



## CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY!

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

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

## HELP WRITE YDL'S NEXT CHAPTER

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

There's something special about a library. Each has its own vibe, its own voice. It reflects the people it serves. YDL-Whittaker and YDL-Michigan are unique community anchors and points of pride. The new YDL-Superior location on Harris Road will also stand out, featuring engaging youth and teen spaces, a popular reading area with a Motawi tile-surround fireplace, a clerestory cupola, a drive-up book return, and

an accessible raised-bed learning garden. It will offer the meeting space needed to bring our most popular events to Superior for the first time.

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

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

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

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

Lisa Hoenig, *Director*

### Thank you to these major Next Chapter donors:



HARRY A. & MARGARET D.  
TOWSLEY FOUNDATION

- The Young Family Foundation
- An Anonymous Foundation donor



See Page 4  
for reopening  
updates



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# POP UP CONCERTS COMING

*You'll hear more music around Ypsilanti this summer.*

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

The family-friendly series is called "Live Here Now," and A2SF organizers want the concerts to inspire connection to and around the community.

"These are pop-up events that embed artists to neighborhoods and public spaces and support the community where they live," said A2SF Programming and Operations Manager James

Carter. "It feels like the start of something special and transformative."

Some featured events are highlighted here, but the full schedule and concert information is available at [a2sf.org](https://a2sf.org).

During many of these events, you can expect to see YDL staff sharing activities you can do while practicing social distancing.

These "Live Here Now" concerts have been in the works for a while, and A2SF hopes they will become a staple going forward.

"We have planned for over a year to expand our programming into the Ypsilanti area," said Carter, "and the pandemic has given us the time to plan and lay the foundation for a new series that will take us beyond our 2021 adaptation."



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

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

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

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

## SUMMER BOOST



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

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

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

### How to play

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



## PUT YOUR SUMMER ON THE MAP

*Get even more from your Michigan Activity Pass (MAP)*

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

1. Visit [ypsilibrary.org/michigan-activity-pass](https://ypsilibrary.org/michigan-activity-pass) and click "Get Museum & Park Passes."
2. Fill out the details under "Plan Your Next Activity."
3. Click the Metropark of your choice and fill out the corresponding form that appears when you click "Request Pass."
4. Click the "Submit This Request" button that appears on the summary page.
5. Print the confirmation page!

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

For more information about the each park, visit [www.metroparks.com/](https://www.metroparks.com/).

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



### Participating Metroparks:

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



# CELEBRATE TEEN ART

*This summer marks our 14th Annual Noise Permit event!*

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

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

This summer YDL will also partner with Engage@EMU's Camp Program to deliver a variety of workshops on subjects including graphic design, songwriting, cell phone photography, and ceramics.

For more information about these workshops, email Kelly at [kscott@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:kscott@ypsilibrary.org). Activities may be canceled or moved virtually due to the weather or COVID rates, so please check the events calendar for updates each week.

This activity is supported by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.



# LIBRARY SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

*Calling all athletes and non-athletes alike!*

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

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

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

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

In case of bad weather, the make-up date will be July 31st.



# TAG KITS MAKING A SPLASH

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

You might have signed up for a pack, only to find that there is a waiting list because they're so popular. To make the distribution of packs more equitable, TAG members have written two grant

proposals and pitched the project at the Neutral Zone's Youth Driven Spaces annual conference where they earned \$900! If their second proposal is funded, we'll be able to offer paid internships and expand the project.

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

# TAKE YOUR COMMUNITY READ OUTDOORS

*"My hope is that somehow I might move others to find themselves magnified in nature, whomever and wherever they might be."*

- J. Drew Lanham

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

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



### FOR ADULTS:

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



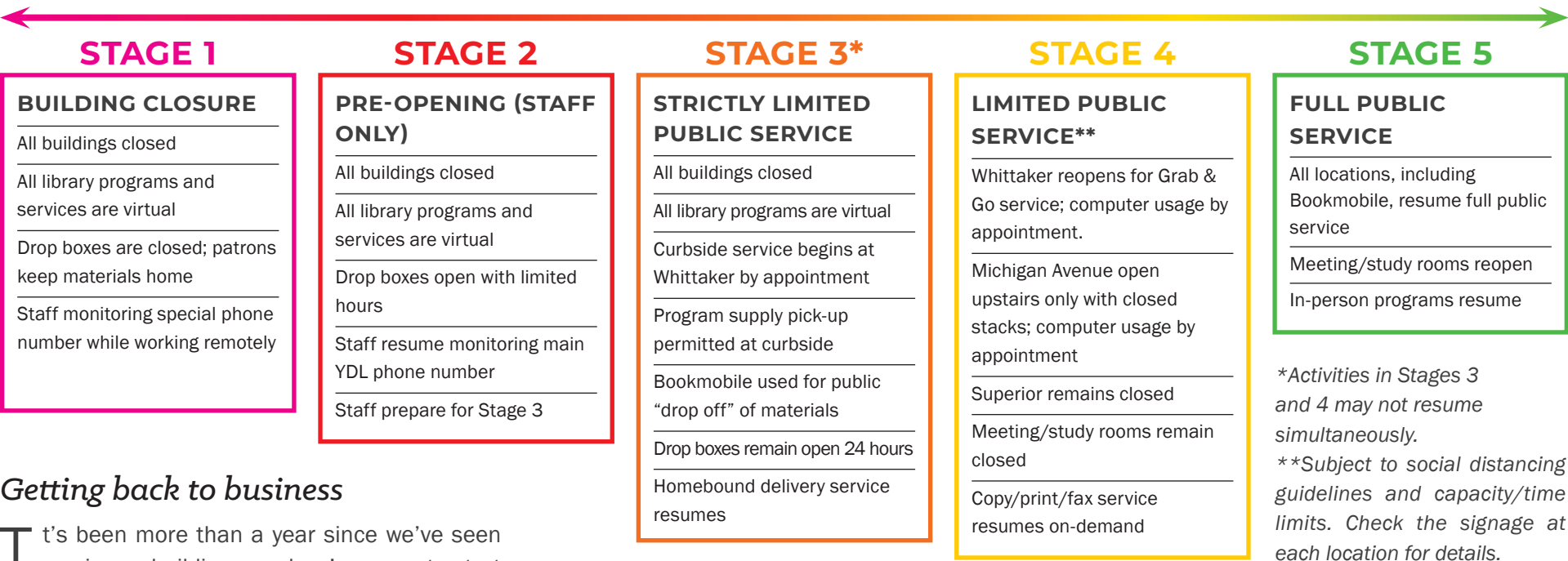
### FOR KIDS:

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

**Accompanying YDL activity:** Read aloud/bird nest building. Visit [ypsilibrary.org/nature-CR](https://ypsilibrary.org/nature-CR).



# LIBRARY REOPENING PLAN



## Getting back to business

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

## The Bookmobile is back on the road

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

## Expanded hours

Starting June 14, staff will be back in the buildings for our regular hours to handle curbside appointments and answer questions over the

phone. This means staff at Whittaker and Michigan Avenue will be in the buildings from 9am-9pm Mon-Thurs, 10am-6pm Fri and Sat, and 1-5pm on Sunday at Whittaker. An additional set of evening curbside hours will be added, details coming soon!

## Computer use by appointment

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

## From the Friends

Did you know that all of our curbside activity kits are made possible with funding from the Friends

of YDL? This dedicated group of volunteers runs the book shop at Whittaker Road, hosts the book sales in the community room, and does a fair share of selling online. Since COVID, they have been mainly fundraising online, and have still been able to help us deliver kits and other great services.

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

# NEW LOCKERS COMING TO SUPERIOR

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

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

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



# MAKE ONLINE LEARNING EASY

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

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



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





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# JUN–AUG EVENTS

## MONDAYS

**Jun 7, Jul 5, Aug 2**

### TWEEN BOOK CLUB (Grades 6–8)

**6:30 PM**

Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss great books!

**Jun 7:** *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart

**Jul 5:** *The Fairy Tale Detectives* by Michael Buckley

**Aug 2:** *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Email [mitchell@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:mitchell@ypsilibrary.org).



**Jun 14 – Jul 26**

### TEEN MANGA & COMIC BOOK DRAWING

**2:00 PM**

Drop in and draw with local artist Kamron Reynolds! Learn the fundamentals of cartooning and comic books and how to draw your own characters, faces, backgrounds, lettering, and much more. Whether you've been drawing for a long time or you'd like to just jump in, join the virtual space to improve your skills and chat with other young artists. For more information about these workshops, please email Kelly at [kscott@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:kscott@ypsilibrary.org). This activity is supported by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.



## TUESDAYS

**Jun 1, 15 & 29; Jul 13 & 27; Aug 10 & 24**

### OUTDOOR BOOK BROWSE

**3:00–5:30 PM | YDL-Michigan**

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



**Jun 1 – Aug 31**

### KNITTING PLUS

**6:00 PM**

Meet virtually with other yarnies and share your projects and ideas every Tuesday through Zoom! Open to all, any handcraft welcome!



**Jun 8, Jul 13, Aug 10**

### TEEN SUBSCRIPTION PACKS

**Curbside Hours**

Bored at home? Sign up for YDL's teen subscription packs 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.

**June:** Juneteenth

**July:** Summer Camp

**August:** Back to School

Pickup hours are 9:30am-12:30pm and 2:30pm-5:30pm Monday through Saturday at the YDL branch of your choice. Teen Subscription Packs are available starting the second Tuesday of the month. Email Kelly at [kscott@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:kscott@ypsilibrary.org) to reserve your pack.

**Jun 8 & Aug 10**

### GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)

**2:00PM**

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

**Jun 8 & 22; Jul 13 & 27; Aug 10 & 24**

### 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. Fill out the application at [ypsilibrary.org/tag](https://ypsilibrary.org/tag) to receive the Zoom meeting link.

**Jun 15, Jul 20, Aug 17**

### GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB (Adults)

**Bobcat Bonnie's**

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

**Jun 15:** *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art* by Scott McCloud

**Jul 20:** *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang

**Aug 17:** *The Dark Knight Returns* by Frank Miller

**Jun 15 – Jul 20**

### ZUMBA & STRENGTH TRAINING

**12:00 PM**

Join us for another fun, energetic fitness series with trainer Jerry Powell of Lifestyle Fitness. This class combines the high energy of Zumba with the effectiveness of strength training for the ultimate workout. Register online at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events), or call 734-482-4110 ex 1362.



**Jun 15 – Aug 3**

### STORYTIME LIVE

**10:30 AM | YouTube**

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](https://ypsilibrary.org/storytimes) for recent read alouds, more info about storytimes, and other activities for little ones.

**Jun 15 & Aug 17**

### GOOGLE DOCS TIPS & 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.

**Jun 22**

### 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. To register 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](mailto:brigitte@ypsilibrary.org) to schedule a one-hour phone or virtual session.

**Jun 29 & Aug 24**

### HOW TO HOST A ZOOM MEETING

(Adult)

**2:00 PM**

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.

**Jul 13**

### GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)

**2:00 PM**

Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, and create simple formulas. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a spreadsheet. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

**Jul 13 & 20**

### REAL TALK ABOUT DEATH: ADVANCED CARE PLANNING WITH MERILYNNE RUSH

**3:00 PM**

In this two-part series, Merilynne Rush, an End-of-Life Doula Trainer, will lead an open and honest discussion to allow participants to identify their wishes for future healthcare and learn how to discuss death and dying with their loved ones. To learn more about Merilynne Rush, visit [thedyingyear.org](https://thedyingyear.org). Participants will receive the Zoom link after registering online at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).

**Jul 20**

### 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. Google account and prior Google Sheets experience required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

**Jul 27**

### GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)

**2:00 PM**

Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and methods for sharing a presentation for collaboration. Register online [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events) or by phone 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

**Aug 3**

### INTRODUCTION TO SELLING ON EBAY

**6:30 PM**

Need some extra cash? Ebay is a great place to sell some of your old stuff, make some money, and clear out some space. Get all the basics on creating listings including pricing, auction types, adding photos, shipping options, and more. Please create a free Ebay account before attending the class. Registration required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411. Email [neil@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:neil@ypsilibrary.org) with questions. We'll send you the Zoom link a few days before the event.

## WEDNESDAY

**Jun 2, Jul 7, Aug 4**

### 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/ypsistories](https://ypsilibrary.org/ypsistories).

**6/2:** Black Ypsilantians in the Civil War

**7/7:** How Ypsilanti Got its Name

**8/4:** TBD

**Jun 9**

### MICHIGAN NATURE GETAWAYS

**7:00 PM**

Looking for a new outdoors Michigan vacation getaway? Join Ron Rademacher from [michiganbackroads.com](https://michiganbackroads.com) as he takes us to some of the most overlooked nature areas in Michigan. Each has easy trails accessible to anyone, usually under 1 mile long. You don't have to be a mountain climber to enjoy these! He'll also cover local attractions near each nature area so you can plan some great day trips.



**Jun 16 – Aug 4**

### SUMMER STEAM: OUTSIDE EDITION

**2:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker**

Create and explore OUTSIDE this summer! Join us each week for themed activity stations. Spread out on the lawn. Get creative and inspired to learn together while physically distanced. Programs may be canceled due to the weather or COVID rates, so check the events calendar for updates each week.

**Jun 16:** Outdoor Painting Party

**Jun 23:** Nature Creations and Explorations

**Jun 30:** Library Campout

**Jul 7:** Fairy Gardens with Matthaei Botanical Garden

**Jul 14:** STEM Stations with EMU Scientists

**Jul 21:** Rockets, Kites, and Streamers

**Jul 28:** Spinning Dot Theatre Performance

**Aug 3:** Bubble Party and Lawn Games



**Jun 30**

### TEEN & ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION: OCTAVIA E. BUTLER'S KINDRED: A GRAPHIC NOVEL ADAPTATION

(Ages 13+)

**6:00 PM | Outside YDL-Whittaker**

Adapted by celebrated academics and comic artists Damian Duffy and John Jennings, this graphic novel powerfully renders Butler's mysterious and moving story, which spans racial and gender divides in the antebellum South through the 20th century. If weather or COVID rates do not permit, meeting will be online via Zoom.

**Jun 30, Jul 28, Aug 25**

### MYSTERY LOVERS BOOK GROUP

**2:00 PM**

**Jun 30:** *The Dark Vineyard* by Martin Walker

**Jul 28:** *The Aosawa Murders* by Riku Onda

**Aug 25:** *The Confessions of Frannie Langton* by Sara Collins

**Jul 14**

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

**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. To register call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

**Jul 14**

### YOUNG AND SOBER: SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS FOR TEENS

**6:00 PM | YDL-Michigan Courtyard**

Join us for Dawn Farm's Young & Sober Program, an informative presentation aimed at educating young people on substance use and addiction. Learn the differences between use, misuse, abuse, and addiction to substances. The goal is to leave young people with the knowledge necessary to make informed and safe decisions. Teen participants will be entered in a raffle to win a \$25 Visa gift card. Program may be canceled or moved virtually due to the weather or COVID rates, so please check the events calendar for updates. For more information on this program, please email Kelly at [kscott@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:kscott@ypsilibrary.org).



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THURSDAY

Jun 3

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP  
10:30 AM

June 3: *The Gracekeepers* by Kirsty Logan

Jun 3, Jul 1, Aug 5

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 2421 or email Kim at [krowe@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:krowe@ypsilibrary.org).



Jun 10 & 24, Jul 8 & 22, Aug 12

READ TO RUSTY THE LIBRARY DOG  
6:00 PM

Reading to a dog helps children develop confidence and become better readers. Sign up for a virtual 15-minute slot with Rusty and Miss Pat. REGISTRATION REQUIRED: email [mitchell@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:mitchell@ypsilibrary.org)

Jun 17, Jul 15 & Aug 19

ONLINE SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
1:00 PM

Participants contribute to the library by sharing ideas and resources. For more information email or call Monique: [mgeiman@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:mgeiman@ypsilibrary.org), 734-482-4110, x1362.

Jun 17 – Jul 8

STORIES IN MOTION (Recommended for Ages 3–8)  
12:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Join us for an active expression of storytime with new themes each week. Picture books will inspire yoga or dance influenced movements, as well as breathing and mindfulness exercises. Yoga mats will provide a protective surface for movement and help maintain physical distance from others. Kids will get a mat to keep the first session, or can borrow a YDL mat. Adults, bring a mat (and your own water) and join along! Practice social distancing. Sessions are outside and may be cancelled due to COVID rates and weather. Check the calendar for updates.

Jun 17, Jul 15, Aug 19

KIDS BOOK CLUB (Grades 3–5)

6:30 PM

Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss books for young readers!

Jun 17: *Ellray Jakes is not a Chicken* by Sally Warner

Jul 15: *Big Nate in a Class by Himself* by Lincoln Peirce

Aug 19: *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Email [mitchell@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:mitchell@ypsilibrary.org)

Jun 17, Jul 15, Aug 19

THIRD THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB

(Ages 18+)

7:00 PM

Registration required; supplies provided. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x 2411.

Jun 17: Clay Dish

Jul 15: Moroccan Glasses

Aug 19: Handmade Paper

Jun 17 – Aug 5

NOISE PERMIT WORKSHOP

6:00 pm | YDL-Michigan

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

Jun 17 | 6–7 PM: Pottery and Ceramics

Jun 14 | 6–7 PM: Shakespeare in Prison

Jul 1 | 6–7 PM: Songwriting

Jul 8 | 6–7 PM: Digital Design

Jul 15 | 6–7 PM: Drum Circle

Jul 22 | 6–7 PM: Phone Photography

Jul 29 | 6–7 PM: Video Production

Aug 5 | 6–7 PM: Poetry

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

Jun 29, Jul 27, Aug 31

AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

7:00 PM

Jun 29: *The Supremes at Earl's All You Can Eat* by Edward Kelsey

Jul 27: *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson

Aug 31: *Just as I am: A Memoir* by Cicely Tyson



Jul 15

NOISE PERMIT POETRY SLAM

6:00 PM

ATTENTION TEENS! We want to hear YOUR voice! Join us for a Teen Poetry Slam event in the courtyard of the Michigan Avenue Branch brought to you by YDL and EMU's Upward Bound program. All teen poets in the community are invited to attend and share their writing onstage for the community to enjoy. There will be gift card raffles for all teens who participate in the slam! For more information about this event, please email Kelly at [kscott@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:kscott@ypsilibrary.org). Activities may be canceled due to the weather or COVID rates, so please check the events calendar for updates each week. This activity is supported by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

FRIDAY

Jun 18 – Aug 6

GARDEN GATHERINGS

11:00 AM | YDL-Whittaker

Drop in and see what's growing! Each week we'll be near the garden with activities such as writing prompts, garden tours, scavenger hunts, nature art, and fresh produce. On June 18 we'll be partnering with Matthaei Botanical Gardens on a bird nest building nature activity for kids. Programs may be canceled due to the weather or COVID rates, so check the events calendar for updates each week.

Jun 18, Jul 2, 16 & 30, Aug 13

LNGO CRAFTERNOONS (Ages 55+)

Join us for a virtual lighthearted afternoon where the goal is to engage your mind, work on a project, explore a new technique, with no expectations of perfection! Pick up supplies in advance then meet virtually. Note that we have two messy programs being held in person socially distanced outside in the Library Plaza. To use Zoom you will need a smartphone or Internet and tablet/computer. Registration required. Crafternoons are held every other Friday and are part of our Learning Never Gets Old series. Questions? Contact Joy at 734-879-1314 or [joy@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:joy@ypsilibrary.org).

Jun 18: Decoupage Wood Flower Press

Jul 2: Papercrete Planter. (In case of bad weather, will be rescheduled for Friday, Jul 9)

Jul 16: Garden Flowers from Glass/Ceramic Dishes

Jul 30: Painted Garden Rocks

Aug 13: Stepping Stones (In case of bad weather, will be rescheduled for Friday, Aug 20)

Jun 25, Jul 23, Aug 13

TEEN GAME NIGHT

6:00 PM

Calling all teens for our TAG monthly game night hosted virtually on Zoom! You'll need two devices- one to play the online game and one to join our Zoom hangout! We will be having a \$25 gift card raffle each time. Email Kelly at [kscott@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:kscott@ypsilibrary.org) for more information.

Friday, June 25 at 6 pm: Trivia

Friday, July 23 at 6 pm: JackBox TV Games

Friday, August 13 at 6 pm: Among Us

Aug 6

NOISE PERMIT SUMMER CONCERT

6:00 PM | YDL-Michigan Plaza

Join us for a teen-driven celebration of the arts concert during Ypsi's First Fridays event in the YDL Michigan Avenue Plaza. All summer long, Ypsi teens have been attending workshops teaching them a variety of skills and honing their artistic prowess led by experts from EMU's Camp program. We will be celebrating their accomplishments at the 16th annual Noise Permit event. For more information about this event, please email Kelly at [kscott@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:kscott@ypsilibrary.org). Activities may be canceled due to the weather or COVID rates, so please check the events calendar for updates each week. This activity is supported by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS. Any teens in the community who would like to perform this evening are invited to share their voice and message with the community.

SATURDAY

Jun 5

HELP US CREATE OUR NEW EDUCATIONAL RAIN GARDEN!

10:00 AM and 4:00 PM starts | YDL-Whittaker

Sign up for a shift to help dig and fill the garden, and learn how to make a rain garden while you work. Registration required so we can keep the group small enough for everyone to be physically distanced. Sponsored by the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner.

Jun 5 & 19; Jul 3, 17 & 31; Aug 14 & 28

GUITAR CLUB FOR ADULTS

10:00 AM

Guitar Club is for guitar players of all levels and ages (18+). Starting May 22nd we will be meeting in person at YpsiPlanti, where we will learn songs, listen, collaborate, and learn to play together. Acoustic, electric and all other types of guitars are welcome. Guitar Club may be canceled due to COVID rates. Check YDL-Michigan Guitar Club FaceBook page for updates or contact Scott Marlowe at [smarlowe@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:smarlowe@ypsilibrary.org) or 734-482-4110, x1360 for more information.



Jun 12

GROWING HOPE COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

10:00AM – 3:00 PM | 922 W. Michigan Ave

Enjoy a day on the farm! Have some food, participate in gardening workshops, make arts & crafts, and more. A limited number of guests will be allowed on the farm at a time. Register for a time slot at [growingthehope.eventbrite.com](https://growingthehope.eventbrite.com). For information about Growing Hope Volunteer days on Wednesdays and Saturdays, visit [www.growinghope.net/calendar](https://www.growinghope.net/calendar).

Jun 12

LIVE HERE NOW! POP-UP CONCERT

5:00–7:00 PM | Fireman's Park

Family friendly music and games in a socially distanced concert event. Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, Superior Township Parks and Rec, Ypsilanti Community Schools, and YDL.

Jun 12 & Aug 7

GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)

Jun 12: 10:30 AM

Aug 7: 2:00 PM

Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, and create simple formulas. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a spreadsheet. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Jun 12 & 26; Jul 10 & 24; Aug 7 & 21

OUTDOOR BOOK BROWSE

10:00 AM–12:30 PM | YDL-Michigan

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

Jun 19

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

10:00 AM–4:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker parking lot

Bring your unwanted computers, printers, phones, small appliances, and other items. Be sure to check our events page for details and restrictions before you load up, or call 734-482-4110 x2411. Please enter Civic Center Dr. from S. Huron River Dr. and follow signs. There will be no access to this event from Whittaker Road.

Jun 19, Jul 17, Aug 21

VIRTUAL GARDEN CLUB

10:00 AM

If you garden or want to start a garden, come to our monthly Virtual Garden Club meeting. Get expert tips and seasonal information. Carol Brodbeck, Advanced Master Gardener/past State President of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., will talk about a new topic each month. Listen, learn, share information, and ask questions. Then go outside and get growing!

Jun 19: Common Garden Pests and Disease

Jul 17: Garden Maintenance

Aug 21: Fall Gardening



Jun 19 – Aug 7

LIVE FROM THE LIBRARY

10:30 AM

Live from the library every Saturday morning on YpsiLibrary Instagram. Watch YDL storytimers share stories, songs, and activities you can do with your little one at home.

Jun 19, Jul 17, Aug 21

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](mailto:joy@ypsilibrary.org) or call 734-732-2634 to get Zoom meeting information.

Jun 19 & Aug 14

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. Google account and prior Google Sheets experience required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Jun 26 & Aug 28

GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS (ADULT)

Jun 26: 10:30 AM

Aug 28: 2:00 PM

Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and methods for sharing a presentation for collaboration. Register online [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events) or by phone 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.



As YDL buildings are closed during COVID-19, all events are virtual, unless otherwise noted. In-person, outdoor events may be canceled due to weather or COVID rates. Visit [ypslibrary.org/events](https://ypslibrary.org/events) for updates or to access virtual events.

Jun 26

KITE & ROCKET DAY

11:00 AM–2:00 PM | Fireman's Park

Build and fly kites and air rocket launchers! Sponsored by Superior Township Parks and Rec.



Jun 26

UNTOLD STORIES CELEBRATION: READING, POETRY INSTALLATION, AND ZINE LAUNCH

2:00 PM | YDL-Michigan Library Plaza

Untold Stories of Liberation and Love, local women of color poetry collective, will be reading their poetry and sharing their poetry installation in the Library Plaza, These creatives will also be launching their poetic stimulus project, a new zine from women of color writing about Ypsilanti, Ypsi on My Mind. Program may be cancelled due to weather or COVID rates so check the events calendar for updates.

Jul 10

GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)

10:30 AM

Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a document.

Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Jul 10

MOVIES ON THE GREEN

8:00 PM | Dixboro Village Green

Family event with playground games followed by a current family friendly movie. Bring your own picnic blankets, snacks, and coolers. Sponsored by Superior Township Parks and Rec and Dixboro Village.

Jul 10 & 31

STORYTIME IN THE PARK

12:00 PM

Join us for stories, songs, nature activities, and movement in the park! Bring a blanket, spread out on the grass, build literacy skills, and have fun. Offered in partnership with Ypsilanti Township Parks and Recreation and Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Ford Heritage Park: Saturday, July 10, noon

Lakeside Park: Saturday, July 31, noon



Jul 10

MOVIES IN THE PARK

8:00 PM | Oakbrook Park

Family friendly kickball game followed by a current family friendly movie. Bring your own picnic blankets, snacks, and coolers. Sponsored by Superior Township Parks and Rec.

Jul 17

HOW TO HOST A ZOOM MEETING (ADULT)

2:00 PM

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.

Jul 24

GOOGLE DOCS TIPS & 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.



Jul 24

LIBRARY SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker

Calling all athletes and non-athletes alike. Can you throw a book the farthest, organize some books the fastest, or accurately finish a literary quiz the quickest? Celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Olympic games by joining us for these events and more to see if you can become a Ypsilanti Library Summer Olympic Games Champion. Youth and adult categories for each event. Starting times available for individuals, pods, and families, call to register for your starting time. All events will be held outside at the Whittaker Road location. Registration required. Call 734-482-4110 x2411 or x2412.

Rain date: July 31. Program may be canceled due to COVID rates, so check the events calendar the week of the program for updates.

Aug 21

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. To register call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.



Aug 28

DOCUMENT SHREDDING

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM | YDL-Whittaker

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



SUNDAY

Jun 20

SAFELY TALK ABOUT RACE & RACISM: "WHOSE VOTE COUNTS, EXPLAINED"

2:00 PM

This series screens films that provide the needed opportunity to safely engage and understand the ways racism has functioned historically and continues to work in the present. This month we will watch Netflix's *Whose Vote Counts, Explained*. The right to vote is at the foundation of America's democracy. But not every vote is created equal. How does the system work, and can it be fixed? In three short films, this docuseries will explore voter suppression, campaign finance, gerrymandering, and the electoral college system. La'Ron Williams, local storyteller and peace activist, will facilitate an open, honest discussion about race and racism.

# OUTDOORS AT THE LIBRARY

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

We are excited to partner with Matthaei Botanical Gardens Gaffield Children's Garden staff, who are helping us develop nature and "loose parts" play opportunities. See page 3 for additional information about our Matthaei Botanical Gardens Community Read partnership. Watch for pop-up nature play at all three libraries and at storytimes in the parks. We'll have bins of supplies you can use for creative nature play. We'll also have permanent boxes of

natural objects at YDL-Whittaker for building and pretend play. Use large branches to build a fort, or pinecones and small sticks to build a fairy house. Play in the sandbox, take a walk along the edge of the woods, smell the wildflowers, and see what's growing in the rain garden. We'll be outside on Fridays to read aloud and answer questions, but you can visit anytime.

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

## What to expect outdoors at YDL

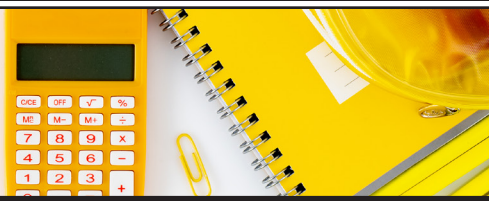
- ▶ Social distancing will be required
- ▶ Please bring your own water
- ▶ Feel free to bring a folding chair or blanket if you don't want to sit on the grass
- ▶ Plan to use the restroom ahead of time







# SCHOOLS



## YCS UPDATE



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

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

There will also be numerous enrollment-

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

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



Imagine seeing your child burst through the door after a day of learning, telling you all about their grand

adventure at Frog Island, the museum, or the science lab at the University of Michigan.

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

Students will visit museums, studios, gardens, parks, and other area businesses.

Transportation will be provided, and students that enroll in summer school will also receive breakfast and lunch.

**i** Look for more information and registration material from your student's school or at [www.ycschools.us](http://www.ycschools.us) Child care options will be made available for younger students. Students, staff, and partners will follow all COVID-19 safety protections.

## LCS UPDATE ON NEW INDOOR TRAINING FACILITY

*New Lincoln Athletic Building is a "Game Changer"*

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

That scene is becoming reality as Lincoln Consolidated Schools opens a new indoor athletic facility on campus. The expansive 118,000-square-foot Lincoln Athletic Building, known as the LAB, that voters approved as part of a 2018 bond, features a 300-meter track and about 90 yards of artificial turf that

provides dividable indoor practice space for most every outdoor school sport. Plus, the public can use the facility on a membership basis, with revenue offsetting expenses and supporting the school district.

In addition to providing indoor practice space for Lincoln Railsplitters athletics



teams, the LAB will also be available for private rentals and is ideal for local soccer, lacrosse, and indoor track clubs – giving local students more options for playing sports outside of school. Other rental possibilities include family reunions, corporate outings, and even proms or graduation parties.

The public can use the facility—including an on-site exercise room—for monthly membership fees of \$20 for school district residents age 18 and up, and \$5 for residents under 18. Rates for non-residents and for Lincoln students and staff also are available. Learn more at [SplitterNation.com](http://SplitterNation.com) or call 734-484-7007.

## WANT TO TALK? ¡HABLEMOS!



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

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





# FOOD RESOURCES



## MORE ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD

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

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

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

“Everyone deserves convenient, safe access to fresh food, and this program

supports that,” said Kelly Wilson, Director of Community Partners for Taste the Local Difference.

Six farms and markets, four in Detroit and two in Ypsilanti, are currently participating in the program with plans to expand next season. Each participating farm or market accepts SNAP/EBT through their online

store, and some offer Double Up Food Buck (DUFEB) - a program that gives SNAP shoppers a 50% discount on produce purchases.

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

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



## LOOKING FOR FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS AND TEENS?

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

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

Service dates and times will vary by site, but YDL will help distribute food at the Perry and Sycamore Meadows sites. The most up-to-date schedule is always available at

[foodgatherers.org/summerfood](https://foodgatherers.org/summerfood). You can contact the Food Gatherers team at 734-761-2796 or [summerfood@foodgatherers.org](mailto:summerfood@foodgatherers.org) with questions.

The Summer Food Service Program, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), exists to make

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





# MEASURING OPPORTUNITY IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

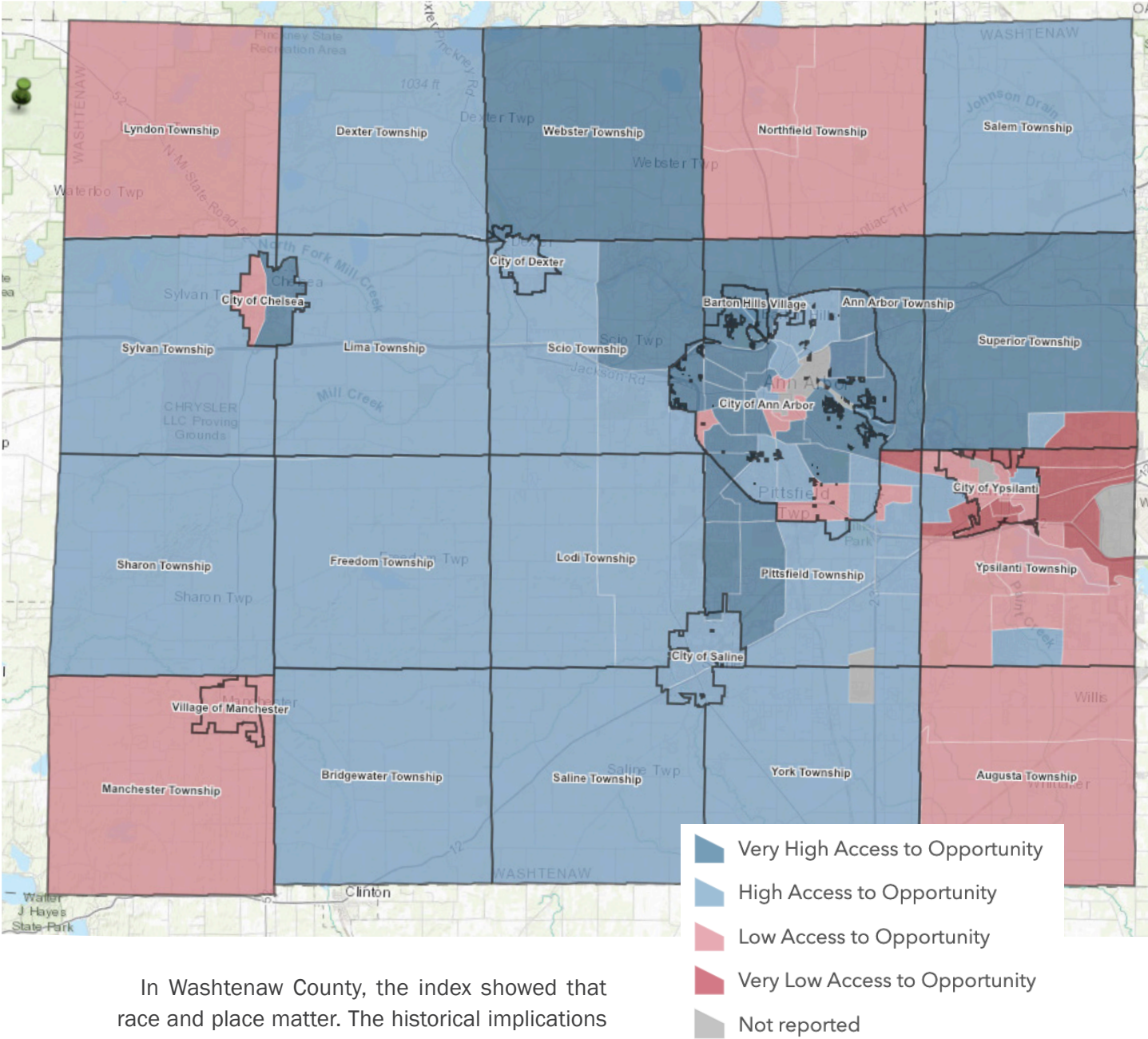
A new, updated tool can help government officials, non-profits, and community members address disparities in Washtenaw County.

The Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED), in partnership with University of Michigan Poverty Solutions, recently launched the 2020 Opportunity Index—a benchmark tool that combines data from multiple sources to generate a score that measures access to opportunity throughout the county. This is the second index that has been created, and it’s already being integrated into community policy. In April, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution to integrate the 2020 Opportunity Index into county operations and to inform local government decision-making and program development.

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

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

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



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

Areas marked as high opportunity are more frequent in and around Ann Arbor, while the lowest opportunity areas appear in Ypsilanti and in rural townships on the outskirts of the county,

including Lyndon, Northfield, Manchester, and Augusta Township.

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

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

# UNITED WAY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY LAUNCHES 2021 EQUITY CHALLENGE

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

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

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

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

## About the Equity Challenge

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

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

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

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

Visit [uwgive.org/equity](http://uwgive.org/equity) to learn more about the challenge and review the topics.





# REDISTRICTING AND COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST IN MICHIGAN

By Joan Sampieri, *President of League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area*  
Serving all of Washtenaw County

Following every Census, the distribution of Congressional seats across the nation is subject to change based on population movement. Each state must draw new lines for U.S. Congressional and state (House & Senate) districts.

Every state determines its own process. Two years ago, 61% of Michigan voters approved Proposition 2, an amendment to the Michigan Constitution that moved the power to draw election district lines from the state legislature into the hands of voters.

The amendment created a body called the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, and set clear standards for how the lines should or should not be drawn. It also set standards to ensure a transparent, impartial, and fair process.

### THE COMMISSION MUST:

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

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

These groups matter because under Michigan’s Constitution, they are meant to be the building blocks for legislative districts. Why? The fundamental purpose is to group members of Communities of Interest in a single district, allowing them to elect and influence legislators.

To learn how you or your group can testify before the Commission, or propose maps that represent Communities of Interest, reach out to the League of Women Voters at [league@lwvann Arbor.org](mailto:league@lwvann Arbor.org).



# WASHTENAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 UPDATE

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

### COVID-19 Vaccine

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

Everyone who lives or works in Washtenaw County is eligible to schedule an appointment with the Health Department. Check for an open appointment online using the link on our website at [www.washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine](http://www.washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine), or check other options like pharmacies.

For the latest on COVID-19 vaccines, see [www.washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine](http://www.washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine). You’ll find information on where to get a vaccine, our plans for equitable vaccine distribution, the latest Washtenaw County vaccine data, and more.

### Washtenaw County COVID-19 Cases

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

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

“We all need to be vigilant and use COVID-19 precautions at every opportunity,” said Juan Luis Marquez, medical director with Washtenaw County Health Department. “We can effectively prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 by continuing to use masks and distance as well

as avoiding gatherings and following isolation or quarantine when necessary.”

Even if you’re fully vaccinated, continue to use these precautions when out in public.

These prevention strategies are most effective when combined! Stopping this pandemic will take ALL our tools: handwashing, masks, social distancing, and vaccines. Taken together, these tools offer the best chance of getting our communities, schools, and workplaces back to normal sooner.

### Have a safe summer!

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



Please note this information was written in April 2021. Up-to-date local COVID-19 information is always available at [www.washtenaw.org/covid19](http://www.washtenaw.org/covid19).

For up-to-date-information: Follow WCHD on Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, and Twitter (@[wcpublichealth](https://twitter.com/wcpublichealth)). You can sign up for COVID-19 email updates at <https://bit.ly/WCHD555>. You can also call 734-544-6700 or email [L-wchdcontact@washtenaw.org](mailto:L-wchdcontact@washtenaw.org).





# YPSIWITES WRITING MATTERS

Children’s writing workshop  
roundup

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Write a mystery in your hometown

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

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

## Browse area art

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

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

Stay on top of all YpsiWrites activities by following them on Facebook and Instagram, and visiting [ypsiwrites.com](https://ypsiwrites.com). Keep an eye out for newly created resources on starting a Pen Pal program and writing and publishing feature stories and news articles. At YpsiWrites, everyone’s a writer, and everyone’s writing matters!

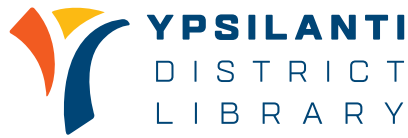
# GETTING THE COMMUNITY MOVING AGAIN

TheRide asked for community feedback as they prepare to return to full service levels at the end of August. They gathered feedback during public input meetings in March and will present the final Service Recovery Plan outlining the permanent changes in June. Visit [TheRide.org](https://TheRide.org) to learn when these meetings will be held.

They’ve also partnered with the Washtenaw County Health Department to provide the community with free rides to the vaccine site at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center. The free vaccine shuttle operates Wednesdays – Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. A-Ride and FlexRide trips to the EMU Convocation Center vaccine site are also being provided at no charge to the rider. This service is paid for through CARES Act funding. You can learn more about the free services at [TheRide.org](https://TheRide.org).



[WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG](https://WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG)



Visit [ypsilibrary.org/phased-opening](https://ypsilibrary.org/phased-opening) for more information about schedule and service changes coming soon!

## LOCATIONS & HOURS

### YDL-WHITTAKER

5577 Whittaker Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

### YDL-MICHIGAN

229 West Michigan Avenue  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

### YDL-SUPERIOR

8795 MacArthur Blvd  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

### YDL-BOOKMOBILE

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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](https://ypsilibrary.org/board) for updated meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes.

Visit [ypsilibrary.org/contact-us](https://ypsilibrary.org/contact-us) or 734-482-4110

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