Exciting news! Effective June 1, YDL will no longer charge fines for late materials. If overdue fines kept you away, welcome back! Today’s library will surprise you with everything it offers. Find best sellers, DIY guides, and books for research. Stream video, or download audiobooks, music, or comics. We offer free wifi and study space, and our friendly staff plan fantastic events for all ages. Take a computer class, enjoy a concert, bring little ones to Storytime, or learn a new language. We’re your lifelong learning center. A library card unlocks it all, for free.

The Library’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to eliminate most fines following recommendations from the library’s Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) team. According to EDI research, fines are mostly punitive and minimally effective. They also do not align with the library’s commitment to inclusiveness.

“It’s important to be welcoming to all,” said Library Director Lisa Hoenig. “We’re happy to eliminate a barrier that has kept parts of our community from using the library.”

Read on for more about why YDL has decided to join the ranks of other libraries in Washtenaw County like Chelsea, Dexter, and Manchester, by going fine-free.

What does fine-free mean at YDL?
You will no longer be charged a daily late fine on overdue items! We also removed all overdue fines you may have accrued before we went fine-free. However, past fees for lost or damaged items will still apply. You are still responsible for returning your items. We will send reminders to let you know if something becomes overdue. Materials that are 28 days overdue are assumed lost and the cardholder must either return the item or pay the replacement cost.

“Our hope is that eliminating late fees will inspire people to return materials, even when they’re late, rather than having them go into lost status,” said Hoenig. “And the research we’ve seen supports that.”

People with existing fines on their account are encouraged to visit the library for help clearing them, even for older charges from lost or damaged materials.

“This change will hopefully make YDL a more deeply accessible part of the community – one that can lift up and support its members without the fear of punitive fees,” said YDL Assistant Director Julianne Smith.

Why did YDL eliminate late fines?
YDL is following a growing trend across Michigan and around the country to eliminate fees on overdue materials. In 2019 the American Library Association issued a resolution that encouraged libraries to “scrutinize their practices of imposing fines on library patrons and actively move towards eliminating them.” In response, during the COVID-19 pandemic, YDL suspended fines from March 2020–July 2021, and waived the bulk of existing fines in 2020. The data from YDL during this time, as well as from other libraries that eliminated fines, confirmed they have limited financial benefits and result in a loss of goodwill from the community.

“The amount of fines collected by the library does not reduce the
READ, LEARN, EXPLORE...WIN!

How to play

1. Reactivate your account, or start a new one if you haven’t played before, by visiting ypsilibrary.org/summer. Once you’ve signed up, visit a library to pick up your signup prize. Little Ones get a shaker or sidewalk chalk, youth 3–18 get a day pass to Rutherford Pool, and adults get a sticky note pad.

2. Log activities between June 11–August 28. You’ll earn a digital badge every time you read a book, complete a challenge, or attend a library program. Log online, or download the free ReadSquared app in Google Play or the App Store. Choose Yps Library, then log in once with your username and password and you’ll be ready to record the books you read and activities you complete all summer.

3. Win prizes! Everyone who reads at least 6 books gets a prize. Kids and teens get an Aurelio’s gift card and a book to keep; adults get a bamboo utensil set. Kids and teens who complete at least 6 learning challenges get a gift card to Taco Bell or Domino’s. But don’t stop there! Keep reading and logging activities all summer. Every digital badge you earn is worth a chance at winning the grand prize of your choice. There are weekly drawings too for those who log during a given week, so keep going all summer!

T he Summer Challenge is back and better than ever with great new activities and prizes. Designed to encourage everyone to read and explore what’s happening in our community, the Summer Challenge runs from June 11 to August 28 this year.

Join us at YDL-Michigan on June 11 from 1–4pm to kick off the Summer Challenge with a brew-up obstacle course, spiral art, humungous bubbles, giant games, and more. You’ll find free meals for kids ages 0–12 as well, courtesy of Food Gatherers. Plus, log a point during the first week, and you’ll be entered in a drawing for one week of free Summer Camp at the Riverside Arts Center! “It’s a great way to motivate kids to engage with learning and be ready for school in the fall,” said YDL Youth Librarian Jedi Krahnke. “Players of all ages can keep busy with the wide range of activities you can do outdoors, at the library, and at home.”

This year, you’ll find fun new challenges and incentives designed by our staff, such as a birding geocache hunt developed with the Washtenaw Audubon Society, a downtown Fairy Door Hunt, and public art you can see and write about with YpsWrites. Earn extra digital badges by logging your reading daily. You don’t have to finish your book to keep your streak alive!

You’ll find great incentives throughout the summer, including free weekend bus rides, courtesy of TheRides. Get prizes for finishing reading challenges, then spend your challenge tickets on other great prize packs that you can bid on throughout the summer.

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST COLLECTION: THE LIBRARY OF THINGS!

HAVE you always wanted to learn how to sew but aren’t ready to buy a sewing machine? Maybe you’ve heard about the pickleball craze and want to play? Or perhaps you want to host a board game night with friends but your game cabinet is bare.

Luckily, YDL’s newest collection can help with all of that. Check out the Library of Things, coming June 28!

YDL’s Library of Things (LOT) has non-traditional library materials for circulation, and expands on items that were already available to patrons. In addition to Things like mobile hotspots and jigsaw puzzles, you’ll also find games and tools to use at home.

Sunday, June 26, YDL will officially launch the new collection at the Thing-A-Rama. All the items in the collection will be on display to browse and check out. There will also be an opportunity to suggest new things to add to the collection in the future. Stop by the Whittaker Road Community Room from 2–4:00pm and take a look!

Patrons can choose Things from a variety of categories: Tech, Tools, Crafts, Fitness, Yard Games, Gardening, Kitchen, Office, Sports, and Board Games. Items include a cordless drill, light therapy lamp, digital projector and screen, cake pans, corn hole set, and much more.

There are Things for patrons of all ages, but the items are divided into two tiers. Tier 1 items can be checked out by any patron with a YDL card. Tier 2 items can only be checked out by YDL cardholders age 18 or older, due to safety and financial considerations. A one-time waiver must be signed before checking out Tier 2 items.

Expanding the LOT collection was an easy choice to make based on the popularity of the existing items and how many patrons had asked about adding more things, said YDL’s Head of Acquisitions Sarah Zawacki. “Part of YDL’s mission is to enrich lives and we think the LOT will do just that, in both fun and practical ways,” Zawacki said. “We’re excited to introduce the collection to our patrons and continue to grow it over the years.”

WELCOME TO FINE-FREE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

overall tax burden or provide enough income to support specific services,” said Smith. “In addition, fines are shown to have the greatest negative impact on those that need the free services of the library the most.”

Fines have traditionally been a very small fraction of YDL’s total revenue. The addition of an auto-renewal system has also made it easier to manage materials returns (see sidebar). Statistics on the impact of the move to fine-free will be included in future YDL annual reports, as well as YDL’s website and social media feeds. “We’ll see lots of data about the logistical and financial impacts of going fine-free,” said Hoening. “But we hope the positive impact across our community will resonate more than anything else.”

Auto-renewals

This spring, YDL patrons were set up for auto-renewal for all checked out items. How it works:

• Items are renewed one day prior to their due date.
• Your items will automatically renew up to 5 times unless someone else has requested it.

Don’t want auto-renewal? No problem! Just give us a call at 734-483-4110 ext 2410 or ask at the circulation desk.

NEW SUPERIOR BUILDING TAKING SHAPE

Things have come a long way at the site of the new YDL-Superior building. Construction milestones include:

• Roofing complete
• Concrete slab in place
• Solar panels ordered and permit application complete
• Attic and subceiling insulation and drywall complete
• Wall framing complete and door frames installed
• Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems have passed rough inspections
• Exterior facade work has started
• Interior drywall in progress

Community support has been tangible for this project, which is more than a decade in the making. Public officials and community members saw the construction progress first-hand at sneak-peek Hard Hat parties in April. Around that same time, we reached our $100,000 fundraising challenge match and entered into the last phase of the Next Chapter Capital Campaign.

To stay on top of construction progress, visit ypsilibrary.org/our-new-library. We can still use your help! To contribute to the Next Chapter campaign, visit ypsilibrary.org/nextchapter.
Event Schedule | Summer 2022 | Visit ypsilibrary.org/events

**Jun - Aug Events**

**BLACK VOICES OF DIGNITY**

Robbing my beans at Yps-Michigan

This display is a glimpse into the African-American experience. The images tell compelling stories of daily life and courageous efforts to achieve freedom and peace. Visit with hopes of an approved person. Find the display on the 2nd floor of YDL.

**THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP**

Join us once a month for lively discussions of a variety of books. Copies of the book are available at YDL-Whittaker one month prior to the discussion.

**TEEN BOOK CLUB**

NEW MEETUP LOCATION: YDL-Whittaker

Join us once a month for lively discussions of books written by and for teens. Want to be on stage to share your thoughts on the month's title? Sign up for a 10-minute slot with Paddington.

**NATIVE PLANT SWAP**

The Washtenaw County Conservation District and the Washtenaw County Water Resources Office are hosting a native plant swap at the library. All residents can learn about the political positions and candidates for the 13th Michigan State House District, 40th Michigan State Senate District, and 6th Michigan State Senate District.

**END-OF-SUMMER CELEBRATION**

Join us on the lawn on Fridays for hands-on activities for your Zoom party! Registration required. For a Zoom event.

**CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM - AUGUST PRIMARY**

Join us outside the building for dancing, shaking sounds, outdoor obstacle course, spiral art, game stations, and more. Food Gatherers will provide wholesome snacks. JOIN US for a chance to hear from local candidates for city council in Ward 3 in the August Primary. Priscilla Dowell, Adrian Simpson, and Donald Bollam are the current council members in Ward 3. While I Breathe, I Hope

**ANIMAL CLINIC**

Members of TAG have a monthly meetup for Adult readers meet at the Ypsi Alehouse to discuss graphic novels – from ancient Hanfuqiq to modern mangas and everything in between. Pick up a book in advance at YDL-Michigan.

**BOOK CLUBS**

**DIARY OF A WIMPY KID**

Spend time as a family exploring art-based activities. Children of all ages are welcome. All materials provided. Geared for beginners, this week course on the basics of acrylic painting, led by local artist Debra Golden will teach an eight-week course. Local artist Debra Golden will teach an eight-week course on the basics of acrylic painting, led by local artist Debra Golden.

**TALK FORKING FRANCES PAULA WANG, YOU CANNOT RESIST ME WHEN MY HAIR IS IN BRAIDS**

Talk with Frances Paula Wang from her new book You Cannot Resist Me When My Hair is in Braids. The team features a clear and powerful voice that brings all parts together in cohesive political and poetic times. We, the people.

**HOPPITY HOP HOP**

Join us on the lawn on Fridays for hands-on activities for your Zoom party! Registration required. For a Zoom event.

**ADOPT A BOOK**

Spend time as a family exploring art-based activities. Children of all ages are welcome. All materials provided. Geared for beginners, this week course on the basics of acrylic painting, led by local artist Debra Golden will teach an eight-week course on the basics of acrylic painting, led by local artist Debra Golden.

**MANY WAYS TO LEAD**

Join us once a month for lively discussions of books written by and for teens. Want to be on stage to share your thoughts on the month’s title? Sign up for a 10-minute slot with Paddington.

**3:30pm | YDL-Michigan**

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM - AUGUST PRIMARY

Join us outside the building for dancing, shaking sounds, outdoor obstacle course, spiral art, game stations, and more. Food Gatherers will provide wholesome snacks. JOIN US for a chance to hear from local candidates for city council in Ward 3 in the August Primary. Priscilla Dowell, Adrian Simpson, and Donald Bollam are the current council members in Ward 3.

**End-of-Summer Celebration**

Join us on the lawn on Fridays for hands-on activities for your Zoom party! Registration required. For a Zoom event.

**SHARE, RATTLE, AND ROLL:**

Music and music for little ones

Join us outside the building for dancing, shaking sounds, outdoor obstacle course, spiral art, game stations, and more. Food Gatherers will provide wholesome snacks. JOIN US for a chance to hear from local candidates for city council in Ward 3 in the August Primary. Priscilla Dowell, Adrian Simpson, and Donald Bollam are the current council members in Ward 3.

**Ypsilanti African American Genealogy Society Virtual Meeting**

Join us outside the building for dancing, shaking sounds, outdoor obstacle course, spiral art, game stations, and more. Food Gatherers will provide wholesome snacks. JOIN US for a chance to hear from local candidates for city council in Ward 3 in the August Primary. Priscilla Dowell, Adrian Simpson, and Donald Bollam are the current council members in Ward 3.

**GARDEN QUESTIONS? ASK THE MASTER GARDENER**

All residents can learn about the political positions and candidates for the 13th Michigan State House District, 40th Michigan State Senate District, and 6th Michigan State Senate District. All of the things on display will be available for YDL-Blacks to check out what their news. Drop by and take a look anytime between 3–2:00 pm. Please note that some things will only be available for those 18 years of age or older and a valid ID will need to be signed before you check out some of the items from the BOTL collection. See the article on page 2 for more info.

**LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY**

Series of lively discussions of books by African American authors. Summer titles TBD. We are currently meeting virtually but may decide to meet in person depending on COVID case in the local area. Please check this event listing closer to the due date for future updates.

**YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY | THE LOOP Summer 2022**

**Ypsilanti District Library | The Loop Summer 2022**

**GARDEN SERIES AT THE LIBRARY**

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Event Schedule | Summer 2022 | Visit ypsilibrary.org/events

WEALTHY LIVING FOR YOUR BRAIN AND BODY
6:00pm YDL-Whittaker Learn tips from Alzheimer’s Association Michigan Chapter for a healthy lifestyle to promote your mental and physical health.

TECH HELP
ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP FOR SENIORS
Mon in Ypsilanti Center Square, 1:30pm-3:30pm YDL-Whittaker
Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, and create simple formulas. Also, learn to share an Excel workbook using a Google (or Gmail) account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
Jun 14, 2:00pm; Jul 20 & Aug 6, 10:30am YDL-Whittaker
Learn to enter and edit data, select cell ranges, format cells, and create charts. Also learn to share and collaborate on a workbook using Excel. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

MICROSOFT POWERPOINT - BASICS
Jun 28 & Jul 14, 2:00pm; Aug 20, 10:30am YDL-Whittaker
Learn the basics for creating a PowerPoint presentation. A Google (or Gmail) account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS
Jun 11, 7:00pm; Jul 18, 2:00pm; Aug 14, 10:30am YDL-Whittaker
Explore more advanced features of Google Docs including: headers and footers, tabs and indents, inserting breaks (page, section, and line), finding and replacing text, and voice typing. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

GOOGLE CALENDAR - BASICS
Jun 13, 7:00pm; Jul 21 & Aug 17, 10:30am YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to send and retrieve messages, add attachments, create and manage calendars and more, add contacts, and manage email junk. Participants may sign up for a Google account at the workshop, Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

MICROSOFT WORD - INTERMEDIATE
Jun 18, 2:00pm; Jul 25 & Aug 10, 10:30am YDL-Whittaker
Learn to edit and format text, insert tables, and add graphics and multimedia. Also learn to insert headers, footers, page numbers, and page views. A Google (or Gmail) account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

MICROSOFT WORD - BASIC
Jul 21, 7:00pm; Aug 17, 10:30am YDL-Whittaker
Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text. Virtual (Zoom). Also, learn to share and collaborate on a document. A Google (or Gmail) account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

GOOGLE DRIVE - INTERMEDIATE
Jul 25, 7:00pm; Aug 21, 10:30am YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to use Google Drive to create and collaborate on documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and forms. A Google (or Gmail) account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

GMAIL - INTERMEDIATE
Aug 7, 7:00pm; Aug 25, 10:30am YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to send and receive messages, add attachments, create and manage calendars and more, add contacts, and manage email junk. A Google (or Gmail) account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

GROUPS AND HOW TO SEARCH THE WEB
Aug 11, 7:00pm; Aug 29, 10:30am YDL-Whittaker
This class covers the browser toolbar and menu options, managing your favorite websites, and using search tools and techniques. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

OutDOOR STORYTIME
Saturdays, Jun 18 & Aug 20, 9:30am YDL-Whittaker
Enjoy stories outside, then play at the park! Offered in partnership with the Downtown Development Association, City of Ypsilanti, and Ypsilanti Township Parks. Ypsilanti, Farmington Hills, and Washtenaw County Parks. Register online or call the Ypsilanti District Library at (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

STORYTIMES
Saturdays, Jun 18, 3:00pm; Jul 16 & 30, 10:00am YDL-Whittaker
Learn a variety of preschool readiness skills, including colors, shapes, sorting, and using and holding a pencil. Children will need to be accompanied by an adult.

NEW YPSI STORIES RELEASE SCHEDULE
The Ypsi Stories podcast is shifting to a new production schedule, but you can expect the same great content. Going forward, you will hear episodes released quarterly, rather than monthly.

This season’s episode will focus on the official song of Ypsilanti! Lee Osili, composer and performer of “Back to Ypsilanti,” joins us for a 2-part interview. We’ll learn about the story of the song, hear about his time in the Ypsilanti musical world, and hear stories from growing up in Ypsilanti.

Each episode will be released around the same time. The Loop is published, visit ypsilibrary.org/events or follow us on social media to check on the latest release.
SCHOOLS MAKE SUMMER LEARNING COOL

Over the summer, local schools work hard to make sure students continue learning and growing outside of the classroom.

READING IN THE PARK
What’s better than reading? Reading outside! YDL and Lincoln Consolidated Schools partner each year for Reading in the Park, where Pre-K through 5th grades can come for special storytimes. Each event has a special theme and features guest readers, snacks, make & take crafts, free books, and of course YDL librarians and SWAG. Keep an eye out for a code to log for the Summer Challenge!

GRIZZLY LEARNING CAMP
Ypsilanti Community Schools hosts the Grizzly Learning Camp each summer. Registration is closed for this year’s camp, but future summers will include similar activities and opportunities. Preschoolers explore symmetry in nature. Middle school students learn about the stock market. High school students try out careers with paid internships in auto body shops, dentists’ offices, restaurants, and more.

“Project-based learning makes lessons engaging and dynamic — and are designed to solve a problem with creativity and innovation,” Superintendent Dr. Alena Zachery-Ross said in an interview with Metro Parent Magazine.

Students also take field trips to explore local community sites and resources, and the program includes transportation, breakfast, lunch, and a snack. Going forward, the goal is for the camp to accommodate each student in the district and give kids and teachers yet another reason to love learning. Learn more about future camps at ycschools.us.

STAY ACTIVE ALL SUMMER WITH YDL

It’s important for kids to engage in hands-on activities. It helps pique their interest and make them want to learn and discover more. Staying active mentally and physically in the summer means they’ll be eager to keep learning when they go back to school in the fall.

For some kids, summer means camps or summer school. YDL’s Outreach team partners with as many camps and school programs as possible to provide access to books and STEAM activities. YDL also offers activities throughout the summer for those who aren’t in a structured summer program.

Make a bracelet or wreath out of grocery items, and flowers you find outside. Write positive messages or draw on a sidewalk to bring happiness to passers-by. Create an obstacle course inside or out with things you find and challenge someone to see if they can get through it faster than you.

Find 8 things that are blue and arrange them in a pretty picture. Take a leaf census. Find how many different types of leaves can you find on a walk around your block? Go outside on a clear night to stargaze. Look for pictures in the stars and write a short story about what you see.

CHOOSING THE BEST SCHOOL FIT

1. What if your child is starting kindergarten, or your family has moved, it can be challenging trying to find the best school for your needs. Vicki Coury, Communications & Information Services Director at Lincoln Consolidated Schools, recommends attending a school’s building info nights, meeting the staff, and touring the buildings to get a feel for the right program for each student.

2. Most Washtenaw County School districts participate in School of Choice, which means most schools, including LCS and YCS, allow students from outside the district to apply. For more information about School of Choice in Washtenaw County, visit www.washtenawisd.org/families-and-visitors/school-of-choice. For more questions to ask to find the best school fit, visit greatschools.org.

YCS SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

The sessions are held at Splitter Park, next to the Lincoln Middle School tennis courts, and will take place from 6–7pm on June 14 and August 9. You can visit the Lincoln Schools website (www.lincoln12.org) or follow them on social media for event updates.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:

| June 1 | LCS Honors Convocation
| June 3 | LCS High School Graduation
| June 8 | YCS High School Graduation; LCS Final exams - ½ day for LCS grades 6-11
| June 9 | LCS Final exams - ½ day for LCS grades 6-11
| June 10 | Last Day of School (½ day) LCS and YCS
| June 14 | LCS Reading in the Park
| July 22 | YCS Jazz in the Parking Lot
| August 8 | LCS Reading in the Park
| August 20 | YCS FACE Conference and Back to School Bash

LEARNING DOESN'T STOP IN SUMMER

Looking for outdoor summer fun? Ypsilanti Community Schools hosts the 8th Annual Jazz in the Parking Lot on Friday, July 22. This year features Detroit jazz duo Gwen and Charles Scales and Sherry Hawkins from Dance With Elegance, who will teach the newest hustle dance.

The festivities start at 6 p.m at Ypsilanti Community High School’s Shadford Field, supported by various community partners including Ypsilanti, Community High School’s Shadford Field, Scales and Sherry Hawkins from Dance With Elegance, who will teach the newest hustle dance.

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MILLAGE PASSAGE EXPANDS MENTAL HEALTH HELP

Mental health help is now accessible to everyone in Washtenaw County.

In November 2017, Washtenaw County residents voted two-to-one in favor of an eight-year millage to fund mental health and public safety improvements. It gives more people access to Washtenaw County’s mental health services.

Before the millage, Washtenaw County’s community mental health agency (WCCMH) was limited to serving adults diagnosed with a serious mental illness, children diagnosed with a severe emotional disturbance, and individuals diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Millage funding now allows WCCMH to provide services to all residents of Washtenaw County who may be in need. WCCMH can also connect residents to local providers best suited to meet their needs. All Washtenaw County residents can call WCCMH’s 24/7 mental health and substance use treatment access line at 734-544-3050.

Here’s what happens when you call:
1. Call center staff will ask who needs assistance – the caller, or the caller’s child, parent, grandparent, student, parishioner, patient, or friend. All calls and callers are welcome.
2. Call center staff quickly determine the urgency of the need. This allows them to immediately route crisis calls to the agency’s 24/7 crisis response team, a group of mental health experts with advanced training in crisis situations, that is available to respond to community needs at any time.
3. Staff then ask callers for basic information about the person who needs assistance, including name, age, and location. This allows hotline staff to begin a confidential health record, which is required for program and service referrals.
4. To best help callers, staff may also ask about symptoms and mood, history of mental health or substance use concerns, and more. This allows staff to provide relevant information and resources and to refer callers to the community or agency resources they need, such as peer support specialists, group or individual counseling, or licensed psychiatrists who can prescribe medications.

Please note, call center staff are required to ask about insurance status, but no Washtenaw County resident will be denied service based on insurance status, ability to pay, or immigration status. Callers do not need insurance, citizenship, or money to access mental health or substance use treatment services. Call 734-544-3050 or visit washtenaw.org/millage for more information.

FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS AND TEENS

Food Gatherers will once again sponsor several summer meal sites for kids and teens throughout Washtenaw County, and YDL is participating!

The program begins at the end of June, and meals will be available for all kids and teens ages 18 and under. Individuals ages 26 and younger who are enrolled in educational programs for those with disabilities also qualify.

YDL-Michigan is one of the meal sites, starting June 20 through August 5. See the Lunch @ the Library listing on page 5 for details. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), exists to make sure kids have access to complete meals even when school is not in session. Last year, the SFSP distributed 55,520 meals to the community thanks to significant support from Toyota Research & Development, Ashley and Jon Oberheide, and Milk Mares Morn. The most up-to-date schedule information can be found at foodgatherers.org/summerfood or by contacting the Food Gatherers team at 734-761-2796 or summerfood@foodgatherers.org with questions.

Making Washtenaw County #HealthyTogether

COME A FOSTER GRANDPARENT

Ypsilanti’s Bicentennial is coming in 2023! The Bicentennial City Commission is hard at work planning a full year of meaningful community gatherings to recognize Ypsilanti’s 200th anniversary since its incorporation on April 22, 1823. Expect family-friendly entertainment, historic-driven happenings, and even a few surprises, including opening the time capsule from the Ypsilanti Sesquicentennial in 1973! For more information, visit the Facebook event page (www.facebook.com/’YpsBicentennial’) or email ypsbicentennial@gmail.com.

YpsiTeens360 returns this summer. Spend your Friday nights this summer swimming at Ford Lake, courtesy of the Ypsilanti Township’s John E. Lawrence Summer Jazz series.

Rosie the Riveter Craft Show at North Bay Park

Rosie the Riveter Craft Show returns this summer. July 23 from 9am-4pm, come to North Bay Park for over 100 craft booths, music, and delicious food truck vendors. You’ll also find a kids’ play area and door prizes. Email rosieshow@ytown.org for more information.

SEASONAL JOB OPENINGS WITH THE TOWNSHIP

There are a number of Ypsilanti Township seasonal employment opportunities available. Visit ytown.org for full job descriptions and application forms.

YPSI TOWNSHIP NEWS ROUNDUP

The John E. Lawrence Jazz Fest Series at Ford Lake Park

The popular Rosie the Riveter Craft Show returns this summer. July 23 from 9am-4pm, come to North Bay Park for over 100 craft booths, music, and delicious food truck vendors. You’ll also find a kids’ play area and door prizes. Email rosieshow@ytown.org for more information.

Seasonal Job Openings with the Township

There are a number of Ypsilanti Township seasonal employment opportunities available. Visit ytown.org for full job descriptions and application forms.

Mask and Test Kit Available to Residents at Civic and Community Centers

During regular operating hours, residents can pick up masks and test kits from both the Civic and Community centers in Ypsilanti Township.

Work Started on the Huron St. Bike Path

The Huron Street bike path is well underway. For phase one, a bike path will be built on the west side of Huron Street from S. Huron River Drive to James L. Hart. On the east side of Huron Street, there’s a path from James L. Hart to the MDT Park & Ride Lot. Additionally, a trail will be built over I-94 connecting Ypsilanti Township to the City of Ypsilanti.
CELEBRATE ART & DIVERSITY WITH YPSIWRITES

YpsiWrites encourages you to write about art and diversity.

Through September, billboard-sized art will be on display at Riverside and Parkridge Community Center Parks in Ypsilanti, as well as Gallup Park and Leslie Science Center in Ann Arbor. The exhibit—which includes art by local artists—was assembled by Embracing Our Differences SE Michigan, a nonprofit that harnesses the power of art and education to celebrate diversity.

The goal of the partnership is to connect art and writing through the use of engaging writing prompts for all ages. For example, one activity encourages participants to write down words that come to mind as they walk around the exhibit, and use those words to create a poem.

The prompts are available through Embracing Our Differences (@ArtEOD) and YpsiWrites social media and through the YpsiWrites and Embracing Our Differences websites. Print copies will be available in the parks during the summer months when guides are present. There will also be an opportunity to use the prompts as part of YDL’s Summer Challenge.

Participants are encouraged to share their writings on social media to inspire others to reflect on the themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion. “What I find most exciting about this project is the various ways that individuals will be encouraged to write about diversity in their lives and community,” says Beth Sabo, one of the volunteers who developed the prompts. “This will be a great opportunity for writers of all ages to connect with and explore this important topic.”

The art will remain in the parks through September 30. For more information on Embracing Our Differences Southeast Michigan, visit eodmichigan.com. Follow YpsiWrites on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on all YpsiWrites events. For additional resources or to volunteer, visit ypsiwrites.com.

FREE BUS RIDES WITH YOUR YDL CARD

TheRide is taking part in this year’s Summer Challenge (see page 2)! TheRide will again offer free rides on the weekend to library card holders. Just show your YDL card when you get on the bus. You’ll earn a Summer Challenge badge and you’ll be using an important community resource.

Public transit reduces our nation’s emissions by 37 million metric tons annually. In addition, every $1 spent on public transit is returned with $5 in economic benefit. Public transit helps people get to jobs, giving businesses access to the entire workforce, and provides access to Washtenaw County’s world-class health system. It connects our essential healthcare workers and patients who need them most.

Stay up to date on the latest news and long-term plan from TheRide by visiting Theride.org.

Ypsilanti District Library | The Loop

Summer 2022