



WATCHING AND WAITING

Heartfelt thanks to the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund and the many generous individuals who contributed over \$28,000 toward the installation of air purification equipment at YDL-Whittaker and YDL-Michigan. The needlepoint bi-polar ionization systems (NPBI) remove bacteria, allergens, and virus particles from the air. This will provide greater peace of mind and speed our libraries’ reopening.

As of this writing, public gatherings remain greatly restricted by state regulations. We are closely monitoring the impact of the new COVID variants and vaccination rates in the Ypsilanti area. As conditions improve, we’ll move to the next phase of our reopening plan, including computer use by appointment and limited browsing. We’ll also maintain the curbside and virtual services you’ve come to rely upon.

Reopening news will appear on [ypsilibrary.org](https://www.ypsilibrary.org) and social media. Staff are busy making the libraries sparkle and getting ready for your safe return. We can’t wait to see you again!

Lisa Hoenig, *Director*

CELEBRATE A SUPERIOR MILESTONE

Since Superior Township joined the library district in 2006, YDL has dreamed of building a full-service Superior library branch. We limped through the Great Recession, and we’ve held on through the pandemic, but our vision never wavered. This spring we will finally break ground on a new Superior library, and you are invited to join in the celebration!

The rain-or-shine community event will feature hard hats, masks, balloons, entertainment, and some fun! Former State Representative David Rutledge, a neighborhood resident and friend of the project, will be on hand to speak, along with Library Director Lisa Hoenig and Superior Township Supervisor Ken Schwartz. If you’re unable to join us in person, watch the groundbreaking livestream, courtesy of Bank of Ann Arbor at ypsilibrary.org/superior-gb.

Groundbreaking is **scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th, at 3:30 p.m.**

The new library site is located on the east side of Harris Road between Geddes and MacArthur, with parking available on the northeast corner of MacArthur and Harris.

The Superior Library groundbreaking ceremony takes place during National Library Week, April 4–10, which has the very fitting 2021 theme “Welcome to Your Library!” The new 7,800 square-foot library is expected to open in the summer of 2022. It will feature a Community Meeting Room that can seat 50, dedicated youth and teen areas, 20 public computers, two group study rooms, an accessible learning garden, and more. The building is being designed by Daniels & Zermack Architects, with O’Neal Construction the construction manager. To learn more about the project, visit ypsilibrary.org/newlibrary.

The original budget for the new library was \$2.5 million, but with skyrocketing construction costs, the budget has more than doubled. To ensure the new library is everything the community wants and needs, YDL launched a capital campaign with a goal of \$2 million. \$200,000, or 10% of this goal, was earmarked for the YDL Endowment at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, to ensure the new facility would be supported far into the future.

As if in answer to this wish, YDL just received a tremendous gift, the new James W. and Marla J. Gousseff Fund for the Ypsilanti District Library. Part of a larger \$1.8M gift to the Ypsilanti Area Community Fund, the endowment is intended to enrich the community the Gousseffs loved. Through their generosity and dedication, they left an incredible lasting legacy for Ypsilanti. We are honored and grateful they selected YDL as a beneficiary.

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MAR–MAY EVENTS

MONDAYS

Mar 1, Apr 5 & May 3

TWEEN BOOK CLUB (Grades 6–8)

6:30 PM
Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss great books!
Mar 1: *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis
Apr 5: *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
May 3: *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio
REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org.



Mar 1–May 3

826MICHIGAN TUTORING

3:00 PM
In partnership with 826michigan, the library is happy to provide access to live one-on-one tutoring. Register at tinyurl.com/826VSS or call (901) 205-9035 between 10:30-6:30 to register by phone. Contact megan@826michigan.org for more information.

Apr 26

GRIEVE WELL: UNDERSTANDING GRIEF

7:00 PM
Did you know that there are healthy ways to grieve? During this presentation, you will learn about grief and the effects it has on one's physical and emotional health. This presentation is for those who are mourning the death of a loved one, those supporting someone who is grieving, or for those who want more information about grief. Learn more and find resources and services at GrieveWell.com. Presented in partnership with GrieveWell. Registration required. Register at app.livestorm.co/grievewell/grieve-well-understanding-grief-workshop-april2021.

May 17

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS INTERNATIONALLY

6:30 PM
Looking for markets outside the U.S? Learn more about exporting from Romy Ancog, Lead Export Finance Manager of the US Export Assistance Center, U.S. Small Business Administration. He'll talk about why you should consider exporting now, how to sell safely in the international market, which federal and state resources can help, and potential loans and grants available for exporters. Presented by the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Registration required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411.

TUESDAYS

Mar 2–May 4

826MICHIGAN TUTORING

3:00 PM
In partnership with 826michigan, the library is happy to provide access to live one-on-one tutoring. Register at tinyurl.com/826VSS or call (901) 205-9035 between 10:30-6:30 to register by phone. Contact megan@826michigan.org for more information.

Mar 2 & May 18

GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)
2:00 PM
Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, create simple formulas and methods for sharing and collaborating with others on your spreadsheet. A Google account is required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.



Mar 2–May 25

KNITTING PLUS

6:00 PM
Meet virtually with other yarnies and share your projects and ideas every Tuesday on Zoom! Open to all, any handcraft welcome. For your convenience, download the app to your computer or smart phone in advance. For more information, email joy@ypsilibrary.org

Mar 9 & 23, Apr 13 & 27 & May 11 & 25

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP

4:30 PM
Looking for ways to help the community and earn volunteer hours? The Teen Advisory meets on Zoom twice a month to plan gaming meetups, develop teen subscription boxes, write grants, and brainstorm ways to help the library best serve Ypsi teens. Apply at ypsilibrary.org/TAG.

Mar 9, Apr 13 & May 11

TEEN SUBSCRIPTION BOXES

Curbside Hours
Bored at home? Sign up for YDL's teen subscription boxes and get a surprise package each month with a book and other cool items, including snacks, activities, and gifts chosen by the Teen Advisory Group (TAG)! Subscribe, then stop by the library once a month to snag your swag. TAG will also host a monthly online book talk for teens to discuss the title in each box.
March: Try Something New
April: Climate Change
May: Celebrate PRIDE
Check ypsilibrary.org/curbside for hours at each location. Teen Subscription Boxes are available starting the second Tuesday of the month.

Mar 16–May 11

STORYTIME LIVE

10:30 AM
Hear stories, sing along to your favorite storytime songs, try some yoga poses from home, and more! Videos are available on YouTube for a limited time after the livestream. Visit ypsilibrary.org/storytimes for more info about storytimes and other activities for little ones.

Mar 16, Apr 20 & May 18

VISUAL BOOK CLUB

7:30 PM
Read and discuss graphic novels and other visually interesting books. These are virtual meetings until further notice. Contact Scott Marlowe at smarlowe@ypsilibrary.org for more information.
March 16: *Yiddishkeit: Jewish Vernacular and the New Land* by Harvey Pekar
April 20: *The House* by Paca Rosa
May 18: *Descender* by Jeff Lemire



Mar 16–Apr 20

ZUMBA & STRENGTH TRAINING

12:00 PM
We have combined two of most popular fitness classes into one series! Join fitness trainer Jerry Powell of Lifestyle Fitness, for another fun fitness series as we combine the high energy of Zumba with the effectiveness of strength training for the ultimate workout. Suggested equipment is 1–5 lb. weights. If you don't have weights at home, alternate options will be given. This class is designed for adults ages 55 & up, but is open to all adults who would enjoy a gentler workout. A Zoom link will be shared with those who register. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x1362.

Mar 23 & May 4

GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)
Mar 23 | 2:00 PM
May 4 | 10:30 AM
Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and methods for sharing and collaborating with others on your presentation.. A Google account is required. Register online ypsilibrary.org/events or by phone 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Mar 30, Apr 27 & May 25

VIRTUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

7:00 PM
Mar 30: *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
Apr 27: *Truths We Hold* by Kamala Harris
May 25: *Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir* by Natasha Trethewey

Apr 6

FROM BOOMERS TO ZOOMERS: ZOOM PRACTICE FOR SENIORS (55+)

2:00 PM
Learn the basics of navigating the Zoom meeting interface. While working with other seniors, you can see yourself on camera, test your microphone, learn to chat, and more. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Apr 13

GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)
2:00 PM
Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text and methods for sharing your document and collaborating with others. A Google account is required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP FOR SENIORS (55+)
Call 734-482-4110 x1384 or email brigitte@ypsilibrary.org to schedule a one-hour phone or virtual session.

Apr 20

GOOGLE DOCS TIPS AND TRICKS

(Adult)
2:00 PM
Explore more advanced features of Google Docs including: headers and footers, tabs and indents, inserting breaks (page, section, and column), finding and replacing text, and voice typing. A Google account and prior Google Docs experience required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Apr 27

HOW TO HOST A ZOOM MEETING

(Adult)
2:00 PM
Learn the basics for hosting a Zoom meeting from start to finish. Topics include: scheduling, securing and starting your meeting, inviting participants, using host controls, Zoom etiquette, and basic troubleshooting. Register online ypsilibrary.org/events or by phone 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

May 25

GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS

(Adult)
2:00 PM
Explore more advanced features of Google Sheets including: using formulas, conditional functions and formatting, sorting, filtering and linking data, and defining a print area. A Google account and prior Google Sheets experience required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

WEDNESDAYS

Mar 3, Apr 7 & May 5

NEW EPISODE OF YPSI STORIES

Our new podcast, Ypsi Stories, takes a look into our community's past through storytelling. Featuring local historians and experts, we hope that by sharing more perspectives and voices from our past, we as a community can have a better understanding of our collective past, present, and future! Look for a new podcast, the first Wednesday of every month wherever you find your podcasts or at ypsilibrary.org/ypsisstories.

Mar 10

SETTING UP AND UNDERSTANDING YOUR BOOKKEEPING SYSTEM (SESSION 1 OF 2)

6:30 PM
Learn about basic financial reports and concepts that small business owners need to know. Get prepared so you can talk to an accountant about how to set up your bookkeeping, financial statements, and other metrics so they will help you analyze and run your business. Our second Bookkeeping workshop will go through the process of setting up a system on a software of your choice. Presented by the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Registration required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411.

Mar 17

SETTING UP YOUR FINANCIAL BOOKKEEPING SYSTEM ON SOFTWARE (SESSION 2 OF 2)

6:30 PM
Using Quick Books as a guide, we'll go through the process of setting up an online bookkeeping system, from starting the chart of accounts to tracking and managing operating expenses to setting up customers, vendors, and inventory. We'll also cover how to set up financial reports to manage the business. Presented by the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Registration required. Register online or call 734-482-4110.



Mar 17–Apr 21

COOKING FOR ONE

12:30 PM
Whether you're a college student, senior, or single living on your own, cooking for one can be fun! Over the course of six lessons, learn to make cooking for one simple and enjoyable, make healthy choices on a budget, learn food safety basics, participate in safe physical activities to do at home, and walk away with new recipes. Offered by Michigan State University Extension. Please register online by the March 24 session to participate. Attend at least four classes to receive a cookbook and calendar.

Mar 17–Apr 26

2021 OSCAR AWARDS CONTEST

Enter our yearly Academy Awards contest! Pick the winner in the most award categories (including a tiebreaker question, if necessary) and receive a watch-at-home movie prize pack, including a movie of our choice and movie theater style snacks for two. Ballots will be available by Wednesday, March 17th. Request a paper ballot with your curbside pickup or digitally on our website. The winner will be announced Monday April 26th, the day after the ceremony (see Page 5 for more info).

Mar 24

WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ESTATE PLANNING

6:00 PM
Learn what estate plan will work best for you. Attorney Virginia Cardwell explores available tools, including wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and other methods to plan for property to pass outside of probate. Registration required.

Mar 31, Apr 28 & May 26

VIRTUAL MYSTERY LOVER'S BOOK GROUP

2:00 PM
Mar 31: *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz
Apr 28: *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold* by John Le Carré
May 26: *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich

Apr 7

DOLLARS AND SENSE OF E-COMMERCE

6:30 PM
Interested in eCommerce? This program will discuss the cost of eCommerce to a business, including payment apps, accounting software, and what to look for in an online banking service. We'll look at two finance software systems and their services for a Point-of-Sale system: Square vs. Stripe, and the apps they support. Presented by the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Registration required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411.

Apr 14

ROAD MAP TO YOUR LOCAL HAULING/JUNK REMOVAL BUSINESS

6:30 PM
Discuss the range of services that can be offered in hauling and junk removal businesses. Information on capital equipment, facilities, licensing, and insurance requirements will be covered, along with key elements in starting or formalizing your business, including critical success factors, marketing, basics of funding, and banking. Presented by the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Registration required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411.



Apr 21
WHO YA CALLIN' CRAZY? MENTAL HEALTH ATTITUDES THROUGH THE AGES
3:00 PM
Oakland Community College Professor Dennis Fiems provides an examination of mental illness and its treatment, or mistreatment, in Western history. This program will be uploaded to YDL's YouTube channel after the presentation.



May 5
ZEN DOODLE WORKSHOP (55+)
1:00 PM
Join us as we use a simple set of patterns to create a beautiful tangle of designs. No prior experience is necessary. Pick up supplies in advance, then meet virtually. Registration required. Participants will receive the workshop Zoom link after they register. For ages 55 and up, or any adult wanting to explore this relaxing skill.

May 5
HEALTHY LIVING THROUGH NUTRITION
7:00 PM
Join Family Medicine Dr. Jamie Qualls for an informative virtual session about the power of lifestyle medicine for the prevention and reversal of chronic diseases. Dr. Jamie will focus on several common health conditions she sees every day in her clinic and discuss why a plant-based diet can be very beneficial as a form of treatment.

THURSDAYS

Mar 4, Apr 1 & May 6
TAKE SOME TIME: MONTHLY SELF-CARE KITS FOR ADULTS
Michigan Ave Curbside Hours
Feel like you could use a break? Stop by for one of our self-care kits. Kits are available starting the first Thursday of the month while supplies last. They are first-come, first-serve, and RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. To reserve a kit, call 734-482-4110 x 1385 or email Kim at krowe@ypsilibrary.org.

Mar 4, Apr 1 & May 6
THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP
10:30 AM
Mar 4: *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline
Apr 1: *A Good American Family* by David Maraniss
May 6: *Three Things About Elsie* by Joanna Cannon

Mar 4
6:30–8:00 PM
GET TO A BETTER PLACE! WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY A HOME
Buying a home is a big deal. How do you know if you can afford it? How much money do you need for a down payment? Is your credit good enough? Get answers to these and other questions from Amy Matteson and Joe Kiser from Old National Bank. Visit ypsilibrary.org/events to register and receive a link to the event, which will be presented on WebEx.

Mar 11
USING MEMOIR TO MAKE SENSE OF THE PANDEMIC
5:00 PM
Take a moment to reflect on 2020. What moments (the good, the bad, and the ugly) do you want to remember for yourself and for others? What new understandings did you gain? Get an introduction to idea generation and launch your memoir writing focused on 2020. This is an YpsiWrites program.

Mar 11 & 25, Apr 8 & 22 & May 13 & 27
READ TO THE LIBRARY DOG
6:00 PM
Reading to a dog helps children develop confidence and become better readers. Sign up for a virtual 10-minute slot. REGISTRATION REQUIRED: email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org



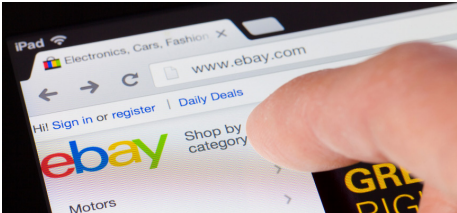
Mar 18, Apr 15 & May 20
THIRD THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB
7:00 PM
Mar 18: Wind Chimes - It may be blustery, but embrace it by making a rustic wind chime!
Apr 15: Pinwheel Wreath - Invite spring in with a colorful hanging wreath.
May 20: Birdhouses - Make a one-of-a-kind piece for your feathered friends by painting and embellishing a wooden birdhouse. Register online; supplies provided.

Mar 18–May 13
STORYTIME LIVE
4:30 PM
Hear stories, sing along to your favorite storytime songs, try some yoga poses from home, and more! Videos are available on YouTube for a limited time after the livestream. Visit ypsilibrary.org/storytimes for more info about storytimes and other activities for little ones.

Mar 18, Apr 15 & May 20
ONLINE SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
1:00 PM
Contribute to the library by sharing ideas and resources. For more information, email or call Monique: mgeiman@ypsilibrary.org, 734-482-4110, x1362.

Mar 18, Apr 15 & May 20
KIDS BOOK CLUB (Grades 3–5)
6:30 PM
Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss books for young readers!
Mar 18: *Henry Huggins* by Beverly Cleary
Apr 15: *Fourth Grade Rats* by Jerry Spinelli
May 20: *Stuart Little* by E. B. White
REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org.

Apr 8
RAIN GARDENS 101
12:30 pm
Thinking of building a rain garden this year? Get your questions answered and find resources to get your project off the ground from local rain garden guru Susan Bryan from Washtenaw County Water Resources. Register online to receive details on how to access the seminar.



April 22
INTRODUCTION TO SELLING ON EBAY
6:30 PM
Need some extra cash? Ebay is a great place to sell your old stuff, make some money, and clear out space. Get step by step instructions on how to sell items on Ebay, including the basics on creating listings, pricing, auctions types, adding photos, shipping options, and more. Please create a free Ebay account before attending the class. You're also encouraged to create a Paypal account. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register below or call 734-482-4110 x2411. We'll send you the Zoom link a few days before the event. Space is limited. Contact Robert Neil: neil@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x1353 if you have questions about Zoom.

Apr 29
PRESERVING FAMILY RECIPES
7:00 PM
Join writer and archivist Valerie Frey for guidance on how to care for family recipe sheets and kitchen artifacts, and get techniques for translating sketchy, illegible, or unwritten recipes. Learn about interviewing relatives and collecting oral histories that fill out a family's food traditions. In partnership with the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.



May 6
MAKE DINNER WITH ZEETHECOOK
4:00 PM
Tune in from your kitchen as Zee Shami of ZeeTheCook Culinary Studios teaches you how to prepare a Fattoush Salad with homemade dressing. It's a perfect spring dish and highly customizable for various dietary needs. Choose your own protein such as tofu, chicken, or beef. If you'd like to shop and prep in advance, find the recipe at ypsilibrary.org/events. Register online to receive the Zoom link.

FRIDAYS



Mar 12
TEEN GAME NIGHT
6:00 PM
Calling all teens to join YDL TAG in our monthly game night! You'll need two devices: one to play the online game and one to join our Zoom hangout! There will be a \$25 gift card raffle each time for those teens who join and play, so come play, hang with friends, and possibly win some cash!
Friday, Mar 12 at 6pm: Trivia
Saturday, Apr 17 at 6pm: Drawful
Friday, May 14 at 6pm: Among Us
Register online to receive the Zoom link. Questions? Email Kelly at kscott@ypsilibrary.org.

Mar 12 & 26, Apr 9 & 23, May 7 & 21
LNGO CRAFTERNOONS 55+
2:00 PM
Join us for a virtual lighthearted afternoon to engage your mind, work on a project, learn a new technique, with no expectations of perfection! Pick up supplies in advance, then meet virtually. To use Zoom you will need a smartphone or Internet and tablet/computer. Registration required. For ages 55+. Part of our Learning Never Gets Old series. Questions? Contact Joy at 734-732-2634 or email joy@ypsilibrary.org.
Mar 12: Felted Rolypoly Critters - Learn to make wool balls and turn them into cute round animals.
Mar 26: Sugar Eggs - Relive an old tradition by making hollow sugar eggs and putting sweet scenes inside.

Apr 9: Faux Terrarium - Use picture frames to create a terrarium for faux succulents.
Apr 23: Jewelry - Necklace: String a basic bead necklace.
May 7: Jewelry - Bracelet: String a beaded bracelet, adding wire dangles.
May 21: Jewelry - Earrings: Use basic wire working techniques to make earrings.

Mar 19
TIPS AND TRICKS FOR NEWS WRITING AND BLOGS
4:00 PM
Join Detroit Free Press journalist Chanel Stitt for an informative session on news and blog post writing. Learn the basics of reporting and starting a blog about something you care about.

Mar 26, Apr 23 & May 14
LITTLE ONES TEAM
Get open-ended activities you can do at home that allow your little one to learn new concepts and develop their creative side through exploration and play. Parents watch a quick video or gather ideas from our website, with or without your child, then gather the supplies and let your little one explore and create. Reserve supply kits at ypsilibrary.org/littleonessteam-kits.
Mar 26: Sewing and Lacing
Apr 23: Signs of Spring
May 14: Colors

SATURDAYS

Mar 6–May 15
SATURDAY AFTERNOON ADVENTURES
Michigan Ave Curbside Hours
Each week find a new family activity you can do at home anytime, often with hands-on supplies you can pick up from the library! Previous topics are always available on our Saturday Afternoon Adventures page at ypsilibrary.org/saakit.
Mar 6: Take a Walk on Mars
Mar 13: Paleontology Dig
Mar 20: Folk Games
Mar 27: Chutes and Mazes
Apr 3: Kitchen Science: Bioplastic Action Figures
Apr 10: Around the World: Jordan Palestine
Apr 17: Design Your Dream Home
Apr 24: Microbiology 101
May 1: Time Travel: Ancient Egypt
May 8: Mother's Day Appreciation
May 15: Garden to Table: Seed Starting

Mar 6 & May 1
FROM BOOMERS TO ZOOMERS: ZOOM PRACTICE FOR SENIORS (55+) honor
Mar 6 | 2:00 PM
May 1 | 10:30 AM
Learn the basics of navigating the Zoom meeting interface. While working with other seniors, you can see yourself on camera, test your microphone, learn to chat, and more. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Mar 13 & 27, Apr 10 & 24, May 8 & 22
GUITAR CLUB FOR ADULTS (18+)
10:00 AM
For guitar players of all levels and ages (18+). Meeting virtually, we teach each other songs, listen, collaborate, and learn to play guitars together. Acoustic, electric, and all other types of guitars are welcome. Email Scott Marlowe: smarlowe@ypsilibrary.org, or call Joy at 734-732-2634 for more information.

Mar 13 & May 15
GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS (Adult)
Mar 13 | 2:00 PM
May 15 | 10:30 AM
Learn to format, select, copy and edit text and methods for sharing your document and collaborating with others. A Google account is required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Mar 13, Apr 17 & May 29
VIRTUAL GARDEN CLUB
10:00 AM
Start your vegetable, flower, or container garden. Learn the basic needs of growing plants, garden planning and preparation, seed/plant selection, planting, and maintenance. Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck presents a new topic every month.
Saturday, Mar 13: Vegetable Gardening 101
Saturday, Apr 17: Flower Gardening 101
Saturday, May 29: Container Gardening 101

Mar 20–May 15
LIVE FROM THE LIBRARY
10:30 AM
Live from the library Saturdays on YpsiLibrary Instagram. Watch YDL storytimers share stories, songs, and play activities that you can do with your little one at home.

Mar 20, Apr 17 & May 15
WASHTENAW AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY
10:30 AM
Each session will focus on a different resource or technique to help you discover your family history. Program is held virtually via Zoom. Contact Joy Cichewicz at joy@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-732-2634 to get Zoom meeting information.

Mar 27
SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP EASTER BUNNY DRIVE THRU
11:00 PM–2:00 PM
Fireman’s Park, 8795 MacArthur Blvd
Superior Township Parks & Recreation is excited to present the 2021 Easter Bunny Drive Thru! This year visitors will remain in their cars and drive up to see the Easter Bunny, who will be giving each child in the car a small bag of plastic eggs filled with candy, and a small craft to take home and complete with your family. For more information, visit superiortownship.org.



Apr 3
GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS (Adult)
10:30 AM
Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, create simple formulas and methods for sharing and collaborating with others on your spreadsheet. A Google account is required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Apr 10
GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS (Adult)
10:30 AM
Explore more advanced features of Google Sheets including: using formulas, conditional functions and formatting, sorting, filtering and linking data, and defining a print area. A Google account and prior Google Sheets experience required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Apr 10
WRITING PICTURE BOOKS
4:00 PM
Have you ever thought about writing a children’s book? Explore the basics of writing for children with three wonderful authors of picture books and middle grade fiction. Presenters include Lisa Rose, Jennifer Torres, and Debbie Taylor. Saturday, April 10, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. With YpsiWrites.



Apr 17
GETTING THAT SONG OUT OF YOUR HEAD AND ONTO PAPER
4:00 PM
Join local singer-songwriter Pat Grimes for a fun-filled afternoon of songwriting. Learn how to take those words and ideas rolling around in your head and use them to create your own song. For teens and adults.

Apr 24
GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS (Adult)
10:30 AM
Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and methods for sharing and collaborating with others on your presentation. A Google account is required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

May 8
ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
10:00 AM–1:00 PM
Whittaker Road parking lot
Recycle your old computers, printers, LCD monitors, phones, cables, DVD players, and other electronics. Many household items can also be recycled. See the list of acceptable/not acceptable items on the events page at ypslibrary.org/events. Limited to residents and businesses of the City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township. See below for more details.



May 8
HOW TO HOST A ZOOM MEETING (Adult)
10:30 AM
Join us to learn the basics for hosting a Zoom meeting from start to finish. Topics include: scheduling, securing and starting your meeting, inviting participants, using host controls, Zoom etiquette and basic troubleshooting. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.



May 22
FROG FUN AT FROG ISLAND
12:00 PM
Drop by Frog Island Park for some socially-distanced outdoor frog fun! Walk around the park as a family to learn frog facts and hunt for small toy frogs and painted rocks to take home. Draw frogs on the walkway with chalk too! Rocks provided by Ypsi Rocks.

May 22
GOOGLE DOCS TIPS AND TRICKS (Adult)
10:30 AM
Explore more advanced features of Google Docs including: headers and footers, tabs and indents, inserting breaks (page, section, and column), finding and replacing text, and voice typing. A Google account and prior Google Docs experience required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.



Pop-up events

We can’t wait to see you again! Keep an eye on our events calendar and social media for announcements about outdoor programs such as storytimes, gardening projects, pop-up book browsing, and other family fun, as weather and COVID permit.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

During your spring cleaning, did you find a bunch of old electronics you don’t use? You can recycle those during YDL’s Electronics Recycling event! Bring computers, printers, LCD monitors, phones, cables, DVD players, and other unused electronics to the Whittaker Road parking lot on **Saturday, May 8** from **10:00 am–1:00 pm**. Many other household items can also be recycled. See the list of acceptable/not acceptable items online in the event listing at ypslibrary.org/events. If you are a resident or business in the City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township, you are eligible to drop off your items.





Tax Prep Resources from YDL

For many years, YDL has served as a site for free tax preparation. While we plan to continue this service in a COVID-safe manner, we've created a page for you to stay informed. Check ypsilibrary.org/taxprep for updated information and additional resources.

NEW-LOOK OSCARS, SAME YDL OSCAR CONTEST



The Oscar Awards this year will look different, but our Oscar Awards Contest won't!

We'll have ballots available for you to fill out by March 17 (nominations are announced on March 15), and you have until April 25 (the day of the ceremony) to turn them in.

The ceremony, originally scheduled for February 28, will require social distancing and likely use a mixture of live and virtual appearances, according to many sources. COVID also changed the way we experienced this season's Oscar-nominated films. Since movie theaters around the country have been closed, releases of highly-anticipated films have been delayed. Some, like *Wonder Woman 1984*, opened directly on streaming services.

To address this, the Academy extended the deadline for qualifying films from December 31 to February 28 and paused the requirement that movies have a theatrical release to qualify.

Because of these moves, Anthony Breznican says in a November *Vanity Fair* article that there's concern this will be "the 'Asterisk Oscars,' with too few contenders, or an unfair advantage for streaming services like Netflix and Amazon, which

don't rely on theatrical debuts to reach a core audience."

It could even mean a difference in how the Academy votes, Cassandra Butcher, an Academy member, awards strategist, and the chief marketing officer for Bron Studios said in the *Vanity Fair* article. "We're not gathering together. We're not breaking bread together. We're not drinking together," Butcher said. "Now we're in our homes voting the way we want to really vote. The Academy could be everywhere this year, all over the place."

This means Oscar winners will be harder than ever to predict. It will be exciting, whether you're a true aficionado who can pick the winners without even seeing the nominees, or a casual movie fan that wants to take your best guess. Either way, if you enter our contest, you could win a prize!

The individual who picks the winner in the most award categories will be our champion (including a tiebreaker question, if necessary). This year's winner will receive a watch-at-home movie prize pack, including a movie of our choice and movie theater style snacks for two.

Don't want to watch this year's winners in the theaters, or pay to stream? As soon as any nominated titles are available on DVD, we will add them to our collection. Since many of the nominees are expected to be from streaming services this year, we may not be able to get all nominated titles on DVD. Keep checking our catalogs for availability.

TO GET YOUR BALLOT
Request and return a paper copy at a curbside pickup or fill out an online form at ypsilibrary.org/movies. We'll announce the winner Monday, April 26th, the day after the ceremony.

FEED YOUR OSCAR APPETITE WITH HOOPLA

To really get into the Oscars spirit this year, explore hoopla!

Visit ypsilibrary.org/download to login to your account. From there, head to the videos collection, and browse by the Oscar Winners & Nominees category. You'll find past winners and nominees like *Across the Universe*, *Black Hawk Down*, *I Am Not Your Negro*, *RBG*, *Room*,

Loving Vincent, and much more! Movies, books, and music on hoopla are available for you to access immediately, with no waitlist.

You'll find all your favorite categories. Prefer movies that are based on a true story? Try *Eight Men Out* and many more! There's also a "Directed by Women" category where you'll find movies like *Blackfish* and *Monster*.

There's even a Bonus Borrows section, with specially curated lists of titles one month a quarter that are available for free to libraries, and don't count against your monthly borrowing limit. Check in May for the next batch of Bonus Borrows in movies, music, ebooks, and audio books.



LEARNING AND RESILIENCY

Ypsilanti Community Schools has felt the brunt of a very challenging year. Though the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted YCS students and families, with help from local organizations several programs have helped to ease the burden for those affected directly.

At the end of 2020 and the start of 2021, YCS launched the YCS Resiliency Center and the first of ten YCS Learning Labs across the Ypsilanti area. These new programs offer a combination of assistance that includes internet access, meals, social and emotional support through certified social workers, and a safe space to receive one-on-one tutoring.

YCS Resiliency Center

Located at the Old Willow Run campus, the YCS Resiliency program offers students a location to shop in the "gently" used clothes closet for coats or personal products,

print off school assignments, and use computers with Internet access. Over the holiday season, the center helped over 50 families with gifts, gift cards for food and gas, plus cleaning supplies.

Center coordinator Marquan Jackson worked with community partners to create a space that is available for all but "creates an opportunity for families ... to have access to resources they otherwise might not have."

For more information on donating to the center or resources, please visit www.ycschools.us or email mjackson9@ycschools.us.

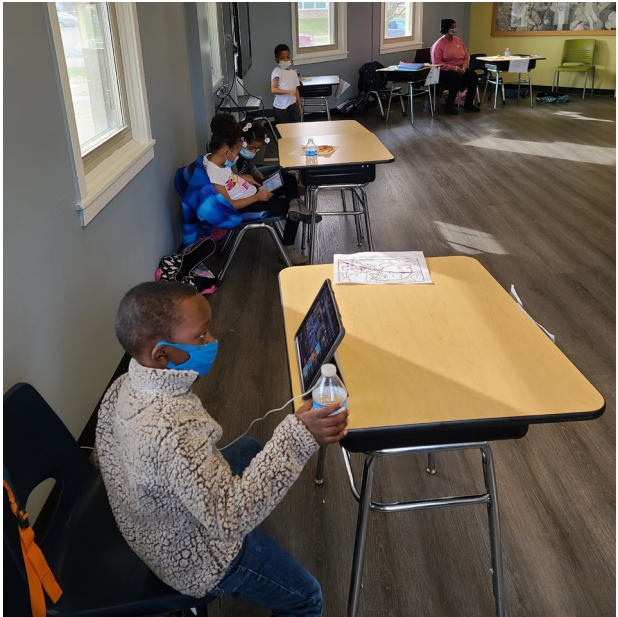
YCS Learning Lab

The YCS Learning Labs were created in partnership with Collaboration for Change, a group of organizations (Washtenaw ISD, United Way of Washtenaw County, Washtenaw County, Eastern Michigan University, and Washtenaw Community College) that assists YCS

in literacy, mentorship, and encouraging students at EMU to begin their teaching careers at YCS.

Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross says the Collaboration for Change committee, along with community support, has provided resources and helped the YCS team open the Learning Labs. "This resource is needed, and our students and families will benefit greatly and receive the help they need during this time," said Zachery-Ross.

The first Learning Lab, which opened January 11, was at Parkridge Community Center on the south side of Ypsilanti. Within days of opening, it had upwards of 20 K-5 students using the labs for in-person and virtual tutoring and access to the Internet. Students who participate in the full-day program receive breakfast and lunch plus social interaction, with social distancing precautions. Parents interested in enrolling their student should email learninglabs@ycschools.us.



TAKE A "LITTLE" LIBRARY TRIP

If you've been using the Little Free Libraries in your neighborhood more often, you aren't alone.

During the pandemic more people have been exchanging books at their regular little free libraries, according to Little Free Library statistics. Some have even been used as mini food pantries where people share non-perishable food items.

You may even have branched out from your own neighborhood to explore others. YDL has library boxes of our own at or near each of our locations. The little library box at Whittaker Road was recently rebuilt and freshly painted, so it's better than ever!

If you haven't seen them already, you can find the one at Whittaker Road just outside the circle drive in front of the building, near the bus stop. At Michigan Avenue, the box is in front of the building, near the fountain. Near our Superior location, you'll find it on the northeast side of Oakbrook Park on Berkshire Drive.

Little Free Libraries are simple: browse and take a book of interest to you. Leave a book that you think others will find interesting in its place. In the current COVID pandemic, the Little Free Library organization offers these tips for staying safe:

1. Wash or sanitize your hands before opening your Little Free Library.
2. Owners can clean the entire library with disinfectant wipes. Pay special attention to high-

- touch areas like the handle and bookshelves.
3. To be extra-cautious, clean the books with a microfiber cloth or disinfectant wipes.
4. Wash or sanitize your hands again.

There are over 100,000 Little Free Libraries in all 50 U.S. states and more than 100 countries. According to their data, millions of books are exchanged annually. Visit littlefreelibrary.org to find registered boxes closest to you.



Michigan Avenue library box: In front of the building, near the fountain.



Near our Superior location: On the northeast side of Oakbrook Park on Berkshire Drive.



Whittaker Road library box: Just outside the circle drive in front of the building, near the bus stop.

LCS TACKLING RACE AND CULTURAL LITERACY

Like many organizations and individuals around the country, Lincoln Consolidated Schools is tackling issues of race and equity. To that end, LCS is working to make systemic organizational changes.

The entire district is using a series with Dr. Yolanda Sealy-Ruiz, “Developing Racial and Cultural Literacy,” to enhance understanding of culturally-responsive instruction and use it as a foundation for teaching and learning. The hope is that it will help spotlight the differences among students to encourage new thinking about how to meet a variety of educational needs.

In partnership with the Washtenaw County Intermediate School District, Central Office leaders and building administrators are engaging in a book study, *Courageous Conversations About Race*, for strategies and protocols on how to have open conversations about race within the schools.

Several teachers are participating in training opportunities, including book studies about race, social justice, responsive teaching, and socially-just assessments and grading. LCS also developed a district Equity for Justice committee, led by teachers, whose mission is to assess and address the district’s progress and areas for growth related to education justice. The district is also making it a priority to attract and retain more teachers of color.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

LCS is prioritizing this work to ensure all students succeed.



NEW LOOK SCHOOL RESOURCE FAIR

The pandemic has impacted the 2020–21 school year in a variety of ways. YDL wants to make sure we’re helping minimize the confusion of parents and kids starting school in Fall 2021!

For the past two years, YDL offered a space for parents to meet representatives from a variety of preschools and kindergartens. In this setting, parents could easily gather information to make a decision about which program was the best fit for their little one.

Though we can’t host the event in person this year, we’re offering parents the chance to browse local school options virtually on our website. Visit ypsilibrary.org/school-readiness for information and links to schools, along with activities you can do to make sure your child has the skills to start school successfully.

Supply kits to help kids learn to cut with scissors, write their name, practice early math skills, and more will be available beginning April 2. If your preschool would like to be included on our school readiness resource page, contact jodi@ypsilibrary.org.



IS EVERYONE TALKing?

YDL was thrilled to receive an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant to expand TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten, our early literacy text messaging service. The

Washtenaw County-only service will soon be one caregivers and libraries across Michigan can use to improve school readiness in their communities!

As part of the grant, the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services helped us develop an improved texting platform. Caregivers can now sign up for TALK by texting the word TALK to a new short code: 75547. We’ve also translated our texts into Spanish. New users are prompted to choose their preferred language before entering their zip code, allowing them to get local library

event notifications, and their child’s birthday, ensuring the activities we suggest align to their developmental level. To reflect these exciting changes, the website and all TALK promotional materials have been revamped.

Visit texttolearn.com to find songs, fingerplays, sample text messages, and booklists for little ones 5 and under. We’ll be in contact with schools and organizations serving little ones in Washtenaw County to distribute flyers with the new short code when they are ready. Thanks to all of our partners for helping make the service successful and ready to share statewide!



GARDEN GROWING



After a long winter of Zoom meetings and virtual classrooms, getting out into the fresh air will be a welcome relief. New programs and updates to YDL garden spaces can help satisfy your budding need for the outdoors.

To expand learning opportunities, a rain garden is coming to YDL-Whittaker! It's being created in partnership with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office through a Community Partners for Clean Streams program.

Rain gardens are an important way to keep our waters clean and protect our water infrastructure. The solid surfaces in our cities can't absorb the water from rainstorms, and the high amount of stormwater runoff from rooftops, parking lots, and roads increases flooding and carries pollutants into local streams and lakes. That's a big deal since there are six watersheds in Washtenaw County that empty into the Great Lakes, where 21% of our world's freshwater is contained.

Rain gardens capture rainwater and reduce runoff and flooding, as well as filter pollutants. Even better, rain gardens are usually planted with



native plants, creating an excellent habitat for birds and butterflies. Be on the lookout for the new rain garden this spring!

If you're thinking of building your own rain garden this year, get your questions answered during our program on April 8 with local rain garden guru Susan Bryan. From Washtenaw County Water Resources, Susan has taught the Master Rain Gardener class for 10 years and will cover the basics, and connect you to helpful resources to get your spring garden project off the ground. See page 3 for more information.

We're also "planting" a new garden sign honoring recently retired Youth Librarian Molly Beedon! Molly started the YDL-Whittaker garden several years ago and expanded it with grant funding. We will build on her work and continue to use Molly's Library Garden to offer in-person programs for kids when it's safe, along with online activities you can try at home.

Starting in May, kids will learn different ways to plant vegetable and flower seeds and simple gardening techniques to help develop fine motor



skills and cultivate a life-long passion for growing. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the rain garden or vegetable garden, contact spallas@ypsilibrary.org.

Gardens have long been associated with creativity and learning. The early "scholar gardens" in China offered a place to retreat and reflect. Universities boast large botanical gardens where researchers can find inspiration. Library gardens are no exception.

The first garden reading room was a green space on a rooftop of the New York Public Library, planted in 1905. Other libraries followed with their own inspirational green spaces. Children and adults of all ages love to spend time among plants, which research shows has many benefits.

The hands-on experience of the garden is enjoyable for children, and anyone can do it. We'll also have programs for adults. See page 5 for our garden club information, and watch for more opportunities to learn outdoors at YDL this summer, including chances to share the harvest at YDL-Superior and Michigan.

MORE FOR YOUR FOOD STARTUP

In 2019, Growing Hope opened their Incubator Kitchen to give food startups a space to take their business to the next level. In 2021, this service is so popular, they've added even more to meet the needs of the community.

Using grants from the Ralph Wilson Foundation, PNC Bank, and individual donors, Growing Hope is adding more equipment and storage space to help entrepreneurs more effectively use the facility.

"We've been wanting to undertake this remodel since we first opened the kitchen back in January, 2019," says Cynthia VanRenterghem, Executive Director at Growing Hope. "We began to hit full capacity in regards to cold storage after only a few months of operating. We are just excited to not have to turn anyone away; we want to support any food entrepreneur who has the desire to pursue their own food business."

Startup food businesses can rent the Incubator Kitchen for access to commercial-grade equipment as well as cold and dry storage. With the remodel, there is also access to a new walk-in cooler and freezer, plus over 800 additional square feet of food prep space that can

also be used for culinary classes and workshops.

Pre-COVID, the kitchen was hosting seven makers who were using it anywhere from a couple hours a week to 25 hours a week. Currently, the kitchen supports three makers, all of whom use it between 15 and 25 hours a week depending on their sales.

"We are making the space work better for our makers," Elisa Marroquin, MarketPlace Manager, said. "By opening it up they will be able to spread

out and have room to prep and process their food products more efficiently."

Located in downtown Ypsilanti at the Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace, the Growing Hope Incubator Kitchen is open 24/7 to rent, with hourly rates and other options available. Growing Hope also facilitates connections to new retail markets and helps kitchen renters understand food safety regulations and navigate Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Washtenaw County Health Department licensing and permitting.

To tour this new space, contact Elisa Marroquin, MarketPlace Manager, at Elisa@growinghope.net or visit growinghope.net/community-spaces/growing-hope-incubator-kitchen.

If you are interested in supporting local food makers who are renting the Growing Hope Incubator Kitchen, you can find a number of them offering their products for sale at the Ypsi Area Online Market (growinghope.net/ypsi-area-online-market), including Bird Dog Bakery, 24th Cheesecakeerie, and HumusFalafel Mediterranean.



Enjoy the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets in 2 ways!

Shop online at the Ypsilanti Area Online Market

Ordering takes place every week from Thursday through Sunday at noon. Learn more about the market at growinghope.net/programs/farmers-markets/

Join us at the Depot Town Farmers Market on Saturdays

The outdoor market takes place every Saturday from May through October from 9am - 1pm. Join us on May 1st for the first market of the year!





DESPITE PANDEMIC, NEW FOOD BUSINESSES THRIVE AT YPSI TOWNSHIP COMMERCIAL KITCHEN

Adapted from an article published December 16 as part of Concentrate Media’s On the Ground Ypsilanti segment. The original article can be viewed at concentratemedia.com.

BY SARAH RIGG - Dan Evanski's family sausage recipe is so tasty that his neighbors treated it as currency when he was growing up.

"My dad used to barter with it, because everyone enjoyed it," he said. "My brother and I hated shoveling our big driveway, and the neighbor wanted the kielbasa and would plow the driveway in exchange for it."

That Polish family recipe was the inspiration for Ski's Sausage, one of five businesses that have recently launched at Rosie's Community Kitchen and are thriving despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Rosie's, located at 235 Spencer Lane in Ypsilanti Township, is an incubator kitchen, which allows small food businesses to use a shared commercial kitchen to safely prepare food.

The other four businesses that started up at Rosie's during the pandemic were Feelings Baking Co., started Aug. 1; Mondays StreetFood, a food truck business started in September; The White Pine Kitchen, which started in early November; and Buczek Pierogi, which started up in mid-November.

The five businesses that have started at Rosie's since March all embrace models that don't rely on in-person dining or indoor events.

Chris Delusky, owner of Mondays StreetFood, wanted to teach his two children how to support themselves. So he started Mondays StreetFood, a food truck business selling street tacos in East Lansing. And then the pandemic hit.

"We still put the truck up there, and it's going

okay, but East Lansing doesn't have the kind of population it does during a normal school year," Delusky says.

Despite living in West Bloomfield and vending in East Lansing, he ended up at Rosie's because the commercial kitchen he'd considered in East Lansing was almost fully booked and couldn't accommodate a food truck.

Rosie's Community Kitchen happens to be located inside the former Willow Run Middle School. The former school's bus lot is available for long-term parking of food trucks or other mobile food units.

Delusky thinks the timing for launching a food truck business is pretty good, since so many people are looking for alternatives to indoor dining, and that their popularity will last past the pandemic.

"I still think people will enjoy having a truck in their neighborhood once a week, because it's an event," he says. "They're having fun and telling their neighbors that they're having a blast."

The owners of The White Pine Kitchen have found another niche during the pandemic: providing a dining experience similar to an upscale restaurant in the customer's own home on Sundays and Tuesdays.

Owners Bryan Santos and Forrest Maddox were friends in New York City who took turns hosting dinner parties at their apartments, all the while dreaming about starting their own brick-and-mortar restaurant.

The business model they worked out is somewhere between meal delivery services like HelloFresh and Blue Apron, which provide raw ingredients that customers prepare at home, and traditional restaurant delivery services.

For instance, the "Dinner in Bologna" menu featured handmade pasta and bolognese sauce. The consumer simply had to boil the pasta and combine it with the sauce. The White Pine Kitchen's menu changes with each delivery, highlighting the cuisines of a different city or region each time.

"We've created an experience that is as good or better than eating it at a restaurant. We provide high-end, quality food, and music playlists, and information about the cuisine and culture to build up the ambience when you're eating," Santos says.

Santos and Maddox are capitalizing on a growing trend of "ghost kitchens," food businesses that don't have a retail space and exist only online.

Maddox says he thinks their dinners are meeting a need people didn't even realize they had around wanting to "feel transported to somewhere else."

"Some folks told us they dressed up for a fancy date night at home, and they felt like it was something special," Maddox says. "This is a fairly new business model, and we weren't entirely sure what the reception would be, but it's been overwhelmingly positive."

GIVE YOUR PURCHASING MORE POWER

If you're like a lot of people, you've done most of your shopping online lately. Did you know all of those Amazon purchases and Kroger pick-up orders can actually support YDL?

Kroger Plus

If you have a Kroger Plus Shopper's Card, Kroger donates a portion of your purchases to the area organization of your choice. It's easy:

1. Create an account at Kroger.com using your Shopper's Card number.
2. Navigate to your "My Account" page and click to the Community Rewards area.

3. Follow the steps to select Ypsilanti District Library as your organization of choice.

Then, anytime you use your Shopper's Card to make an eligible purchase, YDL receives a donation at no extra cost. If you don't have a Kroger Plus card, you can request one at the customer service desk. It's an easy, free to you way to support YDL!



Amazon Smile

Shop at smile.Amazon.com (same selection and prices as Amazon.com) and Amazon will donate a percentage of eligible purchases. Once you've created your Amazon Smile account, just designate YDL as your organization of choice when prompted. Most purchases qualify for a donation, but ones that are ineligible are noted.

Since YDL is an official 501©(3) organization more of these opportunities may become available. Visit ypsilibrary.org/donate to check on other opportunities to have your regular purchases help YDL.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Vaccine

A COVID-19 vaccine will be critical in slowing the spread and helping communities recover from the pandemic. However, stopping this pandemic will take ALL our tools: handwashing, masks, social distancing, and vaccines.

In mid-December, Washtenaw County received its first COVID-19 vaccines. The first people to have access to the vaccine included health care workers providing direct care, people who will be vaccinating others, and residents in long-term care settings. The next phases involve some frontline essential workers and community members over 65 years old.

For everyone else, the Washtenaw County Health Department encourages patience. It will take weeks or months to move through the prioritization phases, depending on vaccine supplies. The WCHD is vaccinating as quickly and efficiently as possible and appreciates the community's understanding.

"It's a tremendous relief to add vaccination to the resources we have to prevent COVID-19 from causing additional harm, but this process will take time," said Jimena Loveluck, MSW, health officer with Washtenaw County Health Department. "We need everyone's patience, and we need to keep doing everything possible to prevent the spread of illness – including wearing face masks, social distancing, and isolating or quarantining when needed."

For the latest information about COVID-19 vaccination, see www.washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine.

Washtenaw County COVID-19 Data

Throughout the winter, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths increased and reached higher levels than during the spring pandemic shut down. Though many of us are very excited about COVID-19 vaccines, everyone should continue to:

- Wear face coverings when out in public or around anyone outside of your household,
- Stay at least 6 feet away from anyone outside of your household,
- Wash your hands often and well,
- Stay away from others if you have any symptoms, and
- Follow isolation procedures if you test positive or have COVID-19 symptoms. Follow quarantine procedures if you're a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Learn more about isolation and quarantine at <https://bit.ly/39FNUaQ>

Washtenaw County Health Department reminds everyone to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19. These prevention strategies are most effective when combined! They help us slow the spread of illness and prevent as many cases of COVID-19 as possible—especially as we spend more time indoors.

It's not too late to get your flu shot!

During flu season and COVID-19, it is more important than ever to get your flu shot! Learn more and see how to get your shot: www.washtenaw.org/flushots.

Please note this information was written in January 2021. Local COVID-19 information is available at www.washtenaw.org/covid19.

For more information: Follow the Washtenaw County Health Department on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates (@wcpublichealth). Sign up for email updates at <https://bit.ly/WCHD555>. Though wait times might be higher due to vaccine focuses, you can also call 734-544-6700 or email L-wchdcontact@washtenaw.org with questions.

Reduce risk.

keep 6 ft distance
+
cover your face
+
wash your hands
+
get your vaccine
(when you can)

washtenaw.org/COVID19



Washtenaw County Health Department



APPLY FOR SUMMERWORKS

Time is running out to apply for the SummerWorks program! Applications are due by March 17 for the program, which offers professional development, mentorship, and paid work experience for Washtenaw County young adults, 16 to 24 years old.

The program, now in its sixth year, was designed to provide young adults with tools, work experience, and exposure to different career paths. Young adults can sign up by March 17 at SummerWorks.info/employers.

SummerWorks is a partnership between Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development, Michigan Works! Southeast, and the University of Michigan. Last year, the partners were able to pivot to continue the program during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, SummerWorks underwent significant changes which resulted in exciting new programming, including mentorships and career talks from local guest speakers.

This year, program partners are hoping to reach even more young adults. Everyone accepted into the program will receive virtual professional development, be connected to a mentor, and have the opportunity to learn from guest speakers

about different career paths. SummerWorks will also pair a select group of these young adults with local businesses and organizations for safe, in-person, or virtual paid job experiences.

Local businesses and nonprofits can participate

by hosting a summer intern, participating in the mentorship program, serving as a guest speaker, and more. To learn more about how to get involved, visit SummerWorks.info/employers.



EXPANDING DIGITAL ACCESS

With remote learning and working, having broadband Internet coverage is more important than ever. Thanks to The Library Network and Huron-Clinton Metroparks, we have added 10 new mobile hotspots you can borrow to help meet this growing need.

In 2020, we added 11 hotspots with CARES Act funds. We now have 21 mobile hotspots in circulation, but we also know the need is greater than that.

When the Ypsilanti Community Schools were assessing needs ahead of their remote learning plan, they found hundreds of families who lacked reliable Internet in their homes. Additionally, according to a 2020 report from the Washtenaw Broadband Task Force, more than 30% of responding households in Washtenaw County reported having no Internet access.

We encourage you to follow (and share information) about organizations working to address this resource gap. The Michigan Moonshot Project, for example, has worked to add dozens of public hotspot access points outside of buildings that you can use from your vehicle or on foot. For



a list of active hotspots, visit michiganmoonshot.org/communitywifi.

Engage @ EMU is also working on a Digital Connecting Corps project. In partnership with the University of Michigan’s Ginsberg Center (with funding support from the Ann Arbor Area

Community Foundation) the project will focus on meeting the digital needs of older adults. Using comprehensive surveys, the project will identify access and technology needs and form plans to help meet them within the senior community. You can follow that progress at emich.edu/engage.

RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Major Improvements at Frog Island Park!

The City of Ypsilanti and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission partnered this summer to bring much-needed improvements to the trails in Frog Island Park.

The existing asphalt trails were removed and replaced with a new, wider concrete trail that connects to the Forest Street sidewalk at the north end and the Cross Street sidewalk at its south end. The trail also wraps around the amphitheater to provide an accessible space at the top for viewers with disabilities.

New lighting was also installed alongside the pathway and in the north parking lot.

This project was funded by Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, as part of a larger project to improve the Countywide Border to Border Trail within Ypsilanti. A significant portion of the B2B Trail along Grove Road, from the Water Street/Rivers’ Edge Trail to I-94, was reconstructed, widened, and made more accessible, and plans to improve the I-94 crossing at Grove are in the works for the summer of 2021.

For some extra fun at Frog Island, see page 4 for information about our socially-distanced outdoor frog walk!



CommUNITY Skatepark

In February, the Ypsilanti Township CommUNITY Skatepark received the mParks Facility Design Award from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association. It was one of four projects honored in this category at the 2021 mParks Conference.

This state-of-the-art skatepark, located at 2000 E. Clark Road in Ypsilanti, is free to use and provides a place for skaters of all ages to be active outdoors in a safe environment. The terrain provides opportunities for all skaters—new and experienced—to learn and test their skills and abilities.

“It offers a much needed recreational opportunity for those that live in eastern Washtenaw County and the surrounding area,” said Angela Verges, the Ypsilanti Township Recreation Services Manager. “We are very proud of this project and the effect it has had on the community already.”

Others earning the distinction in the Facility Design category were:

- Marketplace on the Green (Meridian Township Parks and Recreation)
- Accessible Multi-Purpose Dock (Ingham County Parks)
- Sterling Heights Community Center (City of Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation).

Serafinski Scholarship

Have you wanted to participate in Ypsilanti Township Recreation programs, but didn’t have it in your budget? Try applying for the new Serafinski Scholarship.

Started in honor of former longtime director Art Serafinski, this scholarship provides youth with recreation opportunities with the Ypsilanti Township Recreation department each season. The scholarship is for youth 3–17 years old and can be used for most of the Township’s in-house programs. Families can apply to utilize the scholarship by completing the Scholarship Application at ytown.org or call 734-544-3800.

The scholarship was started with the help of a golf tournament in August 2020, which was hosted by the Township to start the Serafinski Scholarship Fund. The 2nd Annual Serafinski Golf Outing Fundraiser will be held August 21st at Green Oaks Golf Course.



WRITING MATTERS

YpsiWrites is excited to announce its programming for March and April! Visit YpsiWrites.com for updates.

Virtual Workshops

- **Tips and Tricks for News Writing and Blogs** – Join *Detroit Free Press* journalist Chanel Stitt for an informative session on news and blog post writing. Learn the basics of reporting and starting a blog about something you care about. This workshop will cover steps for finding what you’re most interested in writing about to generate regular content for yourself or the public. **Friday, March 19, 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.**
- **Writing Picture Books** – Have you ever thought about writing a children’s book? Explore the basics of writing for children with three wonderful authors of picture books and middle grade fiction. Jump start your own work with writing exercises and a short critique session. Presenters include Lisa Rose lisarosewrites.com, Jennifer Torres jenntorres.com and Debbie Taylor sweetmusicinharlem.weebly.com. **Saturday, April 10, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**
- **Using Memoir to Make Sense of the Pandemic** – As we begin to see some light at the end of the tunnel, let’s take a moment to reflect on 2020. What happened to you during this unusual year? What moments (the good, the bad, and the ugly) do you want to remember for yourself and for others? What new understandings did you gain? Get an introduction to idea generation and launch your memoir writing focused on 2020. **Thursday, March 11, 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.**
- **Getting that Song Out of Your Head and Onto Paper** - Join local singer-songwriter Pat Grimes for a fun-filled afternoon of songwriting. Learn how to take those words and ideas rolling around in your head and use them to create your own song. For teens and adults. **Saturday, April 17, 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.**



Virtual Writing Support

- YpsiWrites offers virtual writing support for writing that matters to you. You can receive feedback on writing that you submit electronically or through a real-time Zoom or Google Meet tutoring session.
- You can submit a piece of writing or request a tutoring session at YpsiWrites.com.

Writing Prompts & Activities:

- **Nature Writing** - Many of us—especially as Spring is arriving—find joy and inspiration in nature. In that spirit, we continue offering these writing prompts, designed by YpsiWrites volunteer Lisa Eddy, to help you slow down and appreciate the natural world. There are some for those who are able to get outside and observe, and some for those who remain indoors and appreciate nature through the window. You can find these prompts at YpsiWrites.com.
- **Let’s Write! Tips for Tackling All Kinds of Writing** - These genre-specific writing boxes contain prompts, tips, and examples to help you write resumes, cover letters, songs, memoirs, grants, and more. Find them at YpsiWrites.com.
- **Resumes for Teens** – Monitor YpsiWrites.com and YpsiLibrary.org for these toolkits coming soon! These materials will provide guidance for secondary students interested in improving an existing resume or developing a new one.
- **Youth Writing Prompts** - YpsiWrites writing activities and games will accompany YDL Youth Supply Kits this spring. Be on the lookout for online and hard copy resources for young writers with each kit!

And keep an eye out for two new initiatives planned for this spring or summer—Public Art/ Public Writing and Mystery Writing!

MOBILE TICKETING AND MORE FROM THERIDE

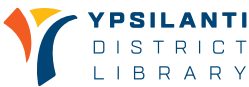
In March 2020 at the onset of the pandemic, TheRide developed a Temporary Service Plan focused on essential travel to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Since then, TheRide has updated the plan, reinstating service to additional corridors. Visit TheRide.org to learn more about our service restoration plans.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to improve the customer experience, TheRide has introduced mobile ticketing as another option to pay your fare. You can use the EZfare app to purchase One-Way fare, Day Passes, 30-Day passes and A-Ride Scrip on your phone. Download the EZfare app in the app store to get started!

Visit TheRideCitizenReport.org to learn more about TheRide’s efforts during the pandemic and its financial and ridership information for Fiscal Year 2020.



WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG



LOCATIONS & HOURS

YDL-WHITTAKER	YDL-MICHIGAN	YDL-SUPERIOR	YDL-BOOKMOBILE
5577 Whittaker Road Ypsilanti, MI 48197 HOURS Curbside service	229 West Michigan Avenue Ypsilanti, MI 48197 HOURS Curbside service	8795 MacArthur Blvd Ypsilanti, MI 48198 HOURS Locker pick up and curbside service	Ypsilanti, MI 48197 HOURS Curbside service coming soon!

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

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

Board of Trustees

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