ROAD BACK FOR THE DOWNTOWN BRANCH

The evening of July 1st, downtown Ypsilanti was pummeled with torrential rains. Streets filled with standing water and cars were stranded. As the roof drains were overwhelmed, YDL’s historic Michigan Avenue branch was flooded inside. Although the damage to the building was extensive, the collection was mostly spared, and thankfully no one was hurt. We lost fewer than 100 books, and staff have been reassigned to other YDL locations until we are able to open our doors downtown again.

On-Site Restoration worked tirelessly to remove waterlogged building materials and eliminate mold and moisture that resulted from the flood. Because there were buried layers of lead paint, the remediation had to be conducted with great care. To make everything safe, they had to take dramatic measures, including dismantling wall structures and removing sections of the floor. After 2½ long months, an environmental testing firm finally confirmed we could safely enter the space again.

THE CURRENT PATH

On September 27, we met at the branch with our insurer, an architect, and Ypsilanti-based Phoenix Contractors to launch the next phase of work.

At its meeting that same evening, the Library’s Board of Trustees approved a proposal for architectural services from Faber Design Co. to restore the historic building. Architect Kyle Keaffaber immediately took a Matterport 3D scan of the interior and began design development. After consulting with staff, he prepared a redesign that will maximize the space and make it more user-friendly for everyone.

We hope to add small group study rooms, rearrange the Youth area for better use of space and improved sight lines, and make other tweaks that improve safety and security. The Library Board and administration are sensitive to the pressing need to resume library service downtown, and will not pursue upgrades that will take longer than would otherwise be necessary.

The architect is currently working to create detailed plans and specifications for the reconstruction. Because the building has largely been gutted, materials for walls, floors, and ceilings themselves need to be specified, as well as their finishes (carpeting, blinds, paint, etc.). Some large light fixtures, the fire alarm panel, study tables, and other furnishings that were destroyed must be replaced as well.

When we reopen, the building will sparkle and provide the very best service possible to our downtown patrons. Though the construction supply chain is still unpredictable, we aim to reopen before the launch of the 2024 Summer Challenge, if not sooner. In the meantime, we’re doing our best to provide service outside the building.

ACCESSING LIBRARY RESOURCES DOWNTOWN

After the wrap-up of road construction downtown, the YDL Bookmobile added a stop on Adams Street near the library’s parking lot entrance on Friday afternoons from 1–5 p.m. The Bookmobile is a library on wheels that provides materials for reading and borrowing, computers with Internet access, and friendly, helpful staff. From January 12 through February 16, our youth librarians will host storytime on the bus at 4:00 each Friday. We hope our downtown patrons will visit—we miss you!

The 24/7 outdoor lockers at Michigan Avenue are back online following flood-related damage. You can request materials and pick them up from the lockers or at the Bookmobile stop. The Library Plaza also offers 24/7 high-speed internet access and a power pedestal to charge devices.

WHAT THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE

At YDL’s Strategic Plan Retreat held in September 2022, participants made it very clear: the library’s #1 priority in the coming years should be to renovate Michigan Avenue. Our community dreams of a modernized and expanded library branch in the heart of the city. YDL’s 2019 space needs assessment envisioned adding a third floor to the top of the building and an attractive modern stairway and elevator feature in the rear. Library Director Lisa Hoenig and...
Keaffaber requested a preliminary study session with the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission, and these ideas were well-received.

As we work to reopen, we’ll begin a feasibility study for this addition as outlined in YDL's strategic plan, carefully assessing the building, community needs, and financial options for a major renovation. We’re also using this opportunity to bring staff together as an even more cohesive team, reinforcing that we are indeed one library that serves three communities with top-notch programming, collections, and services.

We thank you for your patience and understanding. Please come visit us at Whitaker Road, Superior, the Bookmobile, or online!

Before & after the Michigan Avenue branch flood damage

NEW YDL BRANCH A POINT OF PRIDE

A multi-year, $2M fundraising effort for the new Superior Library branch was completed just in time for its 1-year anniversary, and the new branch has had an instant impact on the community.

A $6,500 donation from the Friends of YDL helped YDL meet our ambitious fundraising goal. The Friends are a volunteer organization that works to stimulate community interest in the library and help fund library programs, services, and facility work. Learn more about the group and how to get involved at ypsilibrary.org/friends-of-ydl (on page 12).

“It is thrilling that the goal has been reached and we delight in providing this pledge for our Superior Library,” said YDL President Marci Kinsey. “Thank you to everyone for supporting YDL libraries.”

Since it opened in November 2022, each MONTH the Superior branch has averaged:

- More than 2,800 visitors
- 70+ new library cards issued
- Around 4,000 items circulated
- Over 300 people attending programs
- 100+ people using the meeting rooms
- Over 250 people using the computers and 590 people accessing the Wi-Fi
- 1,170 lunches served from June 27–August 4 during the summer’s Lunch, Listen & Learn program. (The addition of a kitchenette allowed us to host these at the Superior branch for the first time.)

“At the prior, 1,100 square foot space...there were no meeting rooms, so we were unable to hold the summer lunch programs, and we could only do small programs inside or large ones outside when the weather cooperated,” said Superior Branch Manager Mary Garboden. “The new space has opened up so many more possibilities for community gathering, learning, and inspiration.”

The Friends' contribution joined leadership donations from organizations including The Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, the Young Family Foundation, the James W. and Marla J. Gousseff Fund, and Superior Township. In October of 2022, hundreds of people also joined us in a Book Brigade line to move thousands of books from the old branch to the new one.

After voters passed the 2018 library millage necessary to move forward, a “quiet” phase of the Next Chapter Capital Campaign helped raise an initial $1.5M to fund the new branch.

YDL then began a crowdfunding campaign to raise $500,000 to reach the $2M fundraising goal. Since that time, more than 473 donors contributed to the campaign, with over 40% giving more than once.

“I’m continually touched by the sheer number of people who contributed to make this library a reality,” Garboden said. “The donor screen [in the lobby] is full of names of long-time library users, friends, neighbors, and family. It’s like a virtual pat on the back every time I see [them]!”

Along with strong representation from longtime YDL supporters, the campaign successfully welcomed 300 new donors.

“The need for a new library and community space in Superior was recognized by a broad group of individuals and organizations who not only understood the need for services in this area of Washentaw County, but were ready to act and make the much-needed space a reality,” said Library Director Lisa Hoening.

Since its Grand Opening in November 2022, as hoped, the Superior branch has become a point of pride for the neighborhood, and it is building community through shared activities and programs. “I’ve voted for a lot of things,” one patron said when visiting the new branch for the first time. “This is the single best thing I’ve ever voted for.”

2024 WASHTENAW READS SELECTION

Published in June 2021 and a #1 NYT Bestseller, How the Word is Passed—a multi-award winning book by Clint Smith—is the 2024 Washtenaw Reads selection. Each year a committee chooses a book to inspire discussion and thoughtfulness about issues facing our community.

Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Smith leads the reader through an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks—those that are honest about the past and those that are not—that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation’s collective history, and ourselves.

Informed by scholarship and brought alive by the story of people living today, Clint Smith’s debut piece of nonfiction is a landmark work of reflection and insight that offers a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in making sense of our country and how it has come to be.

Stay tuned for Washtenaw Reads event details in 2024. Visit aadl.org/washtenawreads for more information.

About the author

Previously, Smith taught high school English in Prince George’s County, Maryland, where he was named the Christine D. Sarbanes Teacher of the Year by the Maryland Humanities Council. He is the host of the YouTube series Crash Course Black American History.

Smith received his B.A. in English from Davidson College and his Ph.D. in Education from Harvard University. Born and raised in New Orleans, he currently lives in Maryland with his wife and their two children.
NEW ART TO BE UNVEILED AT SUPERIOR

In Summer 2023, YDL put out a call for artists with the goal of starting a permanent public art collection at the new Superior branch. We’re delighted to introduce the artists whose work we chose: Earl Jackson, Maredith Byrd, Angelica Esquivel, and T’onna Clemons.

The pieces will be on display by January 1, 2024.

The selected pieces are vibrant depictions of our community that help to tell our story.

Earl Jackson, The Lily Pond
Jackson took inspiration from a pond near his old neighborhood in Willow Run.

“It was mythical because only the older boys would venture to it,” Jackson said. “My brother allowed me to tag along twice.”

Earl Jackson is a founding member of the African American Cultural and History Museum of Washtenaw County. He has three pieces of art on display at YDL’s Whittaker branch. His art has been featured at the WCC gallery, U of M’s Museum of Art, and Detroit’s Charles H. Wright History Museum, as well as museums in Chicago, New York City, Georgia, and Senegal.

Maredith Byrd, Unoccupied
This oil painting was inspired by a former high school classmate of Byrd’s.

“She is a really kind and sunny person with a beautiful voice,” Byrd explained.

“I wanted to bring out her joy with a bright blue clouded sky. Her coolness and comfortableness are for everyone to view and enjoy.”

Maredith Byrd is a junior at the University of Michigan who considered herself an artist before she was able to take art classes. In high school, Byrd took oil painting classes at Kalamazoo Institute of Art and attended Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

Angelica Esquivel, Earth, You Have Returned to Me
This triptych by Esquivel was inspired by the foliage in Ypsilanti, her hometown, and its title is an homage to a poem by Elaine Equi.

“In this poem, the narrator celebrates a reconnection with Earth after years spent suffering from chronic illness. This poem resonated deeply with me when I first read it... and it still does,” said Esquivel.

Beneath the acrylic paint on her piece, Esquivel glued junk mail to form the base of the hills to give the paintings a waviness and “movement” that to Esquivel is “reminiscent of the wind through the leaves, waving hello.”

Angelica Esquivel is a Xicana artist and writer. Her work has appeared in America Magazine, Poet Lore, and Chestnut Review, and she received the 2021 Zocalo Poetry Prize and the 2022 Roadrunner Review Cover Art Prize.

T’onna Clemons, The Lonely Alphonse
Clemons’ piece was inspired by the love of children and cyberpunk.

“I want to empower the youth in my community by [representing] that you can do and be anything ... We are everywhere, even space,” explained Clemons.

An Ann Arborite, Clemons is a former graphic designer who now works as a freelance painter and muralist specializing in oil and acrylics. She has been painting for over 20 years, and her art focuses on conveying and capturing the emotions of the African American experience.

T’onna Clemons studied Fine Arts at EMU and The Art Institute of San Francisco. She has been traveling around the world for the past several years to develop her own style of mixed media and futuristic textiles.
Event Schedule | Winter 2023–24 | Visit attend.ypilslibrary.org/events

**WINTER 2023–24**

**MONICA HICKSON: THE COVID DIARIES**
4pm | YDL-Supervisor
Local author Monica Hickson will discuss her memoirs The COVID Diaries and We’re Not My Type to share her experiences of losing a loved one to COVID. Followed by a Q&A. Copies of Hickson’s books will be available for purchase. Learn more on her website: monicaahickson.com.

**GARDEN DEMO/HOW TO MAKE IT: POLYHEDRON/VERDANT/FLORAL CENTERPIECE**
2pm | YDL-Whittaker
Learn to create a festive centerpiece using evergreens and flowers with Advanced Master Gardener and Master Gardener Interns. Attendees will receive a handheld on selecting containers, supplies, flowers, and greens.

**MICHAEL WONGS: SOUTH EaSTCONMErn OUtBAtch**
11am–3pm | YDL-Whittaker
A MICHAEL WONGS South-east representative will answer your questions and provide information and assistance on job leads, employment, job fairs, and career guidance. All services are offered free of charge unless otherwise noted. Visit MIVEG.org for more details.

**SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: WHERE TO BEGIN (UPDATED)**
7pm | Virtual
This session will consider types of e-commerce, market segments, and current/ recent market trends. The Small Business Savvy series is presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area Score Office.

**JAZZ CONCERT**
**PAUL KELLER ENSEMBLE HOLIDAY**
Dec 6 & 9
11am–1pm | YDL-Supervisor
Join us for a hands-on virtual writing session with Paul Keller and his merry band of musicians joyfully celebrate the holiday season with good cheer and swinging jazz. All ages welcome! Sponsored by the Friends of YDL.

**WRITING AS A GIFT**
11am–1pm | YDL-Supervisor
Learn about microencounters with Todd VanAppel, loan officer at ODE. The Small Business Savvy series is presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area Score Office.

**YYPSI FARMERS & GARDENERS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT LAUNCH**
6–8pm | YDL-Whittaker
Celebrate the launch of the Yppsie Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project! Meet other community members who have donated stories and challenges of growing food in Ypsilanti. The archive will be live on YDL’s website, but this is your chance to view it first! Light refreshments will be served. See page 3 for more details.

**INTRO TO GENEALOGY WITH JEAN WINBORNE**
4pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join Jean Winborne, co-founder of the Washtenaw County African-American Genealogy Society and YDL volunteer, to learn more about how to research your family’s story. Get tips on navigating online databases and how to organize and share your research. Walk away with resources to explore your own genealogical journeys. Register on ypsilibrary.org/events.

**NOIR MOVIE NIGHT**
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Watch some of the best Noir movies ever made.

**CHECK IT OUT! CRAFTS EDITION**
3–6pm | YDL-Whittaker
Want to learn more about arts and crafts in YDL’s Library of Things? See the Cricut Joy, sewing machines, knitting supplies, and more in action at this interactive event. Try your hand at using these tools so you know where to expect when you check them out yourself.

**THE KILLING**
(1956) directed by Stanley Kubrick
Jan 10 - The Killing (1956) directed by Stanley Kubrick
Feb 7 - The Big Heat (1953) directed by Fritz Lang

**SOCIAL MEDIA 101**
3pm | YDL-Supervisor
Learn how to maintain an authentic and safe social media presence by gaining insight into the popular sites work. Register online at ypsilibrary.org/events.

**JUMPSTART YOUR NOIR**
Jan 27 & Feb 10, 11am–1pm
In our three-part series “Jumpstart Your Novel!”, join author Patrick Flores-Scott in exploring your writing means to authentic self-expression. Learn to poems for inspiration, then write—pen never leave the page—to move past your inner critic. Bring a pen, notebook, and an open mind! Writers of any experience level welcome.

**FAIR TRADE, TRAUMA & THERAPEUTIC SENDING**
Jan 27, 11am–1pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join facilitator Slagter to examine what trauma and stress in their early years.

**CHILD BEHAVIOR AND COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP**
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
Parents, caregivers, and educators are invited to better understand K–5 children’s behaviors and even strategies to improve communication. Childcare will be provided. Learn Trust- Based Relational Intervention strategies to communicate better with a family. Attendees will leave with simple techniques they can use at home with their children. TBRI is designed for children who experienced adversity such as trauma and stress in their early years.

**VIRTUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**
7pm | Virtual
Join us for lively discussions of books by Black authors. Visit ypsilibrary.org/events for the link.

**AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM - INCOME TAX PREPARATION**
9am–5pm | YDL-Whittaker
AARP’s Tax-Aide assistance program is provided by trained volunteers in partnership with the IRS. Tax preparation is targeted at low and moderate income taxpayers. There is no age requirement, but this service especially targets those over 50. AARP membership is not required. Call 734-482-4110 x2431 or x2433 to make an appointment or for more information. You will need to pick up a packet of information and fill out forms before meeting your preparer. Visit ypsilibrary.org/taxprep for more info.

**CHANGING OUR HEARTS THROUGH POETRY: CELEBRATING AND LEARNING FROM AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN**
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Join the Jo Myers-Walls Performing Arts program and discuss Episodes 1 and 2 of the PBS series will go back to its beginnings with African American Oral History. This session will consider types of e-commerce, market segments, and current/ recent market trends. The Small Business Savvy series is presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area Score Office.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRIVIA CONTEST**
Feb 1–Mar 2
Celebrate Black History Month by competing in an online trivia contest. Answer questions related to Black History for your chance to win prizes. Contest open to library card holders and individuals within the YDL service area only. Call 734-482-4110 x2431 with questions. The quiz will be active February 1–29.

**BOOKMOBILE LOVE: CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM (WISD)**
10am | YDL-Whittaker
The WISD Creative Arts Program for Young Adults will be creating art for the Bookmobiles.

**THE $ SPANCLER QUINNET PRESENTED BY THE JAZZ FOUNDATION OF AMERICA**
3pm | YDL-Supervisor
The RJ Spancler Quintet will perform jazz standards, swing tunes, and traditional New Orleans jazz. Don’t miss your chance to see these veteran musicians of the Detroit jazz scene.

**WINTER 2023–24**

**WRITERS ROOM & DROP-IN CONSULTING**
10–11am | YDL-Whittaker
Join other writers in an Ypsilanti Writers Room. Bring a work in progress or start something new! We’ll provide prompts for inspiration and our trained volunteers will also be available for one- to-one writing support.

**INTERGENERATIONAL SEASONAL WREATH MAKING**
3:30–3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Make a door or wall wreath using natural materials such as fresh cut fir, cedar, holly, and ribbons. Local expert Lauren Dubois will guide the way for first-timers and the experienced alike in making a door or wall wreath. Materials will be provided. Participants must be 10 years or older. Register for EITHER the 2 or 3:30pm session at ypsilibrary.org/events.
**Event Schedule | Winter 2023–24 | Visit ypsilibrary.org/events**

**Adult Meetups**

**Basic Literacy Community Tutoring with Wastenaw Literacy**

4–5:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Wastenaw Literacy is offering free drop in tutoring for adults. Get help with reading, writing, computer skills, and GED prep.

**Downtown Queer Crafting Group**

5pm | In-Person

Folks of the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to bring projects and supplies to work on and build a creative community. Bring your own half-finished projects or a project you’ve been wanting to start. Join us to get out of the house and be in a creative shared space. Contact Dr. Sherry Smith at σωματικηψυχιατρικη@gmail.com or call 734-482-4110 x1335 for more information.

**Lego Creation Night**

6:30pm | YDL-Superior

Join the YMCA for Fencing 101. We'll begin with the History of Slavery Across America with the Ministry for the Future by Kim Stanley Robinson. Copies of the book are available at the Whittaker Road branch Circulation Desk one month before the discussion date. Questions? Contact Marianne at van denbergh@ypsilibrary.org.

**Teen Meetups**

**Teen Advisory Group**

3–4pm | YDL-Whittaker

A collaborative teen leadership meet-up. Activities may include event planning or facilitating, promoting the library, graphic design, or working with our library collections.

**Teen Great Stories Book Club**

3–4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join YDL & Ozone House on the first and third Tuesday of the month for a fun-filled book club featuring friends, snacks, free books that you get to keep, and a gift card raffle at each session! Email kscott@ypsilibrary.org to register.

**Ypsilanti Zine Club**

4pm | YDL-Superior

A space to work on zines together, share techniques and ideas, and make zine friends. Basic art materials provided. Find out how you can contribute your own zine to YDL's growing zine collection!

**One-on-One Genealogy Session**

12pm | YDL-Whittaker

Sign up for a one-on-one genealogy session with Jean Wiburn, co-founder of Washtenaw County African American Genealogy Society. Search for information about your African American ancestors or learn more about the history of the area of America's slave-holding past. Look at various resources that are available, learn about genealogy laws specific to race. Register online at ypsilibrary.org/events.

**Small Business Savvy: Art Marketing**

9am | Virtual

Learn how to form a plan, strategy, and tactics to increase a variety of venues. The Small Business Savvy series is presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office.

**Check it Out! Board Games Edition**

2–3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Check out the Library of Things (LOT) collection of board games and outdoor games at this giant family board game day! Learn about new games and find fellow board game lovers. LOT games will be available for checkout along with additional games for patrons to use at our YDL branches.

**Small Business Savvy: The Romance of Financial Analysis**

6:30pm | Virtual

Learn about basic financial concepts and how to understand basic financial reports. The Small Business Savvy series is presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office.

**ESL Community Tutoring**

1–3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

ESL community tutoring from Wastenaw Literacy is a place to practice English skills in an informal, relaxed setting. Free and open to the public. No registration required. All levels of English are welcome. Please arrive 5 minutes before the start time for each group.

**ESL Book Club**

11am | YDL-Whittaker

Members of this group will read one book per season on a basic level (one week to talk and learn about language, grammar, and cultural aspects of the book). We will read a total of about 45 pages in advance of each session. To register, contact Wastenaw Literacy at (734) 337-3338.

**DIY Rubber Stamps**

3pm | YDL-Superior

Learn how to use carving and cutting tools to create your own personalized rubber stamps with artist Lidia Kaku. All supplies will be provided.

**DIY Animal Blanket Service**

3pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn how to make a blanket service for one of our furry friends warm this winter! Join us in making no-sew blankets for Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue. Help animals, earn volunteer hours!
**Event Schedule | Winter 2023–24 | Visit attend.ypsilibrary.org/events**

### Kids & Parents

**DOGTOWN TREE LIGHTING**
6:30–9pm | YDL-Michigan
Enjoy singing along with the Ypsilanti Youth Chorale, sipping hot cocoa, making cookies, creating an ornament, and visiting the Bookmobile! Santa will join us for a photo op in his sleigh.

**BLACK MEN READ STORYTIME**
10:30am | YDL-Superior
Join us in partnership with Black Men Read, where we bring stories of the African diaspora to our youngest readers (pre-K, 5th grade). You'll hear short stories read aloud by local Black male role models. Visit bmkids.org or follow @GentleReads on social media for more information or the local non-profit.

**FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: SNOW GLOBES**
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
A scientist from Mad Science in Detroit will join us to experiment with air pressure and electricity. Explore hands-on Fun Stations after the show and make super bouncy balls you can take home! Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**WINTER WONDER LAB**
2pm | YDL-Whittaker
A scientist from Mad Science in Detroit will join us to experiment with air pressure and electricity. Explore hands-on Fun Stations after the show and make super bouncy balls you can take home! Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**READ TO THE MOON THE LIBRARY DOG**
5:30–7:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Reading to a Thera-paws dog helps children develop confidence and become better readers. Sign up for a 10-minute slot with Moon by emailing michelle@ypsilibrary.org. Note: There will be a special appearance by Paddington, a suburban Swissy dog, on Jan. 25.

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR CELEBRATION**
1–3pm | YDL-Superior
Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a performance by Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, followed by community crafts and activities before and after the performance.

**READ TO HUGO**
5:30–7:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join a Tawapeag Therapaws dog to help children develop confidence and become better readers. Sign up for a 10-minute slot with Hugo by emailing michelle@ypsilibrary.org. Note: There will be a special appearance by Paddington, a suburban Swissy dog, on Jan. 25.

**STORYTELLING WITH SANDY**
2pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join Sandy of Wild Swan Theater for an hour of stories, laughs, and surprises. Kids and adults alike will find themselves delighted by Sandy’s unique and engaging style of sharing stories.

### Kids’ Book Club (Grades 2–5)

**KIDS BOOK CLUB (Grades 3–5)**
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us monthly for a book discussion and snack.

**TWEEN BOOK CLUB**
6pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us for a monthly book discussion and enjoy a snack. Registration required. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org for more information.

**TUESDAY BOOK CLUB (Grades 6–8)**
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us for a monthly book discussion and enjoy a snack. Registration required. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org for more information.

**PROJECT STEM: PIXEL ART (Ages 4–6)**
4–10pm | YDL-Michigan
We’ll learn about pixels and create pixelated art with Perler Beads and paper squares. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**ECLIPSE SCIENCE DOME**
2–4pm | YDL-Whittaker
Embark on a virtual journey through the path of totality to explore the phenomena of solar and lunar eclipses. Learn how light and shadow play a crucial role in creating these breathtaking events, and get a sneak peak of the 2024 North American solar eclipse. Science dome presentations are typically 30 minutes long, with three sessions available. While you wait for your turn, feel free to enjoy various activities in the youth department. Presented by the Michigan Science Center. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION**
5:30–7:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
We’re celebrating Black History Month in collaboration with Black Men Read, Our Community Reads, and local artist Synneeta Bozeman by telling the stories of those untold, highlighting Black joy and the culture of African Americans, and creating an art piece that tells their stories. Refreshments will be provided.

**FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: RESIST ART**
6:30pm | YDL-Superior
Kids and parents can create art together! This session will be messy, as attendees will be using water to create their paper projects. This session will be messy, as attendees will be using water to create their paper projects. This session will be messy, as attendees will be using water to create their paper projects.

**CRIME LAB - WITH ANN ARBOR HANDS ON MUSEUM**
3pm | YDL-Superior
Kids 4–7: Use science, logical thinking, and problem solving skills to explore the world of forensics. Work together to solve a crime. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**READ TO MOONY THE LIBRARY DOG**
5:30–7:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us for a monthly book discussion and enjoy a snack. Registration required. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org for more information.

**BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION**
5:30–7:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
We’re celebrating Black History Month in collaboration with Black Men Read, Our Community Reads, and local artist Synneeta Bozeman by telling the stories of those untold, highlighting Black joy and the culture of African Americans, and creating an art piece that tells their stories. Refreshments will be provided.

**FAMILY YOGA TIME**
2pm | YDL-Whittaker
Local yoga instructor Tammy Fosse will incorporate movement, yoga poses, physical creativity, and stories to help kids increase their focus, develop new skills, and become more resilient. For kids ages 4–10.

**WINTER STEAM**
12pm | YDL-Whittaker
Drop in over Winter Break for fun hands-on activities related to STEM topics.

**AFTER SCHOOL STEM - ROLLER COASTERS & MARBLE RUNS**
5pm | YDL-Whittaker
Explore gravity, friction, and other aspects of motion in a fun and creative way! Problem solve like an engineer while playing with rollercoasters & marble runs. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**STEAM ACTIVITIES**
5pm | YDL-Whittaker
Play with lego robotics. Build-a-thon for kids and adults. Follow the instructions or create your own. Registration required. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org for more information.

**ARTS & CRAFTS**
5pm | YDL-Whittaker
Make your own artwork. Registration required. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org for more information.

**GREEK NOVEL NOOK**
5pm | YDL-Whittaker
Are you passionate about Greek novels? Then this is the perfect club for you! Hear the book read aloud over the course of several parts while and then discuss your favorite parts while you create art.
KINDERCONCERT
Winter 2023–24
YDL-Whittaker
Don’t worry about wiggles tots sitting still for a concert! Kids 5 and younger can dance and sing along while live music and stories with musicians from the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. In January, we’ll be featuring the cello. There will be two half-hour performances, one from 10–10:30 AM and another at 11–11:30 AM.

LITTLE ONES DANCE - WITH CHRISTINA SEARS-ETTER
YDL-Whittaker
Dancers will enjoy delightful music, fun motor activities, and creative play with props and pathways. All while building strength, balance, and flexibility and sparking problem-solving and imagination.

PRESCCHOOL UNIVERSE WITH THE ANN ARBOR HANDS-ON MUSEUM
YDL-Whittaker
Explore the wonders of space with a workshop that is out of this world! Work on engineering skills as you build paper rocket boats to launch, then learn how gravity keeps our feet on the ground. Attending at 11am or noon.

SHAKE, RATTLE, AND ROLL
YDL-Whittaker
Little ones will hone early literacy skills while engaging in stories and songs and lots of fun while they shake, rattle, and roll in their own way!

Sensory Stations (Ages 2–6)
YDL-Whittaker
Explore themed sensory and art stations each session to help your child develop fine motor skills and learn about the world through play. Attend Friday or Saturday for the same set of stations.

Sensory Saturdays
YDL-Whittaker
Explore different themed sensory stations to help your child develop fine motor skills and learn about the world through play.

Internet Basics – How to Search the Web
YDL-Whittaker
This class covers the browser toolbar and menu options, managing your bookmarks, using search tools and techniques. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Google Sheets Tips & Tricks
YDL-Whittaker
Explore more advanced features of Google Sheets: tips and tricks, inserting breaks, page, section, and column filters, and replacing text, and voice typing. A Google (or Gmail) account and prior Google Docs experience required.

Microsoft Excel – Intermediate
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to apply functions, filter data, create charts, and print worksheets. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Microsoft PowerPoint – Basics
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Microsoft PowerPoint – Tips, Tricks, and Hacks
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to customize your PowerPoint work! Learn a few tips, hidden tricks, and time-saving hacks to get the most out of your word processing program. Learn to modify page numbers, recover a corrupted file, add screenshots, reduce eye strain, use the Go To command, change ribbon tab order, and more.

Computer Basics – Getting Started
YDL-Whittaker
An introduction to word processing. Learn to modify flyers, and calendars including page layout and troubleshooting.

Microsoft Word – Basics
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a document. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Microsoft Word – Intermediate
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and insert tables. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Microsoft Word – Advanced
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and insert tables. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Microsoft Publisher – Basics
YDL-Whittaker
Learn the basics for creating greeting cards, flyers, brochures, and calendars including page layout and formatting text and images. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Microsoft Publisher – Intermediate
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel’s PivotTable feature. Reorganize and analyze secure selections of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information. Participants should have basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills and an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

Microsoft Publisher – Advanced
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to create and deliver a presentation and add graphics and multimedia. Also learn to share and collaborate on a presentation. A Google or Gmail account is required.

Google Drive – Basics
YDL-Whittaker
With a Google account, Google Drive provides access to free web-based applications for creating documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more. Learn how to navigate Google Drive’s interface. You will learn how to create, store, organize, and share your files/files online. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Google Drive – Intermediate
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to send and retrieve messages, add attachments, create and manage labels and filters, add contacts, and manage junk email. Participants may sign up for a Gmail account at the end of class. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Microsoft PowerPoint – Basics
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

YPSI STORIES

The Fall episode of Ypsi Stories is available to listen wherever you get your podcasts! Episode 21 features a discussion with Jerome Thompson about the story of medicine in 19th century Ypsilanti. Stay tuned for Episode 22, when Finn Bell will discuss his brand new Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project (see page 3). Hear all of the podcast episodes at ypsilibrary.org/ypsistories.

DEC 6
MICROSOFT EXCEL FOR BEGINNERS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn the basics for setting up your Google calendar to schedule and manage your events and appointments, share event information, and send notifications/reminders to your devices. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills are required.

DEC 10
MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel’s PivotTable feature. Reorganize and analyze secure selections of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information. Participants should have basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills and an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

DEC 10
MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and insert tables. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

DEC 6
MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a document. A Google (or Gmail) account is required.

DEC 6
MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to create and format tables, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and insert tables. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

DEC 10
MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel’s PivotTable feature. Reorganize and analyze secure selections of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information. Participants should have basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills and an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

DEC 21
MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel’s PivotTable feature. Reorganize and analyze secure selections of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information. Participants should have basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills and an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

DEC 21
MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel’s PivotTable feature. Reorganize and analyze secure selections of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information. Participants should have basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills and an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

DEC 21
MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel’s PivotTable feature. Reorganize and analyze secure selections of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information. Participants should have basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills and an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

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MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
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Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel’s PivotTable feature. Reorganize and analyze secure selections of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information. Participants should have basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills and an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

DEC 21
MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel’s PivotTable feature. Reorganize and analyze secure selections of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information. Participants should have basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills and an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.
LINCOLN SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

School performances often provide the initial platform for budding artists. Supporting these communal events can fortify community ties, celebrate our youth’s accomplishments, and champion the values of art and education. Seeing classmates perform can inspire students to tap into their own artistic potential, reinforcing the arts within school culture. The arts can also serve as a lens into diverse cultures, histories, and stories, offering students and attendees alike a unique educational experience. There are a number of opportunities to attend a school performance at Lincoln schools this winter.

GET A JUMP ON COLLEGE SAVINGS

Most Washtenaw County families with 1st–6th grade students can claim their FREE My Future Fund account to kick start their savings for college or career training. Each account comes with a free $25 deposit, and students may be eligible for an extra $475 based on family income, individual Free and Reduced Price Lunch eligibility, and other similar criteria.

Every child enrolled in a participating Washtenaw County public school district or academy between October 2022 and October 2023 will automatically have an account created in their name by the end of the school year. "We are excited to bring My Future Fund to life in Washtenaw County and to show students that their community is investing in their futures," said Sara Saylor, My Future Fund Coordinator at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD).

My Future Fund will feature two key components: A Children’s Savings Account (CSA) and financial education and support. The CSA is a research-based approach that will provide students and families with a dedicated account to build assets for future post-secondary educational expenses, and it will be paired with ongoing financial education and support as students grow up. The program was started with a generous contribution from the Washtenaw County Government.

Families can scan this QR code or visit bit.ly/StartMyFutureFund to submit a release of information form to take full advantage of the program, including checking to see if they meet the criteria for the $475 deposit. To learn more about My Future Fund, visit myfuturefund.org.

WINTER WONDER

Looking for indoor activities to do with your little one this winter? Sign up for TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten! You’ll receive two activity ideas each week via text message specially tailored to your child’s age. Activities were designed by library staff and child development specialists in Washtenaw County to help kids under the age of six build a wide range of school-readiness skills. If you have a baby, you might get a link to a new bouncy rhyme you can try, and if you have a preschooler, you might get a recipe for homemade finger paint your child can use to practice drawing shapes and letters. You’ll get reminders about YDL events for little ones twice a month too. To sign up, visit TextandLearn.org, or text TALK to 74457. No personal information is required other than your zip code and your child’s birthdate. Texts are available in English and Spanish. Have fun learning together as you sing, talk, and play!
WINTER IS FOR WRITING

There’s nothing quite like snuggling up with a blanket and a warm cup of tea or cocoa to write. So why not stay inside, cozy and warm, where you can be inspired by the beauty of our great state? And...writing is not necessarily a solitary exercise! There are all kinds of fun, family-friendly activities you can try to get in the mood to write. All you need is a pen and paper!

Can’t attend? Try one of these writing prompts! Share your fantastic creations with others to spread a love of writing.

WINTER-RELATED WRITING PROMPTS

1. Two people are having a conversation. They appear to be discussing the snow falling outside, but there is a subtext. What is really going on?
2. It’s winter. Your character is walking outdoors and sees snow and ice on the ground, feeling the cold whipping around their body. But the character’s reaction to the frigid temperature is not what you might expect...
3. Think about a family gathering for a winter holiday. Write about that gathering from the point of view of a child.
4. Write a story from the point of view of a snowman, from the rolling of the first snowball to the approach of spring.
5. Describe, in as much detail as humanly possible, the sensation of going from the freezing, blustery outdoors into the warm coziness of your own home.
6. Imagine you are trapped inside during a blizzard. Write a week’s worth of entries, culminating in your eventual escape.
7. Write from the point of view of a snowflake falling to earth.
8. Describe winter to an imaginary friend who lives in a tropical climate and has never experienced the season.
9. Anthropomorphize winter. What is its personality like? What does it wear? What does it like to do?

STUDENT WRITING PROMPT...

Can you pick up this story where it left off?

Wynter Miller, Age 9
The Knife, the Flint, the First Aid Kit

Chapter 1: ??/??/????

Dear Whoever’s Reading This Message,

I’ve just opened my eyes and have no clue as to the time, the date, the year, or why I find myself here on this island with no shirt and a ripped pair of shorts. I have vague memories of what “home” would be.

My island contains nothing useful. Sure, it has food and water, tumbleweeds, the typewriter I’m typing on, ink, paper, trees, and undergrowth, but that’s about it. The first day on my island, I explored and had many flashbacks to my hometown, Ann-something. I forgot the second word of the name.

While exploring the island, I found a black stone . . .

WASHTENAW LITERACY EXPANDING SERVICES TO MEET NEEDS

The addition of two new AmeriCorps members in the fall allowed Washtenaw Literacy to expand their services in the Ypsilanti area.

Over the past year, 400 volunteer tutors served 1,000 adult (16+) learners in Basic Literacy (reading, writing, math, and digital literacy) and English as a Second Language (ESL). This is up from 850 the previous year and continues to grow, said Executive Director Carole McCabe.

Washtenaw Literacy offers personal tutoring, along with Drop-In Community Tutoring groups, with no registration necessary at the following locations:

ESL CONVERSATION GROUPS:

- Mondays at Cross and Blood Ministries, 9 South Park St.
- Tuesdays at the YDL Superior Branch, 1900 Harris Rd.
- Thursdays at Ypsilanti Free Methodist Church, 1800 Packard St.

BASIC LITERACY SUPPORT:

- Wednesdays at the YDL Superior Branch, 1900 Harris Rd.
- Thursdays at Hamilton Crossing Community Center, 596 S. Hamilton St.

This increase in reach couldn’t be more important. According to McCabe, over 30,000 adults in Washtenaw County have functional English literacy at or below an 8th grade level, which may mean they struggle to fill out a job application or read a prescription label on their own. Half of children born to parents with low literacy will also experience low literacy levels.

Washtenaw Literacy is always looking for volunteer tutors to increase their impact. The commitment is two hours per week and training is provided, so no experience is needed. For Winter Semester schedules and information on how to volunteer, visit washtenawliteracy.org.

YDL partners with 826michigan, a nonprofit writing lab, each Monday night for an After-School Writing Lab. Students ages 8–14 work in small groups with peers and adult volunteers to brainstorm, write, revise, share, and publish original writing. For more information, visit: 826michigan.org/programs/after-school-writing-lab.

Can’t attend? Try one of these writing prompts! Share your fantastic creations with others to spread a love of writing.
GROWING HOPE WELCOMES WINTER WITH INDOOR MARKETS

As the days grow shorter and winter’s chill sets in, Growing Hope is providing a warm and vibrant escape from the cold! They’ve launched their Winter Indoor Markets at the Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace, located at 16 S. Washington Street.

Each Saturday from 9am–1pm, you can find fresh produce, handcrafted goods, and artisanal delights during the winter season. The Winter Indoor Markets continue Growing Hope’s commitment to providing the community with access to fresh, local food and supporting local businesses.

“The decision to transition the Depot Town Farmers Market indoors was carefully made in collaboration with our dedicated vendors, loyal patrons, hardworking volunteers, and passionate staff,” said Growing Hope Executive Director Julissa Buzzard. “This transition enhances our ability to meet the needs of community members who may face challenges attending a traditional outdoor market.”

The markets accept a variety of payment options, including SNAP/EBT, Double Up Food Bucks (a program that doubles SNAP dollars spent on Michigan produce), Prescription for Health, WIC Project FRESH, and Senior Project FRESH.

For those who prefer shopping online, Growing Hope has local products available through the Ypsi Area Online Market. Place an order at growinghope.net/ypsi-area-online-market, then pick it up at 16 S. Washington Street on Tuesdays between 3:00 and 7:00 PM.

The online shopping option has a wide range of produce, meat, dairy, eggs, and specialty items from many of the vendors who also participate in the Depot Town Farmers Market. SNAP/EBT and Double Up Food Bucks are also accepted through the online market.

Buzzard is glad the new indoor option will help Growing Hope extend their service into the winter season.

“This adjustment was meant to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for the community to continue enjoying fresh, local produce and artisanal goods throughout the winter months,” Buzzard said. “We eagerly look forward to welcoming the community...with warmth and togetherness.”

WARMING CENTERS

Daytime and overnight warming centers will once again be available in Ypsilanti this winter for people experiencing homelessness and others who require shelter as temperatures dip below freezing.

With the help of outside supporters such as the Freighthouse and the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority, the city of Ypsilanti has provided funding to the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to keep the Freighthouse and St. Luke’s warming centers open through March 28th, 2024.

Warming Center Locations:

- YDL’s Whittaker branch (5577 Whittaker Road) and Superior branch (1900 Harris Road) are open from 9am–9pm Monday–Thursday, 10am–6pm Friday–Saturday. The Whittaker branch is also open from 1pm–5pm on Sunday.
- The Freighthouse at 100 Market Place (next to Frog Island Park in Depot Town) will be open from 8am–6pm, Monday–Thursday.
- St. Luke’s Episcopal Church at 120 N. Huron Street will be open from 7pm–8am, Monday–Thursday.
- Delonis Center at 312 W. Huron Street in Ann Arbor will provide access to shelter on the weekends. People needing help outside daytime shelter hours can contact the Delonis center at 734-662-2829. If needed, the center can help arrange transportation.

Shelter services at St. Luke’s and the Freighthouse will also include case management and meals.

Last year, St. Luke’s became the first overnight shelter in Ypsilanti’s modern history. This year, city leadership voted unanimously to approve the two agreements that will provide public access to the shelters at St. Luke’s and the Freighthouse.

The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County saw a 19% increase in demand for emergency warming shelters last winter. Ypsilanti is still looking for outside organizations to assist them in providing shelter on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, which would reduce the need to transport people to Delonis in Ann Arbor on the weekends.

No pre-registration is necessary for daytime warming centers. For access to overnight warming centers, each client must call Housing Access of Washtenaw County (HAWC) and obtain a referral to the Delonis Center. Call HAWC at 734-961-1999 or visit housingaccess.net for more information. If you are seeking shelter after 5 pm, there will be onsite assistance provided at the Delonis Center (312 W. Huron St, Ann Arbor).

TAX HELP

YDL will again serve as a site for free tax preparation during this upcoming season. From February until mid-April, AARP will offer tax assistance at the Whittaker Road and Superior branches. The Michigan Ave. branch will still be under construction.

Scheduling for tax preparation appointments will begin in January 2024. Visit ypsilibrary.org/taxprep for updates on the tax help services available at YDL, along with additional resources to help you prepare your taxes.

AARP’s TaxAide program is provided by trained volunteers in partnership with the IRS, primarily serving low and moderate income taxpayers. There is no age requirement, but this service especially targets those 50 years and older. AARP membership is not required. Call 734-482-4110 x2411 or x2431 to make an appointment or for more information.

Please note:
- Before your appointment you will need to pick up information and forms at the branch where you have scheduled your appointment. NOTE: Forms should be filled out BEFORE your appointment.
- If filing jointly, both spouses must be present at the appointment.
- Make sure to bring:
  - All W-2s, 1099s, and any other records of income.
  - 2022 tax return.
  - Government issued photo ID and Social Security card or Social Security statement, (SSA-1099) for yourself and your spouse.
  - Social Security card for all dependents.
  - Birth dates for yourself, your spouse, and your dependents.
  - Personal check with routing/account numbers for direct deposit of a refund.
  - 1095-A if you received ACA health insurance.
  - Any other tax documents, such as 1098s.
  - If eligible for the Home Heating Credit, bring Dec, Jan, or Feb DTE bill or other proof of heating costs if not DTE.
  - If eligible for Property Tax Credit, bring 2023 Summer and Winter Property Tax statements OR proof of rent paid along with your landlord’s name and address.
  - If itemizing, bring all necessary documentation.
  - If self-employed, bring records of all income and expenses.
THE SCOOP BEHIND OUR CLEAN WATER

Government officials recently dove into the issue of water quality at our local wastewater treatment facility.

Ypsilanti Mayor Nicole Brown and Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo joined Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan, Representative Debbie Dingell, and Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Director Phillip Roos to tour the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) facility this fall.

They discussed planned upgrades to the wastewater treatment facilities made possible by federal investments in our water infrastructure.

Rep. Dingell was particularly interested in working with local communities and the federal government to ensure clean and safe drinking water by making infrastructure improvements, getting the lead out of pipes, and making sure families can afford water.

You can also explore the power we have to return clean water to the environment and see how wastewater services affect our economy, the environment, and public health. Officials at the plant say you may be surprised by the vast amount of equipment—pumps, tanks, blowers, and more—that it takes to treat wastewater.

Get a guided tour of the wastewater treatment plant located at 2777 State Road in Ypsilanti Township. Participants must be at least 10 years old or in the fifth grade. Tours of the plant typically last 1-2 hours and can be arranged by completing the request form at ycua.org/tourrequests.htm.

TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER WINTER

Is it a struggle to stay healthy in the cold winter months?

The Washtenaw County Health Department has tips to help!

1. Keep your loved ones safe: if you don’t feel well, avoid being around others.
2. Make sure you’re up-to-date on your COVID vaccines. Everyone 6 months and older can get an updated COVID-19 vaccine. Visit washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine for more information.
3. Everyone 6 months old and older can get a flu vaccine every year. Flu shots are especially important for older adults, anyone with underlying health conditions, pregnant people, and young kids.
4. Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze or cough, wash your hands often using soap and warm water, and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
5. Wearing a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask around others can help prevent the spread of illness. You can pick up masks, along with COVID tests, at the Whittaker and Superior branches of YDL (while supplies last).
6. Increasing ventilation in indoor spaces can also help prevent COVID.
7. Schedule a check-up with your doctor to get necessary vaccines and other preventative screenings.
8. A nutritious diet, plenty of sleep, and regular exercise can go a long way to help you feel better and stay healthy this cold and flu season.

BONUS TIP for older adults, new parents, and pregnant people: ask your doctor about RSV protection! RSV is a common respiratory virus that causes mild, cold-like symptoms for most individuals. However, infants and older adults are more likely to develop severe RSV. This year, there are new tests available to help protect babies and adults 60+ from severe illness. Ask your doctor about RSV vaccines or visit cdc.gov/rsv/about/prevention.html to learn more.

Want to stay updated on all things health in Washtenaw County? Join WCHD’s email list at bit.ly/WCHD555.

HELP FROM CORNER HEALTH

Corner Health Center has a number of support groups available for families, trans and nonbinary youth, and more!

Corner’s Trans & Nonbinary Youth Support Group: Ongoing; Tuesdays at 5:30pm on Zoom. Email jschwartz@cornerhealth.org

Cooking Classes for 12–25-year-olds: Tuesdays from 5:30–7pm at Corner Health Center. Text 734-657-4652 to sign up.

Fathers for Family (a program for fathers under the age of 26): Meets on the last Tuesday of each month. Email Djohnson@cornerhealth.org to join the mailing list.

STAND OUT! Supportive programming for parents of trans and nonbinary youth restarts this winter. Email rannear@cornerhealth.org for more information.

MEET THE WRITERS OF YPSILANTI

YpsiWrites introduced the 2023 Writers of Ypsilanti at their 4-year Anniversary Celebration in October. YpsiWrites’ theme for the coming year is Write for Change, and all nine of this year’s writers embody that theme. Learn about this year’s writers from the individuals who nominated them and from the writers themselves.

Tarik Fermin (he/him) has lived in Ypsilanti most of his life. Now a student at Michigan State University, he wrote articles and research papers for the Huron Enerly. Fermin also writes fiction, screenplays, and social media and marketing materials. He was nominated by Devika Dibya Choudhuri. “Words are the most powerful thing in the world,” Fermin said. “...The human ability to articulate and to create off the basis of an idea is truly special and should never be taken for granted.”

Robert Anschuetz (he/him) is an Eastern Michigan University alum and currently writes articles for the Ypsilanti Historical Society’s Gleanings, which publishes historical writings about Ypsilanti from the last century. Robert was nominated by Janice Anschuetz. He says that he hopes that through his writing “readers will take a look at where we were as a society and where we are now, so there is a clear trajectory about where we should go in the future to better ourselves and society.”

Lisa-Erika James (she/her) is a playwright, poet, and nonfiction writer whose roots are in Ypsilanti, and visits frequently from New York City. We “are all able to use writing to advocate for ourselves and for causes that are important to us,” James said “When we share our stories, we become mirrors for each other. And we don’t suffer alone.” Stephanie Steinberg was her nominator.

Jane Ratcliffe (she/her) resides in Ypsilanti and loves to write novels, short stories, personal essays, and interviews. She believes that writing is important because “it reminds us time and again that we are not alone.” Ratcliffe was nominated by another of this year’s Writers of Ypsilanti, Amy Probst, who describes Ratcliffe’s writing as “gorgeous, heartfelt, and the very marrow of Ypsilanti: honest, insightful, diverse, deep, quirky, intelligent, and alive.”

Caroline Huntoon (they/them) is an Eastern Michigan University alum who currently lives in Ypsilanti. Huntoon is passionate about all kinds of writing but is currently writing books for young people. “Writing offers us so much,” said Huntoon, “Even if we choose not to share our writing, words offer opportunities for exploration and healing. When we share it with others, our words can literally change the world.” Huntoon was nominated by Karin Scott.

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**FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALES**

The Friends of YDL annual book sale is back! Book sale prices are $1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks. On Jan. 21 there will be bags of books available for $4, and some books will be sold at a reduced price. At the members-only preview sale, memberships will be available at a reduced price. At the members-only sale, memberships will be available at a reduced price.

- **Jan. 18:** 6–8 pm (members-only sale)
- **Jan. 19:** 11 am–5 pm
- **Jan. 20:** 11 am–3 pm
- **Jan. 21:** 1–4 pm

**BOOK SHOP HOURS:**

- **Monday** .......................... 2–6 pm
- **Tuesday** .......................... 1–5 pm
- **Wednesday** ...................... 10 am–2 pm
- **Thursday** ......................... 10 am–4 pm
- **Friday** ............................. 10 am–2 pm
- **Saturday** ......................... 11 am–5 pm
- **Sunday** ............................ 2–4 pm

**YpsiWrites**

The community’s feedback this fall on TheRide’s proposed service changes will go into effect in August 2024 as part of the Long-Range Plan and Millage that were approved in 2022. More details on the services will be available at TheRide.org.

Here are tips for making sure your winter rides go smoothly:

- Leave extra time for your commute, especially on snowy days.
- If your bus stop is blocked due to snow or ice, wait at the nearest cleared spot.
- With bad weather, some delays may occur. Sign up for TheRide's MyAlerts system at TheRide.org. With MyAlerts, you can select which route(s) you use, and you will receive an email directly if your route is on a detour.
- During the winter season, TheRide has holiday hours for Christmas and New Year’s. Visit TheRide.org or follow them on Facebook and Twitter to make sure you don’t miss any schedule updates.

**Ypsilanti District Library**

**LOCATIONS & HOURS**

**YDL-WHITTAKER**

5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

**HOURS**

Mon–Thurs: 9 am–9 pm
Fri and Sat: 10 am–6 pm
Sun: 1–5 pm

**YDL-MICHIGAN**

TEMPORARILY CLOSED
Visit ypsilibrary.org/michigan-avenue-branch-closure for more information and updates.

**YDL-SUPERIOR**

1900 Harris Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

**HOURS**

Mon–Thurs: 9 am–9 pm
Fri and Sat: 10 am–6 pm

**YDL-BOOKMOBILE**

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

**HOURS**

Mon–Thurs: 4–8 pm
Fri: 1–5 pm (outside Michigan Avenue branch)

**Neighborhood route and schedule:** ypsilibrary.org/bookmobile

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For more information, visit ypsiwrites.com.

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