Twenty years ago, more than 3,000 members of our community were on hand to celebrate the opening of a new building on Whittaker Road. Architecturally stunning, the 60,000 square-foot library has allowed YDL to grow significantly over the last two decades. Built on land donated by Ypsilanti Township, it serves as YDL’s central location, housing our largest collection, and providing a “home base” for the bookmobile and library administration. It features a popular Friends Book Shop and offers a variety of spaces for gatherings, learning, study, or reflection.

YDL-Whittaker opened its doors on January 27, 2002, with nearly 200,000 items already in the collection and 45 staff members on site. Today, you’ll find nearly 400,000 materials and 59 staff members at YDL-Whittaker.

The grand opening was a massive celebration, with Customer Services Coordinator John Connaghan noting that “cars were parked all along Whittaker Road and the police ended up having to come by to direct traffic. The line at the checkout stretched all the way to the back of the library near the YA area.”

Paula Drummond, head of Adult Services, called the opening day “absolutely astonishing.” She added that “we pretty much had to abandon any plans we had and just had to let people experience the facility, so many people came.”

First impressions of the Whittaker building were full of excitement, and the enthusiasm continues today. New visitors are “in awe at what a magnificent space it is,” said Connaghan, but “frequent users usually comment on what a great staff we have and the programs we offer.”

Before opening at 5577 Whittaker Road the surrounding area wasn’t nearly as populated as it is now. As construction began, many passers-by thought the impressive structure could be a church or school due to its size, but were amazed to find out it would be their new library.

The opening of the Whittaker Road library allowed YDL to offer more materials, services, and programs than ever before. It houses 6 bookable meeting rooms, including our large Community Room, a computer lab, quiet study spaces, and larger rooms for programs. The library’s collection has doubled since 2002.

YDL’s expansion with the opening of the new Superior branch this fall will allow us to provide even more to our community. In the 154-year history of the Ypsilanti District Library, 20 years may not seem long, but the past two decades have been a period of exponential growth and change in an effort to better serve you. Thank you for using your library!
A NEW PATH FORWARD
Construction to begin on Huron St./I-94 Pedestrian Pathway

What started as a simple plan to patch some of our roads has turned into a reimagining of the Huron Street overpass.

Construction starts this spring on a new pedestrian path that officials hope will solve a decades-long problem: helping pedestrians and bicyclists travel safely on Huron Street over I-94.

The $2.5M pedestrian pathway project is the first part of a larger $12M project to improve transportation safety in the downtown Ypsilanti area (see sidebar).

In his newsletter piece about the project Rep. Ronnie Peterson, who has been championing the work, talked about the concern over pedestrian and bicycle safety in that area.

“Countless times over the years, I have witnessed pedestrians hugging the guardrail or carefully navigating the median, with traffic speeding by, as they try to cross that bridge,” he said in the newsletter.

To help with this, the far west lane on Hamilton, starting at Michigan Avenue, will be converted to a bike lane. At Harriet there will be a 10-foot wide biking slip lane onto the larger sidewalk, and a reconstruction of where cars take the on/off ramps. The current green arrow light directing people onto I-94 will convert to a push-button signal that you must push to stop traffic and cross safely and continue in the bike lane.

“For four hours a day you may have to wait an extra 30 seconds or a minute, but the rest of the day it’s just simply a safer road for everyone,” said Mike Davis, Jr., Region Transportation Planner with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Officials anticipate completing this construction—expected to last the full construction season—without any total road closures.

Funding for the project is coming from grants, including a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from MDOT, as well as general fund money from the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township.

The project is a collaboration between MDOT, the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority, the City of Ypsilanti, and Ypsilanti Township. Davis said it’s been great to see the different organizations work together on such a vital project.

“The amount of collaboration that has happened at every level of government has been tremendous,” Davis said. “This is a long overdue investment from MDOT for the Ypsilanti community....and MDOT is really excited to see this project realized in the Ypsilanti Community.”

Representative Peterson was also grateful for the collaboration that brought the project to fruition.

“We got together, checked our egos at the door, rolled up our sleeves and got it done,” he said in his newsletter. “This long overdue improvement will benefit our community for many years to come.”

Getting to the Whittaker Road Library during construction

The current construction plan does not call for any full road closures or official detours, but if you wish to take an alternate route to avoid lane closures, the easiest path to take from downtown to Whittaker Road during the Pedestrian Pathway Project would be either:

- From Michigan Ave, go south on Munger, then east on Textile to either Stony Creek or Whittaker
- From Michigan Ave, go south on Grove, then south on Bridge, west on Textile, and north on Whittaker

Details of the $12M improvement project:

The I-94 Pedestrian Pathway project is one piece of a plan to improve lighting, road safety, and other utilities in the downtown and surrounding areas in Ypsilanti. There will be over 3 miles of new bike lanes, plus new ADA ramps and crosswalk adjustments. For more details, visit cityofypsilanti.com/837/Ypsilanti-Road-Renovations.

In the pedestrain pathway project:

- The far west lane on Hamilton (heading south), starting at Michigan Avenue, will be converted to a bike lane.
- At Harriet there will be a 10-foot wide biking slip lane onto the larger sidewalk, and a reconstruction of where cars take the on/off ramps.
- The current green arrow light directing people onto I-94 will convert to a push-button signal that people must push to stop traffic and cross safely and continue in the bike lane.
- Protective barriers will be added to improve safety and visibility of the bike lanes.
- Fully marked crosswalks at every side street intersection in the city section will be added.

The Ypsilanti community utilities authority:

- Will be replacing and upgrading many of the underground water mains as well as some sanitary sewer lines.

Additional lane repurposing and other improvement work:

- Bike lanes added on Hamilton, from Washtenaw to Harriet.
- Bike lane added on Huron from Harriet to Cross.
- Bike lanes added on Washtenaw from Summit to Hamilton.
- At the Michigan/Ferris and Hamilton/Catherine intersections ADA ramps and striping will be added and pedestrians will only cross two lanes of traffic instead of 4.
- ADA-compliant crosswalks at Woodward/Catherine/Buffalo, Kramer/Casler/Buffalo/Catherine/Woodward intersections, Ferris/Michigan, and Washtenaw/Emmet intersections.
- Bike Box (allowing bikers easier access to turns) added at Huron/Michigan.
- Huron/Cross intersection modified to operate like a typical intersection.

Preferred Alternative
Shared Use Path on West Side

Key Improvements:

- 13-1/2’ shared use path
- Hard barrier on outside of path
- Redesign signals

Cross section at center of bridge

Getting to the Whittaker Road Library during construction
FAMILY READ!

The Ypsi Family Read encourages kids and adults to read together with a “One Community, One Book” model. We are thrilled to welcome Michigan author Supriya Kelkar to the library this spring and feature her book American as Paneer Pie as the 2022 Family Read.

Lekha, the main character in the book, is the only Indian American child in the small Michigan town where she lives. She is torn between Home Lekha, who enjoys Indian food and movies with her parents, and School Lekha, who hides a birthmark on her forehead and tries to not call attention to being different. When a new girl, Avantika, moves in across the street, Lekha is excited that she won’t be the only Desi, but Avantika turns out to be very different from Lekha. She is proud of her culture and doesn’t tolerate bullying about it. But after a racist incident, Lekha realizes she can no longer keep quiet.

Each Family Read includes events to help readers dive into the book’s themes and bring it to life. In addition to meeting Supriya Kelkar and hearing her talk about moments that inspired the book, you can learn to make Gujarati tile and madhubani style art, or traditional Indian dance steps. Cook the author’s paneer pizza recipe at the library and try some of the delicious sweets described in mouthwatering detail in the book. Watch for a web page devoted to the book with resources teachers and families can use on their own—conversation starters, a webquest, writing prompts from YpsiWrites, links to videos and activities, and a booklist for younger readers so everyone can be part of the conversation.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK: APRIL 3-9, 2022

MOLLY SHANNON
2022 Honorary Chair

ACCESS YOUR LIBRARY

The library is for everyone. YDL has many resources to assist those with mobility, visual, or other impairments to make sure everyone feels at home in a YDL building. Explore these and other accessibility tools under the Services menu at ypsilibrary.org.

Tools to assist those with visual impairments:

JAWS SCREEN READER: JAWS (Job Access With Speech) is a computer screen reader program that allows blind and visually impaired users to read the screen, either with a text-to-speech output or by a refreshable Braille display. YDL’s JAWS machines are located on the (W) first floor by the magazine collection and in the (M) New Book Room.

Magnifiers: YDL offers a variety of magnifiers, both for in-library use and check out. They range from 3.5 – 6.5x magnification and have features like clamps, stands, and illumination. The magnifiers are located on the (W) first floor by the Large Print collection.

TOPAZ MACHINE: The TOPAZ machine provides high-definition magnification with a sharp image and crisp text to allow for fast reading with less eye fatigue. This machine is great for reviewing contracts and other important documents. The TOPAZ machine is located on the (W) first floor next to the magazine collection.

LARGE PRINT COLLECTION: YDL has a collection of nearly 5,000 popular books in large print format. Genres such as Mystery, Western, Science Fiction, and more ensure that all readers will find something to enjoy.

Tools for those with mobility concerns:

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TABLE: The adjustable-height table can be raised or lowered to accommodate wheelchair or power chair users at a comfortable height. YDL can provide users with a wireless laptop for access to the Internet, YDL catalog, and all other library resources. The adjustable height table is located on the (W) first floor by the magazine collection.

ON-SITE WHEELCHAIR: YDL’s wheelchair is available to all library users during their visit. The “Tuffcare Compact Light” chair features a seat size of 18” wide and supports up to 250 lbs. The chair is located in the cloak room of the Youth Department (W).

BOOKS ON WHEELS: Books on Wheels is a full-service library delivery program for any cardholder with a short-term or permanent physical limitation that prevents you from getting to the library. Patrons can request a specific list of titles or share their reading and viewing preferences with YDL staff, who are experts at making good selections. To apply, visit ypsilibrary.org/home-delivery or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 1359.

CURBSIDE SERVICE: Curbside service is available until further notice at all YDL locations. When you are notified that your holds are ready, pick up, schedule a curbside appointment, bring your library card at the appointed time, and text or call the numbers on the parking sign to let us know you’re here. We’ll bring your materials out to you! Visit ypsilibrary.org/curbside to schedule a curbside appointment.

Molly Shannon, multiple Emmy-nominated and Spirit Award-winning actress, comedian, and legendary Saturday Night Live cast member, will help celebrate our nation’s libraries as the honorary chair of National Library Week.

As the pandemic continues to impact our lives, YDL remains committed to helping our community thrive despite challenging times. For your convenience, you can apply for your library card in person or online. We’ve increased borrowing limits for downloadable and streaming books and media. If you prefer physical materials you can stop in, pick them up curbside, or use the after-hours pickup lockers at YDL-Superior. You can check out a hot spot, enjoy WiFi access, or use one of our computers. Your library lets you take home learning kits, enjoy virtual meet-ups, experience exhibits, and participate in the events described in these pages.

Public libraries play an important role in equalizing access to information, introducing people to new technologies, supporting educational pursuits, and providing enrichment and learning opportunities. Our hope is that you will consider National Library Week 2022 as a personal invitation to explore all that your library offers you. Connect with us! Lifelong journeys are made here.

March-May 2022
Ypsilanti District Library | The Loop

3
March - May Events

YPSI SPOKES PODCAST
Don’t miss the latest episodes of our Ypsi Spokes Podcast! New episodes are released every Tuesday. To download the latest episode, visit the Ypsi Spokes Podcast page on the Ypsilanti District Library website.

U OF M BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP - LEADERSHIP SERIES
This series of workshops is designed to help students develop their leadership skills and prepare them for success in the business world. Each workshop will cover a different topic and be facilitated by experienced business leaders.

EVICTED EXHIBIT
Explore the history of evictions in Ypsilanti and learn about the impact on our community. This exhibit features photographs, videos, and stories from those who have experienced eviction.

WATER SAVVY: BOTTLED, BOLTED, BIOTIC & DIGITAL ASSETS
Join YDL staff to discuss the current water crisis and the steps we can take to reduce our water footprint.

BLACK VOICES OF DIGNITY - VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS
These workshops are designed to celebrate and uplift the voices of Black Americans. Each workshop will feature a guest speaker and discussion on a topic related to Black history and culture.

FAMILY MAKER NIGHT
Create a calm jar in your own home! A visual sensory jar filled with glitter, or painter's tape that resists dye. Participants will learn about the calming effects of sensory activities and how to make their own.

TEEN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
Join a Mental Health Therapist and Social Worker from the Corner Health Center for an informal group chat about issues teens are surrounded by every day. Submit any anonymous questions about mental health issues or resources. We'll meet monthly, discussing two chapters each session. Registration required. We'll send you the zoom meeting information a few days in advance of the program. You'll get a free copy of the book after you register. Space is limited.

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP
4:30pm – 5:30pm | YDL-Michigan & Ypsilanti Whittaker
Join TAG and meet twice each month to help the library’s best serve you. New and re-engage with lead library programs, design new services and spaces, look for funding opportunity, write grants, earn service hours, meet new friends! Fill out the application at ypsilibrary.org/tag to participate!

FAMILY MAKER NIGHT
Join Keri Corbin, AARP Tax-Aide volunteer, as she teaches how to prepare your taxes using the AARP Tax-Aide program. This event is free and open to the public.

CORNER CHATS AT YDL:
7:00pm – 8:00pm | YDL-Michigan
Join Keri McCauley, AARP Tax-Aide volunteer, as she teaches how to prepare your taxes using the AARP Tax-Aide program. This event is free and open to the public.

DIFFICULT DISCUSSIONS ON DIVERSITY
7:00pm – 8:00pm | Virtual
Join Professor Heather Neff in discussing race, gender identity, and socioeconomic class through the 120 personal interviews collected in Ypsilanti: A Roadmap for Outfitting Racial Literacy by Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi. Participants will learn about the experiences of people from across the U.S. and have the opportunity to write their own auto-ethnography at the close of the course. Appropriate for adults 18+ (sensitive topics surrounding gender identity and race will be discussed).

EVENT SCHEDULE | SPRING 2022 | VISIT YPSILIBRARY.ORG/EVENTS

Mar 1 – 30

OSCARs Contest 2022
12:00pm – 10:00pm | Virtual
Make your predictions on this year’s Academy Award Winners! Entry with most correct answers wins a movie prize pack. Deadline for entries is March 26th at 6pm. Enter online or with a paper entry at the library. Contest open to library card holders and individuals within the YDL service area, 18 and older. Only one entry per person.

Mar 1 – Mar 31

VIRTUAL WORKSCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 826MICHIGAN
4:00pm – 5:00pm | YDL-Michigan and YDL-Whittaker
Students ages 7-18 will work in small groups with background-checked tutors who will support them as they complete any schoolwork and study for tests. The program will be offered over Zoom from the library. YDL staff will help students get connected. Register at https://www.826registration.com and choose Ypsilanti District Library from the drop-down menu. Contact Megan Gillson at mgillson@826michigan.org for more information.

Mar 3

VIRTUAL ASK A LAWYER - HOUSING ISSUES: LANDLORD/ TENANT, EVICTIONS, RENTAL AGREEMENTS, AND MORE
3:00pm | Virtual
Do you have questions about your lease? Are you having issues with your landlord or facing eviction? Have you been evicted? We’ve partnered with the Washtenaw County Bar Association and Legal Services of South Central Michigan to host a virtual joint “Ask a Lawyer” session. Register for a twenty-minute appointment to ask general questions regarding landlord/tenant disputes, eviction proceedings, rental agreements, and other housing issues. There are a limited number of appointments.

Mar 3 – Apr 7

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP
10:00am – 11:00am | YDL-Michigan
Join us one month for a lively discussion of books. Copies are available at the Whittaker Road branch Circulation Desk one month before the discussion date. Please contact Sheila at sakenney@ypsilibrary.org with questions.

Mar 3 – May 5

LIFE AFTER COVID
1:00pm – 2:00pm | Virtual
Participants will learn about the experiences of people from across the U.S. and have the opportunity to write their own auto-ethnography at the close of the course. Appropriate for adults 18+ (sensitive topics surrounding gender identity and race will be discussed).

Mar 5

FAMILY MAKER NIGHT
6:30pm – 7:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Enjoy a mid-day workout. Workouts to include Zumba, HITT, Strength Training, and balance exercises. Designed for ages 55+ up, but open to all adults who would enjoy a gentler workout. Registration required.

Mar 6 – May 31

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP
4:30pm – 5:30pm | YDL-Michigan & Ypsilanti Whittaker
Join TAG and meet twice each month to help the library’s best serve you. New and re-engage with lead library programs, design new services and spaces, look for funding opportunity, write grants, earn service hours, meet new friends! Fill out the application at ypsilibrary.org/tag to participate!

Mar 7

FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS SEMINAR
12:00pm | Virtual
Join Jeri Middaugh and John Simpkins to learn how to finance a house and find a few tips on how to purchase a house in a competitive market. Bring your wish list and your questions. Registration preferred - phone lines will be busy during your work schedule, also see additional date on March 21st.

Mar 7 – 21

A CONVERSATION GROUP FOR DIFFICULT DISCUSSIONS ON DIVERSITY
7:00pm – 8:30pm | Virtual
Join Professor Helen Neff in discussing race, gender identity, and socioeconomic class through the 120 personal interviews collected in Ypsilanti: A Roadmap for Outfitting Racial Literacy by Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi. Participants will learn about the experiences of people from across the U.S. and have the opportunity to write their own auto-ethnography at the close of the course. Appropriate for adults 18+ (sensitive topics surrounding gender identity and race will be discussed). We’ll meet monthly, discussing two chapters each session. Registration required. We’ll send you the zoom meeting information a few days in advance of the program. You’ll get a free copy of the book after you register. Space is limited.

Mar 8 – 22

ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN: 10+ classes on eMP
12:00pm – 1:00pm | Virtual
Join fitness instructor Jerry Powell each week for a mid-day workout. Workouts to include Zumba, HITT, Strength Training and balance exercises. Designed for ages 55+ up, but open to all adults who would enjoy a gentler workout. Registration required.

Mar 10

FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS SEMINAR
12:00pm | Virtual
Join Jeri Middaugh and John Simpkins to learn how to finance a house and find a few tips on how to purchase a house in a competitive market. Bring your wish list and your questions. Registration preferred - phone lines will be busy during your work schedule, also see additional date on March 21st.

Mar 12 – 31

FOOD BANK OF SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN EVICTIONS, RENTAL AGREEMENTS, AND MORE
4:00pm – 5:00pm | Virtual
Participants will learn about the experiences of people from across the U.S. and have the opportunity to write their own auto-ethnography at the close of the course. Appropriate for adults 18+ (sensitive topics surrounding gender identity and race will be discussed). We’ll meet monthly, discussing two chapters each session. Registration required. We’ll send you the zoom meeting information a few days in advance of the program. You’ll get a free copy of the book after you register. Space is limited.
Event Schedule | Spring 2022 | Visit ypsilibrary.org/events

**AVOIDING ONLINE SCAMS AND SEEMINGLY TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE OFFERS**
**2:00pm–3:00pm | Virtual**
Learn how to recognize the flags of a computer scam, what to do if you become the victim of a scam, and how to set security settings so your information will be less vulnerable to data theft or being sold to criminals or retailers.

**LAUGH TO THE INFERNO**
**Mar 19, Apr 15, May 20**
Join Techiebears help new developers and coders improve their coding skills and their confidence.

**TEEN SUBSCRIPTION PACKS**
**Mar 18, Apr 14, May 19**
Get a surprise subscription package that will include a book and other cool items (including snacks, activities, and games) surrounding a different topic each month. Library cards will be required to pick up the items that will stock the kits, so you know that these subscription packages will be awesome! Subscribe today, then stop by the library once a month to snag your new craft at the YDL branch of your choice. Teen Subscription Packs are available starting the third Tuesday of the month. Sign up at least 2 weeks in advance.

**SIMPLY TOMATOES**
**Mar 21**
Learn how to choose the tomato variety suitable for your site, how to plant, and how to care for them. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

**FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS SEMINAR**
**Mar 21**
Join Keri Middaugh and John Simpkins to learn the basics and a few pro tips to purchase a home in a competitive market. Bring your wish list and your questions. Registration preferred. Sign up online or call 734-482-4110 x1366.

**MAKE PANEER PIZZA**
**Mar 22**
Do you notice the recipe in the back of America as Paneer Pie? Let’s make it together.

**GRAPHIC NARRATIVE CLUB**
**Mar 24, Apr 20, May 18**
Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book (Grades 3–5) KIDS BOOK CLUB

**NEW HOMEOWNERS EVENT: BUILDING A MICHIGAN HOME**
**Mar 25**
Join the Michigan Association of REALTORS® and the Lansing Association of REALTORS® to learn about the steps to buying a home in Michigan. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

**GREAT MICHIGAN READ EVENT**
**Mar 25 (YDL-Michigan):** The Man Who Ate the Gun by Jon Scieszka
**Mar 25, Apr 21, May 19**
Ypsilanti District Library and the Library of Michigan.

**FREE MICHIGAN READS:**
**March–May 2022**
The Great Michigan Read will bring to you by the Ypsilanti District Library and YpsiWrites. Register and explore the various workshops, discussions, and events throughout the month.

**Bored at home? Subscribe today and get a new kit delivered to your door each month, including snacks, activities, and games!**
To subscribe, sign up at ypsilibrary.org/packs then stop by the library once a month to snag your new craft at the YDL branch of your choice.

**MAKE PANEER PIZZA**
**Mar 22**
Do you notice the recipe in the back of America as Paneer Pie? Let’s make it together.

**READ TO PADDINGTON THE LIBRARY EVENT**
**Mar 26**
READ TO PADDINGTON THE LIBRARY brought to you by YDL and YpsiWrites. Register and explore the various workshops, discussions, and events throughout the month.

**PUPPET PAPER ART**
**Mar 30**
Join us for a fun afternoon of making your own puppets out of paper and cardboard!

**MADE IN MICHIGAN**
**Mar 31**
Ypsilanti District Library and YpsiWrites. Register and explore the various workshops, discussions, and events throughout the month.

**MADHUBANI ART EVENT**
**Mar 31**
Make a beautiful wall hanging and bookmark in the style of Madhubani art, a 2500-year-old folk art from India. This is part of the Family Read celebration.

**SPRING BREAK STEAM**
**Mar 31–Apr 4**
**YDL-Michigan**
Monday: Make an outdoor home for non-sweet solitary bees.
Tuesday: Make your own two-person board game and challenge a friend to play.
Wednesday: Make your own fairy house to take home and decorate.
Thursday: Make a flower change color and learn some color science.

**VIRTUAL MYSTERY LOVER’S BOOK GROUP**
**Mar 1**
Calling all mystery lovers! Check out a new mystery title each month. We will be meeting virtually.

**ALL ABOUT SEEDS**
**Mar 4, 11, 18; Apr 1, 8, 15; May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**
“Dig” into the world of SEEDS in this fun, hands-on program. Sort, identify, and explore many different kinds of seeds! Plant a seed to grow at home and one to leave for our library garden.

**PAPER PAINT AND PLANT** 3:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
Use paint and decoupage techniques to put your own style on terracotta pots, then fill them with succulents to brighten your room.

**READY FOR A CAREER CHANGE?**
**Feb 7–8 | Virtual**
If you’re considering a career change and don’t know where to start, join Anthony M. Noble, Director of College Career Readiness and Chronology, Director of the Center for Career Success at Washtenaw Community College to find out how to explore, plan, and train for a new career. Learn about occupations in high demand and how to navigate the new work world. Registration is required. For questions, email skoonen@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 ext. 3411.

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AGES 4-12 and their families.

Thursday, April 19 - May 24
INTRODUCTION TO THE LIBRARY’S STREAMING SERVICES 2:00pm-3:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

This class will show you how to search for both digital and physical materials, how to request digital and physical materials, how to request digital and physical materials, how to request digital and physical materials, and improve your business skills and services.

Learn about social media marketing and how to start using it in your small business. Register online or call 482-4110 x2411. Space is limited. The class is in person, but will also be presented via Zoom. Email Robert Neel at rneel@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x1353 if you have questions.

A zoom link will be created as the program nears. Registration required. Email rneel@ypsilibrary.org.

May 6 & 20
FRIDAY WALKING CLUB (55+) 10:00am-11:00am | YDL-Whittaker

Join us for a 30-minute walk along a path near the Whitaker and enjoy each other’s company while getting some exercise! We’ll meet in the lobby of the Whitaker Road Library at 10:30am on May 6 and 20. Summer sessions will start on June 10 at 10:30am. Questions? (734) 482-4110 x2411.

May 7
MOTHERS DAY CARDS/CRATHS 12:00pm-2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

Help celebrate Mother’s Day by coming to the library and making a craft and/or writing a Mother’s Day card. Stop by to create a gift to give your mother figure on Mother’s Day Sunday. Not quite sure what to say? YpsiWriters volunteers will be here to help you compose the best card ever! We’ll supply all the materials and cards for you to write and create. Open to all ages, and we’ll even mail the card for you if they live out of town.

May 7
SPRING LUAU 2:00pm-4:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

Celebrate spring with a family luau. Learn hula, sing, make art, and more!

May 7
CREATING A 3-PANEL COMIC 6:00pm-7:00pm | Ypsilanti (Virtual)

In this workshop we’ll work together and bring in information from Scott McCloud’s Understanding Comics to create 3-panel comics. You don’t need to be an artist; anyone can draw a stix figure! All ages and all artistic abilities are welcome! Facilitated by EMU Lecturer Pam McCombs and YDL staff member Scott Marlowe, who are both comics enthusiasts. This program is presented by YDL and YpsiWriters. We’ll send you the Zoom link a few days before the program.

April 10
AMERICAN AS PANEER PIE 1:30pm-3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Supriya Kelkar, the author of this year’s Family Read, will talk about anti-racism and moments from her life that inspired American as Paneer Pie and helped her find her voice. She will also talk about how when she was growing up, she never wrote fiction about families that looked like hers, and will offer tips on how to write your own story. Make art and get a book signed too!

May 3
GRIEVE WELL: UNDERSTANDING GRIEF WEBINAR 1:00pm | Virtual

During this presentation with our partner Graycewell, learn about grief and the effects it has on one’s physical and emotional health. You will receive information and resources to help you through your grief journey toward healing. This presentation is for those who are mourning the death of a loved one, those who are helping someone who is grieving, or for those who want more information about grief. Register online.

April 30
FAMILY BIRDING INTRODUCTION AND WALK 2:00pm-3:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join us for a brief introduction to birding. Then we’ll take a short walk to the Water Street Trail. It’s a great place to spot the many birds that migrate in the Spring. Bring binoculars if you can. Hosted by the Washtenaw Audubon Society who will bring binoculars for anyone who needs them.

April 30
SUNDAY FUNDAY: DANDIYA RAAS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 29
HUMMINGBIRDS, THE AVIAN FLYING PILOTS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 27
INTRODUCTION TO THE LIBRARY’S STREAMING SERVICES 2:00pm-3:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

This class will show you how to search for both digital and physical materials, how to request digital and physical materials, and improve your business skills and services.

Learn about social media marketing and how to start using it in your small business. Register online or call 482-4110 x2411. Space is limited. The class is in person, but will also be presented via Zoom. Email Robert Neel at rneel@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x1353 if you have questions.

April 23
MOTHERS DAY CARDS/CRATHS 12:00pm-2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

Help celebrate Mother’s Day by coming to the library and making a craft and/or writing a Mother’s Day card. Stop by to create a gift to give your mother figure on Mother’s Day Sunday. Not quite sure what to say? YpsiWriters volunteers will be here to help you compose the best card ever! We’ll supply all the materials and cards for you to write and create. Open to all ages, and we’ll even mail the card for you if they live out of town.

April 22
PUSHING MOTHER’S DAY: A BUSY MOTHER’S GUIDE TO CREATING A TRULY ME TIME 10:00am-11:00am | YDL-Whittaker

In this interactive class, you’ll learn how to make meaningful connections, how to create a daily, weekly, and monthly schedule that works for you, and how to build a daily habit that will improve your overall mental health. This class is presented by YpsiWriters and Ypsilanti District Library.

April 21
CREATING A 3-PANEL COMIC 6:00pm-7:00pm | Ypsilanti (Virtual)

In this workshop we’ll work together and bring in information from Scott McCloud’s Understanding Comics to create 3-panel comics. You don’t need to be an artist; anyone can draw a stix figure! All ages and all artistic abilities are welcome! Facilitated by EMU Lecturer Pam McCombs and YDL staff member Scott Marlowe, who are both comics enthusiasts. This program is presented by YDL and YpsiWriters. We’ll send you the Zoom link a few days before the program.

April 21
CREATING A 3-PANEL COMIC 6:00pm-7:00pm | Ypsilanti (Virtual)

In this workshop we’ll work together and bring in information from Scott McCloud’s Understanding Comics to create 3-panel comics. You don’t need to be an artist; anyone can draw a stix figure! All ages and all artistic abilities are welcome! Facilitated by EMU Lecturer Pam McCombs and YDL staff member Scott Marlowe, who are both comics enthusiasts. This program is presented by YDL and YpsiWriters. We’ll send you the Zoom link a few days before the program.

April 20
SUNDAY FUNDAY: DANDIYA RAAS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 18
HUMMINGBIRDS, THE AVIAN FLYING PILOTS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 16
SUNDAY FUNDAY: DANDIYA RAAS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 15
HUMMINGBIRDS, THE AVIAN FLYING PILOTS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 13
SUNDAY FUNDAY: DANDIYA RAAS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 12
HUMMINGBIRDS, THE AVIAN FLYING PILOTS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 10
SUNDAY FUNDAY: DANDIYA RAAS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 9
HUMMINGBIRDS, THE AVIAN FLYING PILOTS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 8
SUNDAY FUNDAY: DANDIYA RAAS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 7
HUMMINGBIRDS, THE AVIAN FLYING PILOTS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 6
SUNDAY FUNDAY: DANDIYA RAAS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 5
HUMMINGBIRDS, THE AVIAN FLYING PILOTS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 4
SUNDAY FUNDAY: DANDIYA RAAS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 3
HUMMINGBIRDS, THE AVIAN FLYING PILOTS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 2
SUNDAY FUNDAY: DANDIYA RAAS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.

April 1
HUMMINGBIRDS, THE AVIAN FLYING PILOTS 7:00pm-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn amazing facts about humungbirds as well as how to lure and keep them in your garden. This program will be virtual, on Zoom.
**Event Schedule | Winter 2021–22 | Visit ypsilibrary.org/events**

**Tech Help**

**ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP FOR BEGINNERS (Adult)**

Call 734-482-4110 x1384 or email mcintoshk@yls.org to schedule a one-on-one phone session, or virtual session.

**GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS (Adult)**

Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, and create simple formulas. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a spreadsheet. A Google (or Gmail) account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 x2411. After you register, you’ll get an email 1–2 days in advance of the session) with the following information: Zoom link, meeting ID, and passcode.

**MICROSOFT OFFICE - ADVANCED (Adult)**

Learn how to create and format tables, insert charts, use the fill handle, and create simple formulas. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 x2411.

**Firestore Activity Station (Adult)**

Learn to search for information and research online. A Google (or Gmail) Account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 x2411.

**Microphone, Learn to chat, and more. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 x2411. After you register, you’ll get an email 1–2 days in advance of the session) with the following information: Zoom link, meeting ID, and passcode.

**FOUR FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALE**

The Friends of YDL Book Sale is returning this spring starting Mar 10 & continuing through May 31. 10% of all proceeds benefit the Library. The Friends Book Sale will be held at the YDL-Whittaker Library.

**BEACHCOMBING FLORIDA BEACHES**

2:00pm–5:00pm | Virtual

RESCHEDULED from January: Come see and touch a variety of beach finds from the library. In the spirit of the day—wear your tropical shirt and beach hat!

**YDL-Whittaker**

**WAKE UP THE GARDEN**

Join us as we plant our seedlings in the community garden next to YDL-Michigan. Wear your work clothes and meet us either in the Youth Area or out by the garden.

**BABY TIME: PLAYTIME**

Learn colors, shapes, and numbers through play. We’ll play games and sing lots of songs, then let parents chat and enjoy a cup of coffee together. We’ll end the session with a group of hands-on activities. We’ll read picture books, get hands-on, and insert tabs. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 x2411. If there are too many kids, we’ll end the session with a group of hands-on activities. We’ll read picture books, get hands-on, and insert tabs. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 x2411. If there are too many kids, we’ll end the session with a group of hands-on activities.

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LEARNING HELP

NEW CREATIVE TOOLS

This spring, teens and other library users will have a whole new set of tools to use in and out of the library. You’ll now find in the teen area guitars, amps, and other musical recording equipment, along with digital art supplies.

In 2017, the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) was awarded $3,000 from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Youth Council to improve the teen space at YDL-Whittaker. In addition to more comfortable seating, TAG wanted to focus on tools teens could use at the library to learn new skills and explore creative pursuits independently.

During the pandemic, items like art supplies and digital music equipment haven’t been easily accessible, so TAG recently decided to let people check them out to use at home.

In addition to four ukuleles already in circulation, you’ll soon be able to check out musical equipment, including a drum pad and MIDI keyboard (with USB connectors that work with software of your choice on your home computer), an acoustic or electric guitar with small amp, and two Wacom drawing tablets that connect to your laptop or computer via USB.

Some supplies are still available only at the library. An electronic keyboard with headphones is always available in the teen area at YDL-Whittaker. Ask at the Youth Desk at YDL-Michigan or YDL-Whittaker to use the Portable Art Kit while at the library. The art kit includes Copic markers, Prismacolor pencils, Sakura koi watercolor sets, precision markers, shading pencils, and paper. Watch for chances to learn to use the Cricut this summer, too. Once trained, you can ask at the desk and we’ll set you up to cut out your own decals. For more information contact jodi@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x1340.

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DATES:

| March 11 | ½ Day of school (LCS) |
| March 17 | ½ Day for K-5, Parent-Teacher conferences (LCS) |
| March 18 | ½ Day of school (YCS) |
| March 23 and 24 | ½ Days of school and parent teacher conferences (YCS) |
| March 28–April 1 | No School, Spring Break (Both) |
| April 8 | ½ Day (LCS) |
| April 12–13 | PSAT/SAT Day, high school dismissed at 12:30 (LCS) |
| April 15 | ½ Day of School (YCS) No school (LCS) |
| April 18 | No School (YCS) |
| May 6 | ½ Day (LCS) |
| May 27 | ½ Day (Both) |
| May 30 | No School, Memorial Day (Both) |

LCS LOOKING AHEAD, STAYING PREPARED

The pandemic has required flexibility and patience. As this school year winds down and families prepare for the next one, Lincoln Consolidated Schools is taking steps to ensure families stay safe and healthy.

In an effort to decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission, LCS is moving parent information nights. This year, incoming kindergarten and elementary information nights will take place in early May: May 3 for Childs Elementary, May 5 for Bishop Elementary’s multi-age and Spanish immersion programs, and May 12 for Brick Elementary. Enrollment will open in March, with School of Choice applications opening in April.

Over the course of the pandemic, many families have discovered that online learning is more suitable for their child. In order to adapt to community needs, LCS will continue to offer their Virtual Academy for the 2022-2023 school year. This allows students the freedom to learn from home, while still being able to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports teams and after school clubs. More information can be found at www.lincolnk12.org under the Schools tab.

With programs to improve parent involvement in education, COVID resources, and job opportunities, Ypsilanti Community Schools can have an impact on the entire Ypsilanti area. In order to uplift and encourage parents’ involvement in their child’s education, YCS is holding a celebration for the 27th annual National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID). This year’s NAAPID at Night theme is “self care paves the way to a successful and satisfying life.” The virtual event will take place on March 14.

The Ypsilanti Community High School food pantry is also available for those in need. Students, families, and Ypsilanti residents can access the food pantry during school hours, 8:20am to 3pm. The pantry currently has fresh vegetables, non-perishable foods, dairy products, and toiletries. For more information, please contact Ms. Emerson at temerson@ycschools.us.

Job hunting? YCS is hiring! There are 82 open positions, including teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators. Qualified individuals can apply at ycschools.us/employment. For those with experience in early literacy services and financial management, a part-time position is open for a LEAP Grant Project Director. The LEAP grant is a federal grant that was awarded to provide students with diverse books, fund after-school programs and in-classroom literacy coaching, and provide teachers with professional development opportunities.

Need a COVID test? Rapid COVID testing is still available for Ypsilanti residents at the YCS administration building from 8:30am to 4:30pm. No appointment is required but it’s intended for asymptomatic individuals.

Ypsilanti District Library | The Loop March–May 2022
LEARNING HELP

CHECK OUT TALK: TEXT AND LEARN FOR KINDERGARTEN

Have you seen the new videos on the YDL YouTube channel? The Baby Time activity videos draw from our TALK program to help with Kindergarten development! TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten helps parents ensure school success. TALK sends subscribers 8–10 texts per month with engaging activities they can do with babies and children 5 and under.

TALK is based on the Every Child Ready to Read program, which encourages parents to use the five practices—talk, sing, play, write, and read—to prepare their children for school. Each TALK message focuses on one of these practices and provides simple activities that parents can do with items they already have at home. TALK also notifies you about library storytimes and events for kids.

Songs, book lists, sample texts, and hands-on activities can be found at texttolearn.com. To sign up for TALK, text TALK to 75547 or visit the TALK website. You will be prompted to select your preferred language, zip code, and child’s birthdate to ensure that you receive age-appropriate activities and event notifications for your local library.

Are you a community partner who would like to display TALK activities in your space? Email jodi@ypsilibrary.org to request materials.

CREATIVE SPACES FOR YOUNG WRITERS

My story is about the heart that was lonely in the first place. In the end, she wasn’t.

—Arathana, Age 7

Writing programs at 826michigan provide a creative space for young people like Arathana to express themselves, to connect with others, to know themselves better, and to use their power to make change in the world. This spring and throughout the pandemic, 826michigan continues to offer free virtual after-school writing programs, creative writing workshops, and at-home writing kits. All 826michigan programs are offered free of charge to schools, students, and families, and are supported by trained, caring community volunteers. Through writing, we can all feel a little less alone, supported by trained, caring community volunteers.

826michigan partners with YDL to offer free after-school tutoring on Wednesday afternoons from 4–5pm. Students (ages 7–18) can join virtual sessions in-person at Ypsilanti District Library branches and have access to a computer with librarian support as they work with 826michigan tutors virtually. This program is homework-based: students bring homework or other school assignments in ANY subject to work on with volunteer tutors. The After-school Writing Lab (ages 8+) or Wee-bots (ages 5–10) programs may be a good fit for students who want to focus specifically on writing: students work in small groups with peers and adult volunteers to read, brainstorm, write, revise, share, and publish an original piece of creative writing. These programs are fully virtual, offered via Zoom. YDL also partners with 826michigan to distribute at-home writing kits, like Writing as A Gift. At-home Interviews, and the College Application Essay Kit. Each kit includes prompts and materials to take on a special project at home.

Signing up for programs, volunteering, or downloading a kit is easy; visit 826michigan.org. Open spots are available in all programs listed below. Contact Education Director Catherine Calabro-Cavin (catherine@826michigan.org) with questions at any time. 826michigan looks forward to writing with you to bring your ideas to reality.

From the pencil come ideas of endless imagination
From the land where thought moves like birds
From imagination to paper
From ideas to reality

—Mona, Age 11

After-school Writing Lab: A Weekly Afternoon Writing-focused Program (Ages 8–14)
Monday: 3:45–4:45pm

Wee-bots: A Weekly Evening Writing Workshop (Ages 5–10)
Wednesday: 6–7pm

Virtual Schoolwork Support: A Weekly Afternoon Homework-focused Program (Ages 7–13)
Wednesday: 4–5pm
Thursday: 4–5pm

WASHTENAW LITERACY REOPENING

After a long pandemic closure, the Washtenaw Literacy Learning Center has reopened! Formerly known as the Community Opportunity Center, the Learning Center is inside the Community Life Family Center building at Grace Fellowship Church at 1301 S. Harris Rd. in Ypsilanti.

Tutoring is by appointment only, and appointments are available for ESL and literacy tutoring, including math and digital literacy. Call (734) 337-3336 to schedule an appointment.

All tutors and learners must be fully vaccinated and current on boosters to attend in-person programming. There will be KN95 masks available at the Learning Center for those who need one.

Washtenaw Literacy provides adult literacy education and helps employers, health care providers, and human service agencies communicate more effectively with their employees, patients, and clients. For more information about Washtenaw Literacy services, visit washtenawliteracy.org.
New Mental Health Hotline: 734-544-3050

Save this number in your phone! Seven days a week and 24 hours a day, substance use treatment support is available to Washtenaw County residents through this new hotline. The calls will be answered by licensed mental health and substance use professionals at the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health who can connect callers to local, professional services. Residents can call with a broad range of questions, including how to help loved ones and how to navigate the county’s substance use treatment system.

For substance use disorder emergencies—such as an overdose or imminent danger—call 911 for immediate help.

Protect yourself, protect others. We can help each other stay safe from serious COVID-19 illness or death! “We are entering the third year of the pandemic. We are in a very different place. We have effective tools we did not have at the beginning, primarily vaccination,” said Jimena Loveluck, MSW, Health Officer for the Washtenaw County Health Department. “I know many of you are already doing everything you can – and are also hurting from loss, illness, or very real pandemic fatigue. I’m asking everyone to get vaccinated or boosted if you’re eligible and have not yet done so. Then take the additional steps we recommend to reduce spread and protect those who cannot get vaccinated or remain vulnerable.”

Effective strategies to help prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Washtenaw County:

- Get vaccinated or boosted when eligible (vaccinesfinder.org)
- Wear a well-fitting face mask in indoor public spaces when local transmission is high or substantial. The Health Department and some community organizations have free KN95 masks available, if you are having difficulty finding or affording them
- Get tested if you feel ill or you have been exposed
- Stay away from others if you are feeling ill, waiting for test results, or have tested positive (washtenaw.org/covid19whattodo)
- Avoid crowded areas, events, and gatherings when local transmission is high
- Clean hands frequently

Stay up to date on the latest COVID-19 information by visiting washtenaw.org/covid19 or by following the Washtenaw County Health Department (@wcpublichealth) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or NextDoor. You can also contact the Health Department via email (health@washtenaw.org) or by phone (734-544-6700).

APPLICATIONS DUE FOR SUMMERWORKS!

Attention, teens! Spend your summer earning money and charting the course for your future. Applications for Summerworks are due March 13 at summerworks.info/young-adults. Summerworks can connect you to a paid internship, professional development, and a professional mentor. Young adults between 16 and 24, living and/or attending school in Washtenaw County can sign up.

Entering its 7th year, the program allows young adults to Work, (L)earn, and Thrive through professional development, mentorship, and paid work experience within the local workforce:

- **Work** - Join the workforce and gain rewarding experience as a young professional.
- **Learn/Earn** - Paid internships are available for eligible participants. Get paid to learn new skills from local experts in a variety of industries.
- **Thrive** - Build confidence, feel career-ready, and thrive in the local workforce.

“I joined SummerWorks without having much experience or expectations, but I think I’ve come out a better professional,” said a 2021 SummerWorks participant. “I’m happy that I joined the program—it’s definitely something I would recommend to anyone looking for a rewarding learning experience and something to do over the summer.”


“I think it’s important for organizations, particularly for professional organizations, to invest in young people in general,” said Chuck Wilson, Community Health Promotion Supervisor at the Washtenaw County Health Department. “Particularly through an internship program like SummerWorks because it’s a reinvestment into our community and into our county.”

Local businesses and nonprofits can sign up today to host a summer intern, provide mentorship, serve as a guest speaker, and more. To learn how to support young adults this summer, visit summerworks.info/employers.

SummerWorks is a partnership between the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development, Michigan Works! Southeast, and the University of Michigan. The program provides participants with tools, work experience, and exposure to different career paths.
**SIGNOS OF SPRING**

In March, it can feel like spring will never come. If you stop and look closely, though, you will see changes that tell you that spring is on the way.

**ON THE GROUND, LOOK FOR:**
- Wet, muddy soil - It used to be frozen. Did you know that you can plant lettuce and spinach in the soil as soon as it thaws?
- Earthworms - As the ground warms up, earthworms come closer to the surface to eat decaying plant matter. Gently dig in some soil and see if you can spot any worms!
- Green shoots poking up - first are usually snowdrops, then crocus, daffodil, and tulip. Can you tell which one it is by just the green shoots?

**IN THE AIR, LOOK AND LISTEN FOR:**
- Honeybees - Bees are on the hunt for flowers to pollinate. They love all of the dandelions in the spring!
- Birds - “Migratory birds,” ones who had flown to warmer places for the winter, start to return. You will see and hear birds you haven’t heard since the fall.
- Trees begin to “leaf out” - First, buds will form and then leaves open up. This often happens at the ends of branches.

**March–May 2022**

**IN THE AIR, LOOK AND LISTEN FOR:**
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**MAKING EVERY DAY EARTH DAY**

This year marks the 52nd Earth Day, and there are many ways to participate. YDL is committed to making information about sustainability accessible to everyone in our community. Through our programs, materials, and even our architecture, we want to acknowledge that every day is Earth Day.

In 2015, we installed solar panels at our Michigan Avenue branch thanks to an anonymous donor. You can see real-time data from these solar panels by visiting www.ypslibrary.org/about/visit/ydl-michigan/solar-installation and clicking on “real-time solar output tracking.” So far, the amount of energy we’ve saved is equivalent to planting 415 trees! We’re hoping to also install solar panels at the new Superior branch.

**HELP INFORM THE RESILIENT WASHTENAW PLAN**

Washtenaw County is excited to involve all nine county districts in shaping their Resilient Washtenaw plan. Working closely with residents, Resilient Washtenaw aims to create a collaborative vision for carbon neutrality by 2035. Resilient Washtenaw will be a living document that guides community goals and county operations for years to come. Your voices are essential to creating an equitable response to the “Climate Emergency” declared by the Board of Commissioners.

**HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?**

Over the next few months, there will be many opportunities to participate. Here’s how to get involved:
- Subscribe at resilientwashtenaw.org for email updates
- Attend a workshop or other event
- Get the word out by sharing this project with your neighbors, family, and friends
- Add your ideas to the website’s map
  - Celebrate cool projects already in place (e.g., preserved land, bike paths, renewable energy)
  - Share areas where you experience climate impacts (e.g., flooding, lack of tree canopy)
  - Share your vision for climate action in the county
- Explore the Partners page
  - Find your City/Township Sustainability/Climate group to get more involved at the local level
  - Find a local community group engaged in climate action

**MAP OUT AN ACTIVE SPRING**

With spring on the horizon, YDL invites you to explore the many parks and cultural centers that make our state great. The Michigan Activity Pass (MAP) offers free and discounted tickets to over 100 Michigan destinations, ensuring an adventure is available to everyone, whether taking the kids to a metropark or navigating a museum on a rainy one.

Visit plymouthrockets.com/michiganactivitypass to explore destinations, such as the Urban Institute of Contemporary Arts in Grand Rapids or the Sea Life Aquarium in Auburn Hills.

You can check the MAP website for specific destinations; browse by interest, such as science and technology; filter for youth-friendly or ADA accessible locations; or even just browse everything within a specified radius.

MAP passes can get you on a boat, take you to the theater, introduce you to an octopus, or get a discount on skydiving. The sky is truly the limit!
INTRODUCING THE WRITERS ROOM

Ypsilanti District Library is excited to introduce a new dynamic space for writers called the Writers Room. Modeled after similar rooms in Iowa and Detroit, the YpsiWrites Writers Room will provide writing space to the Ypsilanti community on a regular schedule throughout the year.

With a launch goal of fall 2022, the Writers Room project will offer some kick-off events in the spring and summer.

Cathy Fleischer, co-founder of YpsiWrites, says the goal of the Writers Room is to bring writers together. “At each Writers Room event, we’ll provide something for everyone,” she says. “Like time for individuals to focus on a project, to get feedback from other writers, or for groups to collaborate.”

The Writers Room will be a room-on-the-move. Writers may gather virtually and/or at different locations in Ypsilanti.

During each session, volunteers will offer writing resources such as prompts, activities, and language guides. But also provide what writers need most: time and space to write and to share that writing with others.

Currently, YpsiWrites is planning the structure and format for the Writers Room. If you’d like to offer suggestions, please respond to their survey at tinyurl.com/YW-WritersRoom. Your feedback will help grow and adjust the Writers Room over time.

“Two pillars of the work we do at YpsiWrites are community and inclusivity,” says Brent Miller, one of the volunteers imagining and creating this project. “The Writers Room will be a fabulous way to realize those values and bring people together in a welcoming place.”

Follow YpsiWrites on Facebook (facebook.com/ypsiwrites) and Instagram (instagram.com/ypsiwrites) to stay up to date on the Writers Room and all YpsiWrites events. For additional information, or to download resources or volunteer, visit ypsiwrites.com.

FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALE

Mark your calendars for May 19–22, and attend the Friends of YDL May book sale at YDL-Whittaker! Pay $1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks, with even more special deals available during the sale.

May 19 from 8-6pm will be a members only preview, but memberships will be available for purchase at the door, so it’s the perfect time to join the Friends and help make library events possible.

On May 22 there will be bags of books available for $4, and some books will be sold for a reduced price.

FULL BOOK SALE HOURS:
Thursday, May 19: 6 – 8pm (Members only preview sale)
Friday, May 20: 11am – 5pm
Saturday, May 21: 11am – 3pm
Sunday, May 22: 1 – 4pm

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

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.

BOOK SHOP HOURS OF OPERATION:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
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<td>TUESDAY</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
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<td>SUNDAY</td>
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PUBLIC TRANSIT NEWS

To stay up to date on TheRide’s Long-Range Plan efforts, visit TheRide.org/about/projects/theride-2045. As a reminder, per federal law, face masks are required until further notice. They continue to implement safety measures due to COVID-19. You can learn more about the precautions at: TheRide.org/coronavirus.

There are many ways to stay up to date on the latest service information for TheRide. Visit TheRide.org to plan your trip. While there, you can also sign up for TheRide’s MyAlerts system. With MyAlerts, you can select which route(s) you use, and you will be emailed directly if there are service disruptions. You can also follow TheRide on Facebook and Twitter for the latest news. Want to speak to someone? Call the route information line at 734-996-0400. They can help!

WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG

LOCATIONS & HOURS

YDL-WHITTAKER
5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS
Mon-Thurs: 9am–9pm
Fri and Sat: 10am–6pm
Sun: 1–5pm

YDL-MICHIGAN
229 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS
Mon-Thurs: 9am–9pm
Fri and Sat: 10am–6pm

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

YDL-BOOKMOBILE
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS
Curbside service

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