THE WAIT IS NEARLY OVER!

YDL's new full-service Superior branch opens its doors this fall.

To mark the transition from YDL’s single room at 8795 MacArthur to our new 7,800 square foot space, we’re hosting a Community Book Brigade! Help us pass books and DVDs hand-to-hand from the old library to the new library on Saturday, October 8, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. The more people participate, the more camaraderie and fun. This all-ages, sunshine-only event will symbolize what a true community effort the new building’s construction has been. Please come show your support and lend a hand! Register online at attend.ypsilibrary.org/events.

Since Superior Township joined the library district in 2006, a neighborhood branch has been a shared dream. The whole community is invited to celebrate this new beginning during YDL-Superior’s Grand Opening Week at 1900 Harris Road, November 14–19.

Grand Opening Week will commence Monday, November 14 at 4pm with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday will feature morning children’s events, afternoon adult computer or fitness classes, and evening art, STEAM, and family engineering fun. Stay tuned for Friday’s lineup. A family celebration will take place Saturday with stories, animals, theater, and fitness activities.

The new library building was designed by Dan Whisler of Daniels and Zermack Architects, who was also the project architect for YDL-Whittaker. Open and airy, with its own unique feel, the new YDL-Superior will be a gathering space and center for lifelong learning. Its location on Harris Road, just south of Geddes, puts everyone in the YDL district within a 10-minute drive of a full-service library.

Among the new building’s highlights is a 50-seat community meeting room, which will be used for library and community events, presentations, and after school activities. An attached kitchenette will allow YDL to fully host our free summer lunch program in Superior Township for the first time.

Two study rooms, equipped with virtual meeting technology, will each accommodate up to 4 people.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
In the old library, there were 7 computers that were always busy. The new facility boasts 20, along with free 24/7 wireless Internet access and charging ports. It has designated adult, teen, and youth areas for reading, gathering, studying, and learning, including a cozy fireplace, a student success center, and features that encourage interactive play and discovery. Outside the children’s area you’ll find a sizable patio space where we’ll host outdoor activities. Beyond that, there’s an accessible raised-bed learning garden to reinforce YDL’s robust garden-to-table curriculum.

For your convenience, the new library offers a drive-up book return, as well as curbside pickup and after hours lockers. Other special features include a 46 kilowatt solar array and bird-friendly glass—ask us for more information about these when you visit! We’ll provide regular tours of the building in our first months of opening.

We can’t wait to welcome you to your new library!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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We can’t wait to welcome you to your new library!

There's still time to donate to this project! Trees and benches are a great sponsorship item, but gifts at all levels are appreciated. Help us reach our $2M goal. We're almost there!

YDL-Michigan gets some TLC

Thank you to the estates of Grace Sweeney and David C. Boyd for granting YDL very generous gifts, totaling around $80,000.

These gifts helped make several improvements possible at YDL-Michigan, which are complete or coming soon:

- New carpeting on the main floor
- Improved lighting and power upgrade in Library Plaza
- Basement lighting upgrade

The next issue of The Loop will feature Michigan Avenue, so stay tuned for more details to come!

YDL HELP FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

During the pandemic, the number of families homeschooling their children more than doubled, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey. YDL is committed to supporting homeschool families in their educational journeys, so we’re happy to introduce a Homeschool Help page on YDL’s website.

The Homeschool Help page is in the Youth Services section of our website, and provides resources for families starting to explore homeschooling and those already on that journey.

You’ll find links to Michigan’s homeschooling requirements, library resources, local homeschool groups, and community resources.

YDL has something for homeschoolers of all ages. Beginning September 29, connect with other families each Thursday during our Love of Learning Club. You’ll read a book and complete related activities. Play, sensory, and STEM kits, research databases, book club kits, and teen creative toolkits are available to enhance your learning. You can also schedule a tour behind the scenes at YDL-Whittaker to learn how libraries work!

Homeschooled high school students can find resources such as Khan Academy and free Harvard University classes to expand their knowledge. Help us improve our homeschooling resources by filling out our library use survey and completing our homeschool resources suggestion form at ypsilibrary.org/interests/homeschool-help.

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FIND YOUR VOICE WITH YOUR YDL CARD

Your YDL card now has no fines attached, and there’s no better time to get one!

This September, celebrate National Library Card Sign-Up Month by checking out all the perks that come with a YDL card, including our brand new Library of Things Collection.

Tony Award-winning performer, actress, singer-songwriter, and philanthropist Idina Menzel and her sister, author and educator Cara Mentzel, have been named honorary chairs of Library Card Sign-Up Month. They’ll join the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide to sing the praises of a library card. Also in September, the sisters’ debut picture book, Loud Mouse, about a little mouse named Dee who loves to sing very loudly, will be released by Disney Hyperion.

“The library is a great place to find your voice,” says Menzel.

The Library Card Sign-Up Month co-chairs want you to explore all the library has to offer, including new children’s books, access to technology, and educational programming.

“The library is where your imagination sings,” Cara Mentzel adds. “Get your library card and ‘check it out’ today.”

BANNED BOOKS WEEK

We’re celebrating Banned Books Week (September 18 – 24) with a display in YDL-Whittaker’s Community Room. Check out the display, then tell us your favorite challenged book and why.

Books are challenged for surprising reasons. Dinosaurs Divorce by Laurene Kransy Brown and Marc Brown was challenged for possibly creating anxiety for children of married couples. Bruce Coville’s My Teacher Glows in the Dark was contested for including “farting” and “armpit farts” in the text. Harry Potter is continually challenged for promoting witchcraft.

Censorship is the suppression of ideas or information because a particular person or group of people does not like the idea in question. Censors believe that because they find a particular idea objectionable, no one should have access to information about that idea. Book challenges are often initiated with good intentions, but censorship is deeply concerning for public libraries.

Libraries are an open forum for the exchange of information, and restrictions to library materials conflicts with their founding principles.

“Libraries contain an enormous wealth of viewpoints and are responsible for making those viewpoints available,” YDL Assistant Director Julianne Smith said. “Equitable access to information is a core value of librarianship.”

YDL’s Banned Books Week exhibit highlights the dangers of censorship to our communities, celebrates the free access to information that libraries provide, and illustrates with humorous and thought-provoking displays how information restrictions in the library might look and feel.

“Join us in celebrating your freedom to read,” said Smith. “It’s easy to discover great books — banned or not — with your YDL card.” YDL has recently gone fine-free, so if late fees kept you away, stop by any location to get yours. Learn more at ypsilibrary.org/services/borrowing/library-cards/.

IT'S FALL BOOK SALE TIME!

Mark your calendars for September 22–25, and attend the Friends of YDL book sale at YDL-Whittaker! Pay $1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks, with even more special deals available during the sale. Sept. 22 from 6–8pm will be a members only preview, but memberships, starting at $10, will be available for purchase at the door, so it’s the perfect time to join the Friends and help make library events possible.

On Sept. 25 there will be bags of books available for $4, and some books will be sold for a reduced price.

Book Sale Hours:
• Thursday, Sept 22: 6–8pm
  (Members only preview sale)
• Friday, Sept 23: 11am–5pm
• Saturday, Sept 24: 11am–3pm
• Sunday, Sept 25: 1–4pm

The Friends also need volunteers. There are plenty of ways to help, like assisting with book shop sales and sorting the generous donations the Friends receive. Whatever your availability, your assistance is greatly appreciated. If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer, please fill out the application at ypsilibrary.org/volunteer-at-the-friends-book-shop.
Events Schedule | Fall 2022 | Visit attend.ypsilibrary.org/events

Best/Worst/Forgotten Movies Series
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Our final Best/Worst movies will be from the 1980s. Join us to view one of the worst, one of the best, and one the forgotten movies from the decade.


Tuesday, Sept 13 & 27, Oct 11 & 25, Nov 8 & 29
Tag (Teen Advisory Group)
4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker and YDL-Michigan
Looking for ways to help the community and earn volunteer hours? Join and meet twice each month to help the library best serve Ypsi teens. Teens in grades 8-12 can apply at ypsilibrary.org/tag.

Wednesdays, Sept 15–Dec 15
ESL Book Club
11:00am | YDL-Michigan
Join washtenaw county’s ESL Book Club for intermediate to advanced readers. Meet once a week and read one book per season. Talk and learn about language, grammar, and cultural aspects of the book. Members will be expected to read approximately 45 pages in advance of each session. To register, contact washtenaw Library at (734) 337-3338.

Wednesday, Sept 14, 15, 21, 28 & Nov 16
Family Maker Night
6:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Spend time as a family creating fun crafts! All supplies provided.

Scorable Tiles - design your own mirror frame.
Nov 9: Bath Bombs - twisted Willow Soap will teach you to make your own bath bomb.
Email mlove@ypsilibrary.org to register.

Get to Know AAA 1-B
1:00pm–2:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Get to know AAA 1-B, a nonprofit serving older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers in southeast Michigan. Gain insight into the programs and services the agency has available to seniors and their families. Learn about ways to make aging safer at home. Wheels, health and wellness classes, and more.

Thursday, Sept 15; Oct 13 & 20; Nov 17
Senior Advisory Board Meeting
1:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
Participants contribute to the library by sharing ideas and resources, more information call 734-482-4110, x1362.

Drive to Stay Alive
6:30pm–8:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
Attorney Hugo Mack will review instances of traffic-related police shootings with an emphasis on African-Americans. Learn how to avoid receiving police attention and know your rights if you do. Mr. Mack will also examine common traffic violations for which police may stop you, along with driver responsibilities rather than new marijuana laws.

Thursday, Sept 29 & Oct 6
TWEEN Book Club (Grades 6-12)
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and enjoy a snack. Registration required.
Email michelle@ypsilibrary.org
Sept 1: Middleton’s A Wrinkle in Time
Ages 12 and up
October 5: The Time Machine
Ages 18+

FAMILY Maker Night
6:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Spend time as a family creating fun crafts! All supplies provided.

Scorable Tiles - design your own mirror frame.
Nov 9: Bath Bombs - twisted Willow Soap will teach you to make your own bath bomb.
Email mlove@ypsilibrary.org to register.

Safe Talk About Race
10:00am | YDL-Whittaker
Little conversations about race and politics can move and launch live music performed by pianist Kathryn Goodson and harpist Brittany DeYoung of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, with stories read by Gari Stein.

Sunday, Sept 25
KindertConcert
7:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Little conversations about race and politics can move and launch live music performed by pianist Kathryn Goodson and harpist Brittany DeYoung of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, with stories read by Gari Stein.

Save Talk About Race & Racism - Who We Are: A CHRONICLE OF RACISM IN AMERICA
10:00am | YDL-Whittaker
This series screens films that provide the needed context to safely engage and understand the ways racism has functioned historically and continues to work in the present. This month we will screen “Who We Are: A chronicle of racism in America.” A virtual discussion will follow led by LaRon Williams, local storyteller and peace activist.

Booked Banned Books Week Display
YDL-Whittaker
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A CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION MONTH
YDL-Whittaker
From Sept 24 to Oct 1, 2022
Call or stop by the YDL-Whittaker location and ask for the Democracy Station for information on registering to vote.

LOOK A LITTLE CLOSER
Ypsilanti District Library
Listen to a story and then gather natural items to examine more closely with magnification. Share what you found with others and learn what else we can discover when we look a little closer.

YDL-Whittaker
YpsiWrites
YDL announces an open call for letters focused on political topics and social change. This is the first of five programs where you can learn how to write letters focused on political topics and more. Join us for a lighthearted afternoon working on a craft project where the goals are to engage your imagination and use materials you have at home to create a political letter. Registration required.

Friends of YDL ANNUAL BOOK SALE
YDL-Whittaker
Visit YDL’s annual book sale in fall for a great selection of books at super sale prices! Book sale prices are $1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 25¢ for paperback books.

MISS ME WITH THAT:
Hot Takes, Helpful Tidbits, and a Few Hard Truths
AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
YDL-Whittaker
Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared reading. Each session will have a different theme such as mammals, sea creatures, or flowers. Come prepared to get messy and wear appropriate clothing. Registration is encouraged so that we can prepare enough materials and chairs. Visit attend.ypslibrary.org/events to learn more.

WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ESTATE PLANNING
YDL-Whittaker
This after-school reading club is for fans of graphic novels. Over the course of several weeks, you will have the book read aloud to you, discuss your favorite parts while making art. We will start with reading Dragons of the Deep Prophet by Tui T. Sutherland, then vote on the next book.

H & T SPECIAL EVENT:
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VIRGINAL MYSTERY LOVER’S BOOK CLUB
YDL-Whittaker
Drop in and learn about the mystery title each month.

BIAS IS ALL AROUND YOU: CAN YOU SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION?
YDL-Whittaker
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LOVE OF LEARNING CLUB
YDL-Whittaker
Calling all homeschoolers or anyone who feels at home in the library! Connect with other families while engaging in themed activities each week inspired by a nonfiction and/or picture book. Go home with a hand out of extension activities and ideas. Perfect for ages 6–9, but the whole family is welcome.

ARTIST: KIDS AND TEENS
YDL-Whittaker
Calling all homeschoolers or anyone who feels at home in the library! Connect with other families while engaging in themed activities each week inspired by a nonfiction and/or picture book. Go home with a hand out of extension activities and ideas. Perfect for ages 6–9, but the whole family is welcome.

WILLIAMSON HUNTS
YDL-Whittaker
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WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ESTATE PLANNING
YDL-Whittaker
Learn in a lighthearted manner the power to pass property to others after your death. All sessions will be taught by Dr. Erik Bean, Ed.D., award-winning teacher and author of Bias is All Around You: A Handbook for Inspecting Social Media & News Stories, who will lead an interactive one-hour workshop where you will gain critical thinking skills you can apply daily when you are presented with false narratives, algorithms, and click bait in today’s media environment. See page 11 for more information.

SUPERIOR LIBRARY BOOK BRIGADE
YDL-Superior
This is mazing day for the collection at the current Superior Library. Bring a book, read it, and pass it on. At the end of the day or pick up another book to read at home. What better way to support your local library and give something back to your community.

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NIGHT SKY WITHBOARD - GENERAL ELECTION
YDL-Whittaker
Learn about the history behind the stars and the importance of the day. Meet at 2pm at the current location, 8795 MacArthur Blvd, to say you played a part in opening the new library! Event will be canceled in the event of rain. Register online.

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**Grapevine wreaths**

2:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Lissa Rivera from Brightmore Flower Farm will walk you through making your very own natural fall wreath.

**Get Organized**

3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Teens, get organized for improved success in school this year! Join Sketchnotesriendly Zen Azzaro and learn to organize your journal, notes, or calendar using text, doodles, and bullet journaling methods. Materials provided, but please feel free to bring your favorite journal and pens/markers.

**YPSILIAN LUMINARIES**

3:40pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join Lynette Setske to make lanterns and work on YPSIWRITES projects designed by unitedSTEM to carry in the YpsiGLOW parade. The theme of this year’s parade is “Where the Wild Things Glow!”

**YPSI SLOW KIT WORKSHOPS**

YDL-Michigan

unitedSTEM has created kits to make lighted art projects to add glow to your outfit at Halloween! These kits are age specific and require a limited call. Visit email Joyce Chewicz at 734-722-2634 or joy@ypsiy.org to reserve a kit and sign up for a workshop.

**VegMichigan Food Giveaway**

2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck as she explains how to plant tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and many others. Learn about different types (including some new ones that you may want to plant), site selection and preparation, and more. Join us to make sure your spring garden is a success!

**Spring plant-free swap**

1:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join the Washtenaw County Conservation District with support from the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission’s office, for a free native plant swap. If bringing native plants from your yard to share, please label them. If you would like to help weed a native plant bed, please arrive starting at 2:15 pm along the edges of the rotation basin and pollinator garden at the library, please bring gloves and a trowel. Register online or call 734-302-8715.

**Safely talk about race & racism - white noise: inside the racist right**

2:00pm | Virtual

This series screens films that provide the needed opportunity to safely engage and understand ways racism has functioned historically and continues to work in the present. This month we will screen White Noise: Inside the racist right. Virtual discussion will be followed by LeRon Williams, local storyteller and peace activist.

**Write for change (virtual event)**: YPSI WRITES CELEBRATES WRITE FOR CHANGE (VIRTUAL EVENT): YPSI YPSIWRITES CELEBRATES WRITE FOR CHANGE (VIRTUAL EVENT): YPSI WRITES CELEBRATES WRITE FOR CHANGE (VIRTUAL EVENT):

2:00pm | Virtual

Join us for a fun, sing-along session featuring 28 songs by The Beatles performed by a live band and the funniest short story by M.L. Liebler of growing up with The Beatles from the early 60s until they first appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show. Come have a laugh, sing some old favorites, and party with The Beatles Forever Show, Sponsored by Fran’s of Ypsilanti.

**YPSIGLOW**

3:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

YpsiGLOW: Make a GLOWworm to parade for ypsiGLOW. 

**Spark East**

2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

uniteSTEM has created kits to make lighted STEM projects designed by uniteSTEM to carry in the YpsiGLOW parade. The theme of this year’s parade is “Where the Wild Things Glow!”

**Pumpkin carving & crafts**

1:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Get a free pumpkin to carve and take home, along with crafts and snacks. While supplies last.

**Halloween**

5:00pm–6:45pm | YDL-Michigan

Trick or treat in the Library Plaza with music, dancing, glowing costumes, and luminaries will light up your evening! Download processional starts at 6:45.

**Fall Harvest Fest**

2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

Celebrate the end of our garden growing season. Make corn husk dolls, corn mosaics, and pumpkin themed crafts for some fall harvest fun.

**Halloween 2022**

5:30pm–6:45pm | YDL-Michigan

Trick or treat in the Library Plaza with music, sweet treats, and a visit to the haunted B00K mobile. Join the glowing crowd as we walk to YpsiGLOW at 6:45pm. Generously sponsored by Span East.

**Ypsilanti District Library | The Loop**
LIBRARY twnight CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF tD-TRADE LIBRARY

Celebrate the opening of the new Superior branch of the Ypsilanti District Library. Hear from officials involved in the project, watch the ribbon cutting, and tour the library. Don’t miss out on library-related giveaways and refreshments!

Sponsors: The Friends of YDL.

For more information, call (734) 482-4110 x2411.

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

6:30pm | Virtual

An introduction to creating and sharing presentations using Google Slides, a key part of the Google Suite of programs. Participants will need to have a Google account in order to complete the assignment. Register online at (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

Saturday, Sept 10, 10:30am; Oct 15, 1:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Microsoft Word Basics: Formatting documents and creating styles. Participants will need a Google account to complete the assignment. Register online at (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

Saturday, Oct 8, 10:30am; Nov 2, 2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS: Learn to use the fill handle, and create simple formulas. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a spreadsheet. A Google (or Gmail) account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 x2411.

Saturday, Oct 15 & Nov 12, 2:00pm; Dec 10, 2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

Microsoft PowerPoint Basics: Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation, Basic PC keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

Saturday, Oct 15, 1:00pm; Nov 19, 1:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

Microsoft Word - Intermediate: Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and insert tabs. Basic PC keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

Saturday, Oct 22, 2:00pm; Nov 19, 2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

GOOGLE DOCS TIPS & TRICKS: Learn to use the fill handle, and create simple formulas. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a spreadsheet. A Google (or Gmail) account is required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

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IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:

- 8/29: 1st Day of School (Both)
- 9/2–9/5: No School, Labor Day Recess (Both)
- 9/6: 1st Day of Preschool (YCS)
- 9/16: Early Release Day (LCS)
- 10/5: Count Day (YCS)
- 10/14: Early Release Day (LCS)
- 10/21: 1/2 Day (YCS)
- 10/26: Parent-Teacher Conferences (Both), 1/2 Day (YCS)
- 10/27: Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1/2 Day (Both)
- 10/28: No School (LCS)
- 11/8: No School (YCS)
- 11/11: Early Release Day (LCS)
- 11/23–11/25: Thanksgiving Break, No School (Both)

ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR YCS STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Make an appointment to pick up daily essentials

Ypsilanti Community School families can now get even more from the YCS Resiliency Center. Since 2021, families have been able to schedule an appointment to grab toiletries, clothes, shoes, and non-perishable food items.

Beginning this fall, YCS will have 10 laptop computers available to use, a Kids Zone, and a space for adults to relax, read, and prepare for their next destination.

LCS DEVELOPING 2023–2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

Lincoln Consolidated Schools is currently developing the district’s next strategic plan. Staff, students, parents, and community stakeholders are working with the district to create a plan that strengthens the district and addresses its current challenges. LCS will hold community meetings and distribute surveys this fall, allowing stakeholders to influence the direction of the strategic plan. The Board of Education will meet to approve the plan upon its completion.

The current strategic plan, which was established in 2018 and planned by a group of 57 school administrators, teachers, parents, and board members, prioritized student literacy, maintained healthy fund balances, ensured student safety, enhanced facilities, and fostered relationships with the community.

The new strategic planning process kicked off in February with meetings for community stakeholders to give feedback to the district. LCS used that commentary to develop the LCS Portrait of a Graduate. The Portrait of a Graduate allows community stakeholders to envision the values that will guide district decisions and be instilled in students. Superintendent Robert Jansen compares the Portrait to the North Star; it provides “strategic direction for the redesign.”

The LCS Portrait specifically includes six competencies to guide decision making: critical thinking, empathy, communication, collaboration, global citizenship, and adaptability. These are values the district plans to instill in its students to help them find future success.

TEXT AND LEARN FOR KINDERGARTEN

Help your littles ones get ready for kindergarten with TALK. You’ll receive 8–10 text messages each month with fun activities to help your child build pre-literacy skills, such as recognizing letters and numbers, building dexterity, and developing emotionally and cognitively. Texts are available in English or Spanish. Scan this QR Code to sign up!
**LITERACY IS “MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER”**

*Washtenaw Literacy’s new Executive Director talks about the impact of teaching someone to read*

About 1 in 10 Michiganders can’t read this paragraph. Washtenaw Literacy strives to change that. For 5 decades the organization has opened opportunities for adults in Washtenaw County by building literacy skills. Heading into the next 50 years, their new director thinks these skills can be even more transformative.

Carole McCabe’s organization helps individuals improve their reading, writing, math, and English as a second language skills.

“Our work is more important than ever,” said McCabe, who started as the new Executive Director in March 2022. Previously, she was the founding Executive Director of Washtenaw County’s Avalon Housing, a non-profit that develops and manages supportive housing communities as a long-term solution to homelessness.

“(McCabe’s) passion for alleviating poverty is a great fit with our mission and our strategic plan,” said Mary Jean Raab, Washtenaw Literacy Board President, in a press release.

To keep up with the community’s growing needs, McCabe would love to see Washtenaw Literacy double the number of learners it serves over the next two years. In 2021, they served around 850 learners with 350 tutors, but had been consistently serving around 1,200 before COVID-19 put in-person learning on hold.

To meet these goals, McCabe said Washtenaw Literacy has started offering more in-person sessions and hopes to be back to a full complement this fall. They are also working to make their robust training more accessible, so volunteers can get up to speed more quickly and independently. There are also plans to increase community outreach, build a new website, and make social media and promotional materials more engaging and wider-reaching.

In addition to teaching adults, Washtenaw Literacy helps businesses provide support and career development for entry-level employees and assists literacy organizations around the country. The individualized scope, however, can’t be overstated.

“We start with whatever people come with,” McCabe said. “Whether it’s help with a shopping list, preparing to take the GED, or passing a Citizenship test.”

Washtenaw Literacy has long partnered with YDL. Its business office is located at YDL-Whittaker. The new YDL-Superior branch will also offer more options for meetings and tutoring sessions as in-person meetings resume. The in-person connections formed are valuable for both the tutors and learners.

“You don’t ever lose those skills, you just keep adding to them, and they help all parts of your life,” she said.

To become a volunteer tutor with Washtenaw Literacy, attend a one-hour informational session, The ABCs of Washtenaw Literacy. Register at washtenawliteracy.org or call (734) 337-3338.

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**LEADING 826MICHIGAN FORWARD**

Megan Shuchman will lead 826michigan as its new Executive Director. The organization offers free after-school writing programs and school support for Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Detroit teens. 826michigan has long partnered with Ypsilanti District Library and co-founded the YpsWrites initiative.

Shuchman was a lead volunteer for the Michigan Women’s Justice Clemency Project. As an executive member of the Prison Creative Arts Project housed at the University of Michigan, Shuchman produced plays in prisons and juvenile detention centers. For the past decade, she helmed education programs for the renowned Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

“Her energy, enthusiasm for the mission, and exceptional experience in arts-based education are a perfect fit to propel us forward into a future of expanded community partnership and inspired, student-focused creativity,” said 826michigan Board President Sean Emery.

Shuchman wants to utilize the organization’s ability to build a national reputation while retaining its roots. She expressed gratitude towards previous executive directors of 826michigan and is excited to continue their groundbreaking work at the organization.

“Young people not only want but need the opportunity to fully return to programs like 826michigan that provide them with community, confidence, and purpose,” Schuchman said. “We know how deeply vital the arts are to their recovery from the pandemic, and thanks to tireless efforts from staff, volunteers, and students, 826michigan will be at the forefront of this crucial re-emergence.”

826michigan partners frequently with YDL for creative writing workshops, after-school programs, and volunteer opportunities. As 826michigan returns to in-person programming this fall, there will be free after-school tutoring at YDL-Michigan. Other programs that will continue in partnership with YDL are college access programs, asynchronous learning kits, and virtual workshops. All are designed to amplify student voices by professionally publishing student work in books, online, in video and audio formats, and through live performances.

826michigan will host several open houses in their service cities to introduce Shuchman as she begins her duties in September. You can contact her at megan.s@826michigan.org.

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**NEW E.D. WANTS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

Growing Hope has welcomed Julius Buzzard as its new Executive Director. Buzzard began his new role in July, but he’s been with Growing Hope as the Program Director since 2021.

Founded in 2003, Growing Hope’s mission is to “foster an equitable and sustainable local food system where all people are empowered to grow, sell, buy, prepare, and eat nourishing food.” To that end, the Growing Hope Urban Farm offers the Home Vegetable Garden Program, Farm Volunteerism, the Teen Leadership Program, and Youth Field Trips on the Farm. The Ypsilanti Farmers Marketplace offers Ypsilanti Farmers Markets and the Growing Hope Incubator Kitchen.

“Growing Hope is uniquely positioned to move the needle from food access to food sovereignty,” Buzzard said. “I’m excited to develop meaningful relationships throughout Ypsilanti and encourage community members to not only engage with, but take ownership over the local food system.”

Creating food sovereignty in Ypsilanti is crucial. Food insecurity is on the rise in Washtenaw County; the 2019 overall food insecurity rate was 10.8%, an increase from 2018. The pandemic’s effects have likely increased local food insecurity beyond that number.

Buzzard has many years of experience in implementing effective marketing strategies, leading teams, and championing campaigns of diversity and inclusion.

“Julius has an innate ability to lead through fostering new ideas, rooted in challenge and introspection. We look forward to continuing to serve the Ypsilanti community with his leadership,” says Sarah Wixon, Board President.
ELECTION TOOLS

How often do you vote? Data from Fairvote, a nonpartisan election organization, reveals that since 1840, presidential elections have gathered greater turnout than midterms. In 2018, 50% of the voting-eligible population voted; in 2020, 66.7% did.

Voting preserves democracy and ensures your representation in government. Four of YDL’s Board Members — Patricia J. Horne McGee, Bethany Kennedy, Theresa Maddix, and Kristy Cooper — are up for reelection this year, so be sure to vote.

Voting Information

Courtesy of Vote411.org, a nonpartisan election website from the League of Women Voters, here’s what you should know before you head to the polls on November 8:

• Voting Requirements: To vote in the State of Michigan, you must be a U.S. citizen and Michigan resident, at least 18 years old, and not currently serving a jail or prison sentence.

• ID Requirements: Eligible voters must have a photo ID or sign an affidavit stating that they do not possess one. Examples of valid photo IDs include: driver’s licenses or personal ID cards, government-issued IDs, and valid U.S. passports.

• Absentee Ballot Access: In Michigan, you can vote absentee for any reason. Absentee ballots must be requested at least 4 days before election day. Ballots must be received by election day.

• Candidate and Ballot Measure Information: vote411.org allows you to find out who and what will be on your ballot. Just enter your zip code.

• Polling Information: vote411.org has polling place and dropbox locators. Polling locations are open 7am to 8pm on election day. Anyone in line by 8pm can legally vote, even if you haven’t begun voting.

YDL is a Voting Resource

Did you know that YDL-Whittaker’s Community Room is a polling place for residents of precinct 20 in Ypsilanti Township? YDL is happy to help with all kinds of voting matters, such as how to register, finding your polling place, and more.

More Information:

You can find local, state, and federal voting information below:

CITY OF YPSILANTI:
cityofypsilanti.com/188/Voting-Election-Information

YPISILANTI TOWNSHIP:
ytown.org/election-voting-information

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP:
superiortownship.org/government/voting-elections/

STATE OF MICHIGAN:
michigan.gov/sos/elections/upcoming-election-information

FEDERAL VOTING AND ELECTIONS:
usa.gov/voting

National Voter Registration Day

Census data reveals that one fourth of eligible Americans aren’t registered to vote.

September 20, 2022 is National Voter Registration Day, a nonpartisan holiday celebrating democracy by encouraging voter registration and voting. YDL is celebrating by partnering with the League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County to get patrons registered to vote. Representatives from the League will be on hand to answer questions and distribute nonpartisan voting and election information. You can also pick up election guides from the League at any YDL location.
**DISINFORMATION: DON'T BE FOOLED!**

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Don't believe everything you read online." While this statement is clearly misattributed, disinformation often works stealthily. Identifying and combating disinformation is challenging, but you can learn how to spot and avoid it.

**What are mis- and disinformation?**

According to "Fake News," Lies and Propaganda: How to Sort Fact from Fiction," a University of Michigan Library Guide, misinformation is inaccurate information shared without deceptive intentions. Disinformation is false information intended to deceive. According to Kristin Fontichiaro from the University of Michigan’s School of Information, there are seven types of mis- and disinformation:

- **Satire or Parody:** content without deceptive intent, but that can deceive others.
- **False Connection:** headlines, visuals, or captions that don’t align with the content.
- **Misleading Content:** content is used in a misleading way to frame an issue or individual.
- **False Context:** genuine content is shared within a false context.
- **Imposter Content:** reliable sources are impersonated.
- **Manipulated Content:** genuine content is manipulated to be deceptive.
- **Fabricated Content:** new content that is completely falsified and harms and deceives the reader.

### Common methods for spreading disinformation

Disinformation is often challenging to spot by design, but there are methods for identifying it, according to Fontichiaro:

- Watch out for pink slime, a prevalent practice where politically-leaning news outlets produce partisan articles while posing as unbiased local news sources.
- Beware of confirmation bias. Avoid one-sided sources and seek out contrasting points of view.
- Look out for common techniques for science denial, such as logical fallacies, fake experts, cherry picking, and conspiracy theories.
- Beware of manipulated data. Analyze the data; is the truth exaggerated? Who’s funding the research? Is there a conflict of interest?
- Look for propaganda techniques like excessive claims of certainty, emotional appeals, personal attacks, suppressing contradictions, and manipulating words.

### Confirming information

There are many resources and strategies available to verify information. Michael Caulfield, a digital literacy expert at Washington State University, recommends 4 techniques:

- Check for pre-existing fact-checking or reviewing of the material.
- Determine the original source's credibility.
- Read laterally. What is the reputation of the author and the publishing source?
- Reset: If you get lost in a sea of information, start over with what you know now.

### Additionally, verify information by:

1. **Reading across the ideological spectrum.** A lot of misinformation is politically-motivated. Adult Services Librarian Paula Drummond recommends AllSides, a website aimed at preventing misinformation by ranking news sources and articles by political bias.
2. **Taking stock of your news sources.** "Fake News," Lies and Propaganda: How to Sort Fact from Fiction" reveals where common news organizations lie on the political spectrum and provides resources for evaluating news bias.

**What went wrong?**

It can be hard to accept that you’ve been deceived by misinformation. To combat its prevalence, the best thing to do is educate yourself. Find out where you were misled. What source led you astray? Read laterally and gather your information from multiple sources. Avoid confirmation bias by reading perspectives that don’t align with your own. Misinformation can be challenging to avoid, but it’s possible with the right tools.

To learn more, visit YDLMichigan on Tuesday, September 27 at 6:30pm to attend Bias is All Around You. Find out where you were misled. What source led you astray? Reading perspectives that don’t align with your own. Misinformation can be challenging to avoid, but it’s possible with the right tools.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program is looking for volunteers to provide assistance for income tax preparation. Tax assistance is available for anyone, especially taxpayers over 50 or with low-to-moderate incomes, free of charge.

The Tax-Aide program is seeking friendly people from a variety of age groups and backgrounds to maintain and expand its tax preparation services. You'll receive training in tax prep and computer skills in December and January. Volunteer service extends from February until early April, with support available. You'll have some choice of days and locations to work. The Ypsilanti District Library has hosted the Tax-Aide program at its Michigan Avenue and Whittaker Road branches for many years, and the program is located in several other areas of Washtenaw County as well.

There are two primary positions for volunteers:

- **Facilitators** – Facilitators greet taxpayers and help initiate the process.
- **Counselors** – Counselors will work directly with taxpayers to complete their tax returns.

If you're interested in joining this program, send an email with your contact information to: srmdowell12@comcast.net, or visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer.

**PAST DUE WATER BILLS? HELP IS AVAILABLE**

The Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development has launched the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to expand water accessibility in Washtenaw County. Those with an outstanding balance on their water utility bills can apply for up to $650 in water arrearage relief. To qualify, applicants must:

- Be a residential account holder
- Have water arrearages or a disconnection notice

- Be a part of a household at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Limit or receive aid from select programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Social Security Income, State Emergency Relief, Food Assistance Program or SNAP
- Have a water company willing to provide assistance

To learn more, check if your provider is participating, or to apply visit: Washtenaw.org/LIHWAP or contact Arieona Klaus at 734-554-6721.
NEW, FREE RESOURCE FOR NATURE WRITERS

YpsiWrites is proud to present its first published book, Write Outside: Investigations of the Living Land, written by local writer and environmentalist, Lisa Eddy. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Eddy began creating a series of nature-inspired writing prompts. She wrote two prompts each week, one for writers who could be outdoors and one for those who remained inside. She says, “It was my idea to write prompts for an entire year so that writers could feel a sense of completion of the 4-season cycle—and hopefully start anew on the next cycle.”

Eventually, Eddy’s year-long project was compiled into a book containing the prompts, which have been arranged seasonally. Of her work, Eddy says, “I hope that the prompts will awaken people’s curiosity about the natural world and inspire them to see and experience the connections between land health and human health.”

Write Outside is available as a free digital download on the YpsiWrites website. “This is an incredible resource for anyone interested in the intersections between the environment and creative writing,” says YpsiWrites co-founder, Ann Blakesslee. Writers who find inspiration in Eddy’s book are encouraged to share their work on social media using the hashtag #writeoutsideYW.

Follow YpsiWrites on Facebook and Instagram (@ypsiwrites) to stay up to date on future writing projects, events, and workshops. For additional resources, or to volunteer, visit ypsiwrites.com.

FALL HEALTH REMINDERS

Eight flu season: get your flu shot before the end of October and before the winter holidays begin. Getting vaccinated, washing your hands, covering coughs, and staying away from others when sick helps prevent the spread of flu and protects you from severe illness.

Everyone six months and older is eligible to get a flu shot every year. Get vaccinated at your doctor’s office, pharmacy, or Health Department. Stay up-to-date about the flu at washtenaw.org/flu.

The Washtenaw County Health Department works to maximize community health. This includes sexual health! Free condoms, lube, and pregnancy testing are available; in addition to appointments for HIV/STI testing, PEP, birth control (including Plan B), and vaccinations for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and HPV. Pap smears are available for those with Medicaid or Blue Cross insurance. Find more details at washtenaw.org/1343/Sexual-Health-Services-HIV-STI.

Stay up to date about Washtenaw’s health on @ypsiwrites. Visit our website (washtenaw.org/1129/Health-Department), sign up for the email update list (bit.ly/WCHD555), call us at 734-544-6700, or email us at health@washtenaw.org.

GET MOVING MORE WITH THERIDE

TheRide’s services help people get where they need to go. Whether it’s back to school, commuting to work, shopping or going to the doctor, TheRide can get you there. You can pay with contact-less mobile ticketing through EZFare. To help you plan your trip, visit TheRide.org and use our helpful passenger tools. Do you prefer to speak to someone to help you with route information? Call 734-996-0400 and Information Specialists will be happy to help!

Did you know that we’re on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube? Follow us there for the latest news from TheRide. We also encourage you to stay up to date on the latest from TheRide by visiting us at TheRide.org to sign up for our e-newsletter. While there, also sign up for MyAlerts to receive alerts on your specific route directly to your email.

In case you haven’t heard, TheRide recently brought back all previously reduced services to better serve our community. In addition, our 30-day and 1-day pass prices have been lowered, and we introduced a half-fare 1-day pass for those who qualify.

WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG

LOCATIONS & HOURS

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

YDL-MICHIGAN
229 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS
Mon-Thurs: 9am–9pm
Fri and Sat: 10am–6pm
Sun: 1–5pm

YDL-SUPERIOR
8795 MacArthur Blvd (through 10/7)
1900 Harris Rd (starting by 11/14)
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
HOURS
See website for current hours and services

YDL-BOOKMOBILE
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS
Mon-Thurs: 4–8pm
See the bookmobile’s neighborhood route and schedule at ypsilibrary.org/bookmobile

Board of Trustees
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