C.E. Campus located at 1076 Ecorse Road in Ypsilanti.

Students enrolled in the school will find:

- Personalized learning pathways created for each student in partnership with the family.
- Small group instruction for academic acceleration by master teachers.
- Learning alliances with the community: Families, teachers, and students all have a voice.
- Placed-based community service projects.
- YC2 believes the joy of learning can take place anywhere and will develop relationships with families and students to accelerate the learning trajectory.

For enrollment information please visit ycschools.us or call 734-221-1066. YCS offers School of Choice for students who live outside district boundaries.

NEW VIRTUAL ACADEMY AT LCS

Lincoln Consolidated Schools is making its LCS Virtual Academy a permanent part of the school community.

As COVID-19 spread, school districts throughout Michigan were creating online learning opportunities for families. LCS had already been thinking about this type of learning experience due to needs discovered within the student community.

“Lincoln had been talking about having a virtual academy for years before the pandemic, and we plan on continuing ours,” said Karensa Smith, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. “I don’t think this year it’s as much about the pandemic as about ‘This is what works better for my child.’ There are students and families that just prefer this option and thrive in this setting.”

LCS Virtual Academy is open to all kindergarten through high school students. Students will receive instruction from Lincoln teachers and will enjoy the same educational opportunities and extracurricular activities as their peers that attend in-person instruction. Virtual Academy students can take part in athletics, drama, robotics, and other activities outside school hours.

Students attend virtual instruction remotely and can complete class assignments as they best fit in their daily schedules. LCS Virtual Academy students will have the same opportunities to build relationships with our students and staff.

“We want our LCS Virtual Academy students to feel connected to our school community,” Smith said. “That’s the value of having our own teachers be the teachers at LCS Virtual Academy. You’re still part of our Lincoln family and can be building relationships with students and staff.”

Learn more about the Academy by watching the district’s presentation at www.youtube.com/embed/za91jv5DAkg.

TIME TO TALK

Looking for activities to make sure your little one is ready to start school when the time comes? Scan the code to sign up for TALK! We’ll text you two activities each week you can do at home.
BACK TO SCHOOL WITH CONFIDENCE

This fall, many students are returning to an in-person classroom for the first time in a year and a half. Most are probably excited to see friends again, but they may also have fears about going back. Read on for tips to help with the transition.

CREATE A ROUTINE

Before School: Start with a morning routine that feels comfortable, safe, and nurturing. Include a calming activity like reading a book together or make a special breakfast.

At school: For children transitioning from elementary school to middle school, it may be helpful to meet with your child’s teachers and advisors to prepare them for things like moving classrooms, using lockers, and having multiple teachers for the first time.

After School: See the Homework Help article on this page for ways the library can help support good study habits after school.

There are activity bins with supplies in the library that can help your child brush up on early reading skills, too. Make sure your daily routine has a consistent evening wind-down, and include quiet time for reading. You can request a “hand-picked for you” bundle, or grab a preassembled themed bag of books from the YDL youth department.

BUILD COPING SKILLS

Uncertainty can fuel anxiety about returning to school. Answer questions honestly. Let your child know feeling nervous is normal, and end the conversation on a positive note.

Put a photo or other special item inside their lunchbox to help them feel connected to home. Teach mindfulness techniques to help your child calm down if they feel anxious. School age kids are encouraged to attend YDL’s Thursday evening Stories in Motion sessions, which include a read aloud, yoga stretches, and mindfulness techniques to wind down before bed (details on page 7). Don’t miss counselor Christina Herbin’s paper flowers workshop on October 9, where she’ll show kids how to make tissue paper flowers to create and encourage positive thoughts (details on page 6).

MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

If your child is nervous about what school is going to look like, take a virtual tour! Ypsilanti Community Schools has virtual tours of every district school building on their website.

Check in with the teacher to learn how the day will go. Consider putting a schedule in your child’s backpack as a reminder of how their day looks. Use a visual schedule for younger children, with simple pictures or drawings, including someone picking your child up at the end of the school day.

Your child is probably out of the habit of packing everything they need for school and after school activities, so make it easier by creating a daily backpack checklist. At the library, middle and high school students can attend Yen Azzaro’s sketchnote workshop on October 10 (see page 6) to learn a new creative way to take better notes and stay organized. If your child discovered a new activity they enjoyed during the pandemic, check to see if there are after school clubs or library events they can join to find friends with similar interests.

ATTENTION TEACHERS!

Looking for ways YDL can help in the classroom? Teachers can apply for a classroom card in addition to their personal library card if they teach in Ypsilanti Community Schools, Lincoln Consolidated Schools, or any other public, private, or charter school in the YDL service area.

With a classroom card, there are no limits on the number of items that can be checked out, no late fees, and a four-week checkout period. With the 85 classroom cards currently active, teachers have allowed students to choose a book during field trips to keep in the classroom, found materials to prepare for thematic units, and checked out extra copies of books for group reading assignments. Getting a classroom card is easy—to apply, just ask at any YDL location and bring a recent paycheck stub or ID from your employer, along with a photo ID that shows your current address.

Need help finding resources for a particular lesson? Teachers can use their classroom cards to request book bundles. Book bundles are a great way to find supporting materials for an upcoming unit or topic. Nearly 2,000 items were checked out last year using classroom cards, including materials that were part of these bundles!

You can request fiction, nonfiction, picture books, audiobooks, and DVDs in your bundle. Simply fill out the form on our website with your desired grade level, type of materials, quantity, and topic, and our librarians will put together a variety of materials for classroom use. You can also request one of our Book Club Kits. Visit ypsilibrary.org/book-club-kits for details.

Find the bundle request forms, classroom card information, and much more at ypsilibrary.org/school-support.

HOMEWORK HELP

Whether you’re in for a more average school year, or another strange one, YDL can help your family navigate it.

Tutoring isn’t just for those who are struggling academically. According to a 2021 Michigan Department of Education presentation on Accelerated Learning, individual tutoring has “large, positive effects on students.” It can offer “more engagement, rapid feedback, and less distractions.” Sessions can improve not only academic performance, but also encourage good study habits and increase student motivation and confidence.

Most importantly, tutors can accommodate a variety of learning styles that may differ from the teaching style used in a large classroom setting, and can provide an academic challenge for advanced students.

You can use your YDL card to get live, online homework help in any subject on Tutor.com. Tutors are available to help you with math, science, foreign languages, AP classes, and more. Test prep and career resources are available, along with proofreading and editing assistance.

Students can access research tools and databases at ypsilibrary.org/research. Whether you need to find scholarly articles on Explora or practice a new art technique with Creativebug, there’s an online resource for you.

There are also a number of local options for homework help.

826michigan will continue to offer online writing and schoolwork support for all ages beginning in October. For high school students, YpsiWrites will offer drop in writing help on alternating Tuesdays and Saturdays at Michigan Avenue and Whitlaker Road (see page 4–5).

SAT math prep tutor Geetha Elangovan will also return to help high school students prepare for the math portion of the SAT (see page 5).

Keep an eye out on the YDL calendar for other tutoring sessions that may be added throughout the fall.

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See the Homework Help article on this page for ways the library can help support good study habits after school.

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You can request fiction, nonfiction, picture books, audiobooks, and DVDs in your bundle. Simply fill out the form on our website with your desired grade level, type of materials, quantity, and topic, and our librarians will put together a variety of materials for classroom use. You can also request one of our Book Club Kits. Visit ypsilibrary.org/book-club-kits for details.

Find the bundle request forms, classroom card information, and much more at ypsilibrary.org/school-support.
WASHTENAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 UPDATE

Need your COVID-19 vaccine?
COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, FREE, and easy to get. Visit http://bit.ly/vaxwchd or call 734-544-6700 to get your vaccine. Many local pharmacies can also provide COVID-19 vaccines. For the latest on COVID-19 in Washtenaw County, see www.washtenaw.org/covid19

Be protected: get your flu shot!
Flu season is coming up. The Health Department strongly recommends everyone six months and older get vaccinated against flu every year – ideally before the end of October and definitely before the winter holidays. Getting vaccinated, washing your hands, covering coughs, and staying away from others when sick can prevent the spread of flu!

Flu is a contagious illness that can be spread person-to-person through droplets when an infected person sneezes, coughs, or talks. The flu can affect anyone, but older adults, children, and people with chronic health conditions are at greater risk for severe complications from flu.

Flu shots can protect you against severe illness, hospitalization, or death. Getting vaccinated also protects the people around you who may be at greater risk of serious illness! Get vaccinated at your doctor’s office, pharmacy, or call the Health Department at 734-544-6700. See www.washtenaw.org/flu for updates.

What does the Health Department do?
The Washtenaw County Health Department works with the community to help everyone be as healthy as possible. They respond to serious diseases like COVID-19, whooping cough, and measles, and provide clinical services like vaccines and HIV & STI testing. They also run community-driven health promotion programs and work to make sure Washtenaw County residents have access to healthy food, clean water, and safe food and housing.

Contact them to schedule an appointment for clinical services like HIV/STI testing, vaccines, and birth control. There are many programs aimed at protecting and promoting health:
• WIC provides food for pregnant women and kids up to 5 years old. Available to low and moderate income families. Call 734-544-6800 or email ypsilantiwic@yahoo.com
• For help with health insurance, contact the Washtenaw Health Plan at 734-544-3030 or email whp@washtenaw.org
• Washtenaw County Dental Clinic: new patients contact 877-313-6232
• #WishYouKnew Youth Mental Health Campaign: follow @wishyouknewwashtenaw on Instagram

RENTAL AND UTILITY RELIEF ASSISTANCE FUNDS AVAILABLE NOW

Are you experiencing prolonged financial hardships due to COVID? You can get help from the COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program.

The Federal CDC Eviction Moratorium has been extended to October 31, 2021, and funds are available for qualifying households in Washtenaw County who continue to face pandemic-related hardships in avoiding eviction. CERA is available for income-eligible households in Washtenaw County who have fallen behind on rent, utility, and/or Internet bills during COVID-19.

If you have experienced a loss of income, changes in unemployment income, or a similar economic hardship, you may qualify for up to 12 months of back rent assistance, with 3 months of forward rent assistance.

Documentation is required, but the application can be completed online at CERAapp.michigan.gov or michigan.gov/cera. Paper applications are also available by contacting Housing Access for Washtenaw County at (734) 961-1999. Applications must be emailed to hawc.washtenaw@usc.salvationarmy.org or mailed or dropped off at Housing Access for Washtenaw County, 100 Arbana Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

CERA is administered locally through a partnership between the Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development, Housing Access for Washtenaw County (HAWC), and SOS Community Services.

When applying it helps to have as many of these documents available as possible:
• Photo ID (e.g. Driver’s License, State ID, or Passport)
• Paystubs or other proof of income or benefits (unemployment, SSI) for the last 30 days
• Copy of lease and information about owed rent
• Income tax return
• Utility statements you are responsible for
• Internet bills or statements, if applicable
• Explanation of how COVID impacted you financially

If you need help applying for CERA assistance, please contact HAWC at (734) 961-1999. More details and information can be found at michigan.gov/cera. A tenant user guide is available in English and Spanish at www.washtenaw.org/3421/CERA.

¿Habla español y necesita ayuda en ese idioma? Llame a Buenos Vecinos al 734-210-0112 para recibir asistencia de renta, servicios públicos y/o Internet a través del Programa de Asistencia de Alquiler de Emergencia por COVID (CERA).
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: NEW NAME, SAME COMMITMENT

To better recognize the work and dedication of members across the county, the local League of Women Voters is changing their name. The League of Women Voters – Ann Arbor Area is now the League of Women Voters Washtenaw County.

“Many of our 300-plus members reside far afield, doing valuable work in Washtenaw County’s townships and communities that don’t see themselves as part of Ann Arbor,” said President Joan Sampieri. “Our recent efforts toward diversity, equity, and inclusion in our programs and our membership inspired the name change, which reflects broader participation by citizens of all backgrounds, parties, and localities.”

The group is still doing the same work, such as local candidate forums prior to elections, a county-wide observer corps, providing local ballot information through Vote411.org, voter registration, and other programs to educate members and the public. They do also welcome men who want to be a part of the group.

The League has a new website location, and updated Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. They also have a new email address.

Find more information about the League of Women Voters Washtenaw County in the following places:

- Website: lwwashtenaw.org
- Email: league@lwwashtenaw.org
- Facebook: facebook.com/LWVWashtenaw
- Twitter: twitter.com/lwwashtenaw
- Instagram: instagram.com/lwwashtenaw

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

National Voter Registration Day

Voting is an important way to enjoy the rights and opportunities we all share as Americans and celebrate our democracy. Join us on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, Sep 28th, to learn about how to register, sign up for election reminders, request mail-in ballots, early voting options, and more. Let your voice be heard! Details coming soon.

FOOD DELIVERY FOR SENIORS

The Ypsi Area Online Market is starting deliveries of local produce and goods to seniors living at Chidester Place, Cross Street Village, and Towne Centre Place. Growing Hope is piloting this delivery program to improve food access for populations that are vulnerable to COVID-19 and/or have limited access to transportation or the Internet.

No computer is necessary—place an order by phone and the market will deliver to you! The online market offers seasonal fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy, baked goods, and more.

Ordering by phone is open on Thursdays from 11AM to 2PM and on Fridays from 12PM to 4PM. Call 734-707-1795. The market accepts SNAP/EBT and DUFB. If you would prefer to order online or would like more information, please email vivi@growinghope.net, or call 734-707-1795.

GET YOUR GARDEN READY FOR FALL

As the gardening season comes to an end, a few things should be done in preparation for the next one. You may have noticed that many of the garden plants have seeds that are ready to harvest. You can save those seeds to plant in your garden next year!

Carefully monitor your plants for ripe seeds. Seeds are produced and mature in different ways and places for different plants. For example, bean seeds grow inside their pods. You have to wait for the lettuce to bloom to see the seeds in the flowers’ capsules. Tomato, squash, and cucumber seeds mature within fleshy fruits.

While the ideal time for gathering seeds varies from crop to crop, fall is a great time to gather seeds as many crops mature in August or September. Generally, let vegetable garden seeds dry on the plant as long as possible. For flowers and herbs, wait for the stalk to turn brown, and carefully shake off the seeds. Try to harvest seeds on a sunny day, once the dew has dried.

Store seeds where it’s cool, dark, and dry, and make sure that they are completely dry and free of pulp by spreading them out on a flat surface in a dry, airy place. Once seeds are dry, put them in envelopes or jars and label them. You can even make and decorate your own seed packet. Find suggestions for a design on our Food Justice blog post at ypsilibrary.org/food-justice.

Learn more about seeds and seed saving at ypsilibrary.org/seedsaving.

Don’t have a garden where you can harvest seeds? Visit any of YDL’s community gardens and harvest the seeds here! Next year, plant them in a container that you can keep on your balcony or patio. Some plants, like herbs and lettuce, can live on a windowsill. You really don’t need much space to start growing your own food!
October marks the second anniversary of Ypsi Writes, the community writing resource powered by Eastern Michigan University’s Office of Campus & Community Writing, Ypsilanti District Library, and 826michigan.

This year’s theme for Ypsi Writes, which will be incorporated in the anniversary celebration, is “Write Now.” To celebrate, writers of all ages can join in writing activities and share their own reasons for writing. This year’s celebration is Saturday, October 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at YDL-Whittaker. Some activities will also be available that day at Michigan Avenue.

Ypsi Writes was founded on the premise that everyone’s a writer “whether they write lists, social media posts, emails, text messages, or novels,” said Ann Blakeslee, EMU English professor and Ypsi Writes co-founder. “We also believe that writing matters.” Ypsi Writes has something to support or inspire all writers, regardless of experience or comfort level. Anything from “Tips for Tackling All Kinds of Writing” to nature writing prompts are at ypsiwrites.com.

Writing volunteers from Ypsilanti and the surrounding communities also facilitate Ypsi Writes workshops on topics ranging from writing children’s books to creating gifts with writing, writing blog posts and news articles, writing poetry, and even writing marketing materials.

“I’m so glad we have an expert resource for people who need writing help” said YDL outreach librarian, Mary Garboden. “It has been a game changer that we can direct people to the expert writing support provided by Ypsi Writes.”

Diane Winder, volunteer and Professor Emeritus of Music at EMU, added, “Ypsi Writes has succeeded as a town-grown, multi-age project. This results in learning, joy, and writing for partners as diverse as the Ypsilanti District Library, Mentor2Youth, Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, the Washtenaw Jewish News, and 22ETHICS.” Ypsi Writes will deliver more in-person writing support this fall with drop-in tutoring hours at both Whittaker Road and Michigan Avenue (see pages 4 & 5). Workshops will also be in person, with some remaining virtual.

For more information about Ypsi Writes initiatives and programs, to download resources and program materials, or to volunteer, visit ypsiwrites.com. Writers can also connect with Ypsi Writes on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on future writing projects, events, and workshops.

Since the book shop at YDL-Whittaker has resumed normal hours of operation, the Friends need volunteers. There are plenty of ways to help, like assisting with book shop sales and sorting the generous donations the Friends receive. Whatever your availability, your assistance is greatly appreciated.

THE FRIENDS BOOK SALE IS BACK

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THE BOOK SHOP’S HOURS OF OPERATION ARE:
• Monday 2–8:00
• Tuesday 6–8:00
• Wednesday 10–2:00
• Thursday 10–4:00
• Friday 10–2:00
• Saturday 11–5:00
• Sunday 2–4:00

If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer, please fill out the application at ypsilibrary.org/volunteer-at-the-friends-book-shop.