

100 Years of Black History Commemorations



Black History Month.

The keystone event will be **Celebrating Blackness** on February 18 at the Michigan Avenue branch. Enjoy refreshments and join community leaders in a discussion about what Blackness means to us. Black Men Reads will host a storytime, and other activities will highlight Black inventions and accomplishments.

In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched the inaugural week-long observance of Black History, then called “Negro History Week.” Since then, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) has continued the tradition, saying the observances have become “an even more deeply rooted American institution.”

President Gerald R. Ford became the first president to issue a message recognizing Black History Month during the United States Bicentennial. In 1986 Congress passed Public Law 99-244, which designated February as Black History Month.

Appropriately, the 2026 theme for Black History Month is “A Century of Black History Commemorations.” ASALH encourages us to “explore the impact and meaning of Black history and life commemorations in transforming the status of Black peoples in the modern world.”

YDL is offering a number of ways to do that. Throughout February, explore a special art exhibit at YDL-Superior. Work by Ifeoma Igwe, a Pittsburgh artist, and local artist Carla Williams will be on display. Igwe, who was born in Ypsilanti, explores empathy, adventure, and reflection through a multicultural, African diasporic lens. Williams uses arts and crafts to keep memories of Black culture alive.

We'll also have special book displays, programming, and activities at all YDL branches throughout the month.

→ See Page 2 for a full list of our Black History Month activities.

February 2026 marks a century of national commemorations of Black history. Throughout February at YDL, you'll find programs, displays, activities, and opportunities for reflection to celebrate



A Day of Service and Reflection

This January, YDL will honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by celebrating the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service.

Sunday, January 11, YDL-Whittaker will host “The Ladies of Soul: A Take Note Concert,” featuring the Sean Dobbins Ensemble and Athena Johnson. This is a musical and spoken word concert celebrating the significant contributions of women from the pre- and civil rights era.

The celebration continues on MLK Day (January 19) with events across multiple YDL branches. From 2-4pm, work on a service project at YDL-Michigan.

The Superior branch will also host activities throughout the day on Jan. 19, including a dinner and conversation starting at 4:30pm with local educators about how we can plan for our children’s success.



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Events to Celebrate Black History Month

Celebrate Black History Month with YDL! Many of our storytimes in February will have a Black History Month theme, and we'll have art and book displays available throughout the month at all YDL branches. Get full details on Pages 4-7.



January 11
THE LADIES OF SOUL: FEATURING THE SEAN DOBBINS ENSEMBLE AND ATHENA JOHNSON
2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

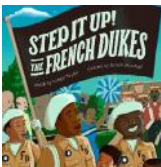


January 28
BRAIDING BASICS - EMBRACING YOUR CROWN
6pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)



February 1-28
BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRIVIA CONTEST
All day | [Virtual](#)

Compete in an online Black History trivia contest to win raffle prizes. Open to YDL cardholders and residents within the YDL service area.



February 2
FROM IDEA TO INK: AUTHOR DEBBIE TAYLOR
6pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)



Feb 2 & 19 | 10am
Feb 10 & 27 | 12pm
ONE-ON-ONE GENEALOGY SESSIONS W/ JEAN WINBORN
[YDL-Superior](#)



February 4
MOVIE NIGHT: THE WIZ
6pm | [YDL-Superior](#)



February 7
IN THE SPIRIT
11am | [Virtual](#)



February 7
STEREOTYPES AND SELF ESTEEM
1pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

February 7

BLACK ILLUSTRATOR ART STATIONS
2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)



February 18
CELEBRATING BLACKNESS
6pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)



February 18
RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP
7pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)



February 21
PERSONAL ARCHIVING 101: THE WHY AND HOW OF ARCHIVES
10:30am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)



February 21
BLACK EXCELLENCE MUSICAL STORYTIME
1pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)



February 24
VIRTUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
7pm | [Virtual](#)



February 25
IN OUR OWN WORDS, IN OUR WAY
6pm | [YDL-Superior](#)



February 28
THE RJ SPANGLER QUINTET, PRESENTED BY THE JAZZ FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
2pm | [YDL-Superior](#)



February 28
INK DRINKER READING SERIES: SAY ANARCHA BOOK TALK
3pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Reading is For the Dogs

Pages are turning and tails are wagging at all three YDL branches! With the addition of Simba at YDL-Whittaker, each YDL branch now boasts its own Therapaws library reading dog.

Reading dogs have been visiting YDL since 2012. Young readers can sign up for a time to read at their own pace with a dog and its handler. These therapy-certified dogs from the Therapaws organization can decrease stress for kids trying to improve their reading and bring more joy.

“This program has consistently been one of the most popular programs the library offers,” said YDL Youth Librarian Pat Mitchell, who runs the effort at the Michigan Avenue branch. “So I am very happy

that it is now offered at all 3 branches.”

According to research, reading to therapy dogs can have a tangible impact on the kids’ success. In one study, when third graders were randomly assigned to read weekly either to a dog, an adult, or a teddy bear, the kids who read to a dog outperformed the other groups in both reading comprehension and accuracy.

Nicole Russell, who runs the reading dog program at YDL-Superior, has seen an incredible impact since she started the visits in 2023, first with Hugo and now with Bambi.

“We have a kiddo that started attending as a preschooler when he was just starting to recognize

words. He now reads and turns the pages on his own, telling the story to Bambi,” Russell said. “He will show her the pictures to make sure she 'understands' the story.”

According to Jodi Krahnke, head of the Whittaker Youth Department, Simba has made an excellent addition to the lineup. “Simba is very friendly and non-threatening, even for kids who haven’t had much experience with dogs,” Krahnke said.

There will also be a new dog at YDL-Michigan for the winter season. Quinn, an Australian Cattle Dog-German Shorthair Pointer mix is filling in for Moon, the golden retriever who typically visits the downtown branch.

YDL-Whittaker

Simba



2nd and 4th Mondays of the month | 5-7pm
Come to the library starting at 4:45pm (and no later than 6:30pm) to grab a ticket at the Youth desk with your assigned time slot. The 10-minute time slots range from 5-6:45pm.

YDL-Michigan

Quinn

Moon



2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month 5:30-7:30pm
Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org to check availability for a 10-minute slot.

YDL-Superior

Bambi



3rd Thursday of the month 5:50-7:35pm
Email nrussell@ypsilibrary.org to reserve a 10 minute slot.

Reading's Not "Snow" Hard

The Winter Challenge is back! Kids and teens can complete four activities in a row, column, or diagonal from the Winter Challenge BINGO card between December 20-January 4 to earn a free book. When families read and learn through hands-on STEM activities during school breaks, at library programs, or at home, kids build and maintain literacy and problem-solving skills. Having fun while learning as a family builds positive

memories, and each success inspires kids to try new projects and learn more. Use this BINGO card to track activities, or pick one up from the library. When you complete a BINGO, return to any YDL Youth Desk to pick out a new book to keep thanks to funding from Ann Arbor Kiwanis Club and Believe in Reading. For each additional BINGO (up to 4 total), pick a prize from a YDL treasure chest.

Winter Challenge BINGO



Keep your brain in shape over Winter Break and earn prizes! Practice reading, writing, and STEM skills as you complete the activities on the BINGO card. Each time you complete an activity, cross it off. Cross off everything in a row, column, or diagonal for a BINGO and a free book. Each BINGO after the first (up to 4) is worth a prize from our treasure chest. Visit any Ypsilanti District Library Youth Department to claim your prizes!

Snuggle up and read or listen to a book.

Visit the library to play in one of our Toyota STEM spaces.

Have a mini sled design competition and race. Build sleds out of what you have at home. Test them on any ramp, with or without snow! Which design wins the race?

Practice math while you cook or bake.

Learn something new at a library program.

Play a board game with friends or family to build logic and reading skills.

Snuggle up and read or listen to a book.

Work on a puzzle, at home or at the library to build spatial reasoning skills.

Build something out of empty boxes... a stuffed animal hotel, a car, a fort, anything!

Snuggle up and read or listen to a book.

Write thank you notes or make Happy New Year's cards for others.

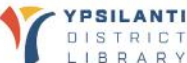
Hike local trails and look for birds or signs of other wildlife. Draw or write about what you saw when you get home.

Design an indoor obstacle course. Use a timer to see how long it takes your family or friends to get through it.

Learn something new at a library program.

Countdown to the New Year. Design and make homemade hats, poppers, or noise makers to celebrate, using supplies from around the house.

Snuggle up and read or listen to a book.



ypsilibrary.org
734-482-4110

Celebrate the Holidays with a Library Card



During National Library Card Sign-up Month in September, YDL issued more than 500 new library cards. To keep the momentum going, we're teaming up with Beyond Choir to offer a free concert ticket to anyone who signs up for a new library card by December 20.

Beyond Choir is a professional vocal ensemble based in Ypsilanti under the direction of Dr. Brandon Johnson. The choir performs throughout Michigan and has collaborated with ensembles such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Through our "Cards & Carols" promotion, anyone who gets a new YDL library card before the concert will receive a voucher for a free ticket to *Beyond Christmas*, Beyond Choir's annual holiday concert. This year's performance features the Beyond Christmas Youth Honor Choir. The Youth Honor Choir is made up of middle and high school singers from across Michigan who participate in a one-day workshop, then perform with the professional singers from Beyond Choir.

The concert takes place Saturday, December 20, at 7:30pm in Pease Auditorium (494 College Place, Ypsilanti). To redeem your free ticket, scan the QR code on your voucher and enter the promo code at the checkout page so the choir can plan for your attendance. Learn more at beyondchoir.org.



Quilt-Inspired Community Mural for Juneteenth

Throughout December, a community mural created at Ypsilanti's 2025 Juneteenth celebration will be on display at YDL-Michigan. Local artists Avery Williamson (whose work has been featured in *The New York Times*) and Krista Skytta worked with local kids to create and put together the piece. YDL staff members Daishayanea Jackson and Shayla Card-Nowlin organized the project as part of the Kids' Korner at this summer's Juneteenth Celebration.

Here's how the artists describe the work: *The artwork draws inspiration from Gee's Bend quilts, the Juneteenth flag, the Pan-African flag and Jacob Lawrence's work called "The Migration Series." When all the panels are together they show a quilt, but we also designed this artwork so that each individual panel can be displayed on its own! The final artwork depicts a selection of plants that*

are native to Texas, Michigan, and all the states in between. Texas is where Juneteenth was first celebrated, but we wanted to find a way to tie in the earliest celebrations of Juneteenth to our own celebration here in Ypsilanti. We wanted to use imagery of plants and flowers to help emphasize resilience, belonging, and the reminder that we can set down roots and bloom even in tough conditions. Check out the colorful results of this community collaboration above the main stairway.



EVENTS

Adult

Tuesdays | Dec 2 & 16

SHELTER DIVERSION & HOUSING RESOURCES AT YDL

3-5pm | YDL-Michigan

A Shelter Diversion Specialist from the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County can help with landlord mediation, housing planning, one-time financial assistance, obtaining IDs, and more.

Wednesday | Dec 3

SUPPORTING A LOVED ONE'S VISION JOURNEY

1pm | YDL-Whittaker

Dr. Erin Klukas from U-M's Kellogg Eye Center will talk about how to negotiate eye exams and vision care for the people we are caregiving.

Wednesday | Dec 3

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS AND YOU

6:30pm | Virtual

Learn how social media influencers impact social media trends, channels, and tools, and get suggestions on becoming a successful social media influencer. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Thursday | Dec 4

DINE TO DONATE AT AUBREE'S

11am-10pm | 2122 Whittaker Rd.

Enjoy delicious pizza at Aubree's on Whittaker Road for a good cause! 20% of your dine-in, carryout, and delivery orders will be donated to YDL. Download the flyer to show your server at ypsilibrary.org/events or pick one up at a YDL branch.



Fridays | Dec 5-19 | Jan 16 - Feb 27

DIGITAL LITERACY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY

12pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn about how to use devices, Internet safety, social media etiquette, Zoom, and more. For more information, contact steichen@washtenawliteracy.org or call 734-337-3370.

Saturday | Dec 6

SEASONAL WREATH MAKING

(Ages 12+)

2pm & 3:30pm | YDL-Superior

Make a wreath with natural materials like fresh-cut fir, cedar, holly, and ribbons with local expert Lauren DuBois. Register for one of the two workshops at ypsilibrary.org/events. Limit one wreath per household.



Saturday | Dec 6

WRITING AS A GIFT

(Ages 15+)

2-4pm | YDL-Whittaker

YpsiWrites facilitators will lead sessions on how to turn your writing into meaningful gifts you can give this holiday season.

Saturday | Dec 6

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

6pm | Superior Township Hall (3040 N. Prospect Rd.)

See Santa light the township Christmas tree and enjoy an ice carving demo, old fashioned carolers, warming fires, hot chocolate, and cookies. Take pictures with Santa, too!

Sunday | Dec 7

PAUL KELLER'S ANNUAL JOLLY JAZZ HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join the jubilant string bassist Paul Keller and his band of merry jazz elves for a musical celebration of the season. All ages welcome!

Wednesdays | Dec 11* | Jan 14 | Feb 11

MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY OUTREACH

11am-1pm | YDL-Whittaker

A MICHIGAN WORKS! Southeast representative will be in the lobby to answer your questions and provide information and career guidance. *Thursday

Wednesdays | Dec 10 | Jan 28 | Feb 11

CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT

6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join us to watch some classic movies.

Dec 10: *We're No Angels* directed by Michael Curtiz (Holiday Comedy)

Jan 28: *My Favorite Blonde* directed by Sidney Lanfield (Comedy Thriller)

Feb 11: *The Big Clock* directed by John Farrow (Noir)

Fridays | Dec 12 | Jan 9 | Feb 13

MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY OUTREACH

11am-1pm | YDL-Michigan

See Dec. 10 description.

Saturday | Dec 13

HOLIDAY CRAFT WORKSHOP

11am-1pm | YDL-Whittaker

Create your own wrapping paper, make chocolate pretzels, decorate a bag or stocking, and fill out a holiday card. Materials are limited, first-come, first-served.



Dec 13 | Jan 21 | Feb 28

YPSIWITES WRITERS ROOM & DROP-IN CONSULTING

(Ages 15+)

Join other writers for open writing time with YpsiWrites. Register at tinyurl.com/YpsiWritesWritersRoom for any of the following sessions:

Saturday | Dec 13 | 11am-12:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Wednesday | Jan 21 | 6:30-8pm | Virtual

Saturday | Feb 28 | 11am-12:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Saturday | Dec 13

SONGS OF COMFORT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

2:30-4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Stop by the Triangular Bay to listen while members of the Threshold Singers of Ann Arbor sing peaceful music and answer questions.

Tuesday | Dec 16

UPCYCLED ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

6pm | YDL-Whittaker

Get creative and give new life to old materials! Learn simple reuse techniques to craft unique, festive ornaments. Supplies included. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Jan 3

DADS AS DOULAS: SHOWING UP WITH CONFIDENCE

10:30am | YDL-Superior

This hands-on class is designed to help fathers and partners learn to confidently support their loved one through pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period.

Thursday | Jan 8

AARP TAX HELP INFO SESSION

7pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn about YDL's free tax service from an AARP Tax Aide volunteer. Find out what's new this year with taxes and see if you are eligible for an appointment. Early-bird tax help appointment bookings available after the event. See Page 9 for more information about tax help. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Jan 10

BREASTFEEDING BASICS WITH WRAPPED IN LOVE

10:30am | YDL-Superior

Learn the benefits of breastfeeding, how to advocate for yourself and your baby, breastfeeding tips and tricks, and how your partner can support you on this journey.

Saturday | Jan 10

WRITING ONESELF: LETTERS AND EMOTIONS (YPSIWITES)

11am | YDL-Michigan

Clinical social worker and poet David Boeving will explore the personal and social uses of emotions and how letters can aid us in making effective use of our emotions. Register at ypsiwrites.com.

Saturday | Jan 10

INK DRINKER READING SERIES: DAVID KUHNLEIN AND ADDY MALINOWSKI

3pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us as we kick off a new event series, The Ink Drinker! In our first session, two Michigan-born writers, David Kuhnlein and Addy Malinowski, will introduce themselves, read from their work, and hold a discussion.

Sunday | Jan 11

THE LADIES OF SOUL: A TAKE NOTE CONCERT FEATURING THE SEAN DOBBINS ENSEMBLE AND ATHENA JOHNSON

2pm | YDL-Whittaker

The Sean Dobbins Ensemble presents *The Ladies of Soul* featuring Athena Johnson. Enjoy a musical and spoken word concert celebrating the significant contributions from women in the pre-and civil rights era.

Tuesday | Jan 13

JIGSAW PUZZLE COMPETITION

5:30-8:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us for YDL's third jigsaw puzzle competition. To sign up your two-person team or ask questions, email asmith@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x2421.

Wednesday | Jan 14

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: TRUST BUT VERIFY - USING AI IN YOUR MARKETING

6:30pm | Virtual

This workshop will examine some of the benefits and pitfalls of using AI in small business marketing. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Jan 15-18

FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALE

See times in description | YDL-Whittaker

Book sale prices are \$1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for kids books, 50¢ for mass market paperbacks, and \$1 for oversize paperbacks. See Page 12 for more information.

Jan. 15: 6-8pm (members-only sale)

Jan. 16: 11am-5pm

Jan. 17: 11am-3pm

Jan. 18: 1-3pm

Monday | Jan 19

MLK DAY SERVICE PROJECT

2-4pm | YDL-Michigan

Did you know that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the only National Day of Service? Join us for a service project and donate trial size hygiene products for the Warming Center and Hope Clinic.

Wednesday | Jan 21

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: CANVA 101 - LEVERAGING CANVA FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

6:30pm | Virtual

Learn to create logos, social media posts, and flyers in Canva from Kelly Blazo (Social Media Manager/Event Coordinator at 2 Dandelions Bookshop). Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Thursday | Jan 22

INTRO TO GENEALOGY

6:30pm | YDL-Superior

Join Jean Winborn, co-founder of the Washtenaw County African-American Genealogy Society and YDL Board member, to learn how to navigate online databases and how best to organize and share your research.

Sunday | Jan 25

HOUSEPLANT TIPS

2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck will address common houseplant problems and tips for choosing wisely. After the program, Carol will stay to answer any gardening questions.

Thursday | Jan 29

WHAT IS A DOULA?

6:30pm | YDL-Superior

Join Wrapped in Love Doula & Lactation Support to learn about birth doulas, how they could benefit you, and even how to become one. Childcare available for ages 3 & up.

Thursday | Jan 29

YDL TRIVIA NIGHT

7pm | YDL-Whittaker

Register a team of up to four for a night of pub-style trivia. The library will provide light refreshments, but guests can bring snacks, pastries, candy, and non-alcoholic beverages. Small prizes await the highest-scoring teams! Sign up at ypsilibrary.org/events.



Saturday | Jan 31

CREATING A BACKSTORY FOR YOUR GAMING CHARACTER

11am | Virtual

This virtual workshop offers a character backstory model and some best practices to craft an interesting character for your next adventure! Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Jan 31

WINTER MARBLING: SNOWFLAKES!

See description for times | YDL-Michigan

Craft artist Melissa Louise will teach you to make wooden dyed snowflakes that make beautiful, unique decorations for the holidays. Sign up for one of the following time slots:

1pm | 2:30pm | 4pm



Mondays | Feb 2 - Apr 13

AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM - INCOME TAX PREPARATION

9am-5pm | YDL-Superior

This service is primarily meant for taxpayers with low to moderate incomes. AARP membership is not required. Appointments can be made starting Jan. 12 (the start date is later than previous years). Call 734-482-4110 **x2411 (Whittaker Road)**, **x2421 (Michigan Avenue)** or **x2431 (Superior)** to make an appointment or for more information.

Feb 2, 10, 19 & 27

ONE-ON-ONE GENEALOGY SESSION WITH JEAN WINBORN

See description for times | YDL-Superior

Join us during Black History Month to uncover your family's history through a one-on-one genealogy session with Jean Winborn. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events for one of the following dates and times:

Feb 2 & 19: 10am | Feb 10 & 27: 12pm

Tuesdays | Feb 3 - Apr 7

AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM - INCOME TAX PREPARATION

9am-6pm | YDL-Michigan

See Feb. 2 description.

Wednesday | Feb 4

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: THE EOS ENTREPRENEURIAL OPERATING SYSTEM

6:30pm | Virtual

This workshop will define the Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS) and outline its use and implementation for small businesses. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Thursdays | Feb 5 - Apr 9

AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM - INCOME TAX PREPARATION

9:30am-5:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

See Feb. 2 description.

Saturday | Feb 7

IN THE SPIRIT

(Ages 14+)

11am | Virtual

EMU professor Dr. Toni Pressley-Sanon will explore and celebrate spirit-inspired poetry by writers in the United States and beyond, then help you write your own. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Thursday | Feb 12

WRITER OPEN MIC NIGHT

6:30-8:30pm | YDL-Superior

Share your writing at an open mic night with supportive members of the YpsiWrites community. All are welcome to attend, read, listen, and encourage the writers. Sign up at tinyurl.com/YW021226.

Saturday | Feb 14

CRAFT SUPPLY SWAP

1-3pm | YDL-Whittaker

Donate your gently used or surplus craft supplies at the Whittaker Road 2nd Floor Reference Desk from February 1–11. Then join us on February 14 to browse and take home new-to-you materials. Donations are not required to participate on swap day. Please donate only clean, usable items. We cannot accept dried paint/markers/glue, empty containers, broken tools, fabric or paper scraps smaller than 6"x6", or hazardous materials.

Wednesday | Feb 18

CELEBRATING BLACKNESS

6-8pm | YDL-Michigan

Enjoy refreshments and join community leaders in a discussion about what Blackness means to us. This program highlights the theme for Black History Month 2026, *A Century of Black History Commemorations*.

Wednesday | Feb 18

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: THE FUNDING LANDSCAPE

6:30pm | Virtual

Examine the reality of the funding landscape for small businesses and dispel myths and misunderstandings about the nature and types of funding sources. Learn some of the qualifying/disqualifying risk factors and discuss risk profiles for for-profit and non-profit businesses. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Feb 21

PERSONAL ARCHIVING 101: THE WHY AND HOW OF ARCHIVES (Ages 55+)
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Join archivists from the U of M Bentley Historical Library to learn how researchers use archives to understand the past and how you can best preserve your items. We'll also highlight archival collections you can use to better understand Black stories in Washtenaw County. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Feb 21

MULTIMODAL ZINE WORKSHOP (Ages 15+)
2pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join YpsiWrites' Writer in Residence, Angelica Esquivel, for a hands-on zine workshop that embraces messiness and experimentation. The workshop is part of Angelica's *Envisioning Ypsi: Histories and Futures* residency program, and stories created at this event can be submitted to the anthology Angelica is developing.

Sunday | Feb 22

WINGED WONDERS: THE HUMMING BIRD/ASK THE MASTER GARDENER
2pm | YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to provide a habitat that attracts hummingbirds and keeps them returning from Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck. After the program, Carol will answer any questions you have on hummingbirds or gardening.



Thursday | Feb 26

CHILDBIRTH BASICS WITH WRAPPED IN LOVE
6:30pm | YDL-Superior
Join Wrapped in Love Doula & Lactation Support to guide you through what to expect as you welcome your new baby.

Saturday | Feb 28

THE RJ SPANGLER QUINTET, PRESENTED BY THE JAZZ FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
2pm | YDL-Superior
Veteran musicians of the Detroit jazz scene perform jazz standards, swing tunes, funky boogaloo, and New Orleans traditional jazz.

Saturday | Feb 28

INK DRINKER READING SERIES: SAY ANARCHA BOOK TALK
3pm | YDL-Michigan
Join us for the second session of our new series, The Ink Drinker. Dr. Toni Pressley-Sanon will lead a discussion of the book *Say Anarcha* by J. C. Hallman.

Adult Meetups

Mondays | Dec 1 - Feb 23

MAHJONG MEETUP
1pm | YDL-Whittaker
Weekly Mahjong group for new and experienced players. American and Chinese-style sets will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.



Mondays | Dec 1 | Jan 5 | Feb 2

READ IT & EAT IT: COOKBOOK CLUB
6pm | YDL-Whittaker
Each month, choose a recipe from a specific book, prepare it, and bring the dish to share and discuss. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.
Dec 1: *Magnolia Table* by Joanna Gaines
Jan 5: *Easy Weeknight Dinners* by Emily Weinstein
Feb 2: *Pizza Night* by Alexandra Stafford

Mondays | Dec 1 | Jan 5 | Feb 2

SEW SOCIAL
7pm | YDL-Superior
Back by popular demand! Bring your latest project and meet others who enjoy needlework. All projects and skill levels welcome.

Tuesdays | Dec 2-16 | Jan 13 - Feb 24

ESL COMMUNITY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY
1pm | YDL-Superior
Practice English language skills in an informal, relaxed setting.

Tuesdays | Dec 2 - Feb 24

FELLOWSHIP OF THE FIBER
6pm | YDL-Whittaker
Previously called Knitting Plus. Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or do other needlecraft? Do you use spinners or lacemakers? Join us to work on any craft you can carry.



Tuesdays | Dec 2 - Feb 24

MEDITATION WITH EASE
6pm | YDL-Superior
Meditation has many benefits for our health and well-being. Drop in for simple, guided, nonreligious awareness practices in the company of friends you may not have met yet!

Tuesdays | Dec 2 | Jan 6 | Feb 3

GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY BUNCH
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
Share stories and research techniques, work with old photos, and connect with people interested in genealogy.

Wednesdays | Dec 3 & 10 | Jan 7 - Feb 25

ESL BOOK CLUB
11am | YDL-Michigan
For intermediate to advanced readers. Meet weekly to talk about the language, grammar, and cultural aspects of a book. To register, contact Washtenaw Literacy at (734) 337-3338.

Wednesdays | Dec 3-17 | Jan 14 - Feb 25

BASIC LITERACY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY
4pm | YDL-Superior
Drop-in tutoring in reading, writing, and more.

Wednesdays | Dec 3 & 17 | Jan 7 & 21 | Feb 4 & 18

CROCHET CLUB
6-9pm | YDL-Whittaker
Gather with other crocheters to crochet, share projects, get ideas, and more. Adults only, no experience necessary.

Thursdays | Dec 4 | Jan 8 | Feb 5

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Join us on the first Thursday of the month to discuss a variety of fiction and nonfiction books.
Dec 4: *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
Jan 8: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng
Feb 5: *Be Ready When the Luck Happens* by Ina Garten

Thursdays | Dec 4 & 18 | Jan 8 & 22 | Feb 4* & 19

EUCHRE CLUB
6:30pm | See description
Play tournament-style Euchre at YDL. Players will be shuffled after each game. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events to ensure a spot.
Dec 4 | Jan 8 | Feb 4*: **YDL-Michigan**
Dec 18 | Jan 22 | Feb 19: **YDL-Whittaker**
*Wednesday

Thursdays | Dec 4 | Jan 8 | Feb 5

YDL FILM CLUB
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join fellow cinephiles for an evening of film discussion. We will review important scenes and learn fun facts and background info about the films' productions. All films are free for YDL cardholders on the Kanopy platform. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mondays | Dec 8 | Jan 12 | Feb 9

DOWNTOWN QUEER CRAFTING GROUP (Ages 18+)
6-8pm | YDL-Michigan
Folks of the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to bring projects to work on and build a creative community.

Tuesdays | Dec 9 | Jan 13 | Feb 10

SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
An adult book discussion group. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.
Dec 9: *The Mercy of Gods* by James S. A. Corey
Jan 13: *Gideon the Ninth* by Tamsyn Muir
Feb 10: *Blood Music* by Greg Bear

Thursdays | Dec 11 | Jan 8 | Feb 12

YPSILANTI ZINE CLUB
6pm | YDL-Michigan
Work on zines together, share techniques and ideas, and make zine making friends. Basic art materials provided. Find out how you can contribute your own zine to YDL's growing zine collection.

Thursdays | Dec 11 | Feb 19

BOOBIE CLUB WITH WRAPPED IN LOVE
6:30pm | YDL-Superior
This is a safe space for anyone planning to or currently breastfeeding to meet other parents and get support from lactation experts.

Saturdays | Dec 13 | Jan 10 & 24 | Feb 7 & 21

YDL GUITAR CLUB
10am | YDL-Michigan
Practice your skills, learn new songs, and play in a group.



Wednesdays | Dec 17 | Jan 21 | Feb 18

RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP (WASHTENAW FACES RACE)
7pm | YDL-Michigan or **Virtual**
Join Washtenaw Faces Race to discuss material about racism, privilege, discrimination, social justice, and our democracy. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events. For more information, email Joy Cichewicz at worksofjoy@gmail.com.
Dec. 17: Finish the deep dive into the book *Why Does Everything Have to Be About Race?* 25 *Arguments that Won't Go Away* by Keith Boykin.
Jan & Feb: TBD

Thursdays | Dec 18 | Jan 15 | Feb 19

QUEER BOOK GROUP
6:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Read and discuss literature written by diverse queer writers. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.
Dec 18: *Luda* by Grant Morrison
Jan 15: *Who's Afraid of Gender?* by Judith Butler
Feb 19: *Being Ace* edited by Madeline Dyer

Saturdays | Dec 20 | Jan 31 | Feb 14

BITE-SIZE BOOK CLUB
2:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Read a short story together, and talk about it with other story lovers. Then, everyone goes home—no homework required. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.



Mondays | Dec 29 | Jan 26 | Feb 23

BANNED BOOK CLUB (Ages 16+)
7pm | YDL-Superior
Discuss books that have sparked controversy and inspired change. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.
Dec 29: *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath
Jan 26: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
Feb 23: *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin

Wednesdays | Jan 7 - Feb 25

MOVING FOR BETTER BALANCE WITH THE ANN ARBOR YMCA
4pm | YDL-Whittaker
Come to this free falls-prevention program that uses the principles of Tai Chi to help older adults increase their strength, improve their balance, and increase their confidence.

Saturdays | Jan 17 | Feb 21

WASHTENAW AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (WAAGS)
10:30am | Virtual
Get tools and learn facts that will help unlock hidden treasures that are vital to navigate the complex embedded resources of African American ancestry. For more information contact Jean Winborn at owinborn@yahoo.com.

Tuesdays | Jan 27 | Feb 24

VIRTUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
7pm | Virtual
Join us for lively discussions of books by African American authors.
Dec: **NO meeting, Annual Holiday Dinner. Date, time, and venue TBD**
Jan 27: *Uncommon Favor* by Dawn Staley
Feb 24: *Sky Full of Elephants* by Cebo Campbell

Wednesdays | Jan 28 | Feb 25

PARANORMAL CLUB
6:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Each month, we gather to discuss intriguing topics, share personal experiences, and engage with expert guest speakers who bring their knowledge of the supernatural.

Teen/Tween

Saturday | Jan 17

WINTER SURVIVAL SKILLS (Ages 10-16)
3:30-5pm | YDL-Whittaker
Wilderness survival expert Rodney Cole of Woodbutchery returns to teach winter survival skills.



Saturday | Jan 31

MAC AND CHEESE (Ages 12-18)
4pm | YDL-Whittaker
Work with other teens as you learn to make two types of macaroni and cheese from scratch. Then do a taste test before you leave!



Saturday | Feb 7

STEREOTYPES AND SELF ESTEEM (Ages 12+)
1pm | YDL-Michigan
Identify and discuss stereotypes, their impacts on our self-esteem, and ways we can take our power back by not allowing stereotypes to define us. Facilitated by licensed Therapist Nerissa Legg, owner of Black Girls Crowned.

Friday | Feb 13

STUPID CUPID (Ages 12-18)
5:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Come join us for a chill after-hours event with a movie (PG-13) and cookie decorating.

Saturday | Feb 14

K-POP AND CAKE POPS (Ages 10-16)
4pm | YDL-Whittaker
Make cake pops while listening to K-pop! Take some home to share with friends and family.



Teen/Tween

Meetups

Thursdays | Dec 4 | Feb 5

TWEEN BOOK CLUB (Grades 6-8)
6:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and enjoy a snack. Registration required: email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org.
Dec 4: *Into the Wild* by Erin Hunter
Feb 5: *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper



Saturdays | Dec 6 & 20 | Jan 3, 17 & 31 | Feb 14 & 28

D&D: DROP-IN FOR TEENS
10:30am | YDL-Michigan
Join us for Dungeons & Dragons with an experienced DM, an adventurous storyline, and pre-generated characters. Each Saturday is a one-shot game (done in one sitting) with an overarching campaign. Registration is preferred, but drop-in is also fine. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org to register or with questions.

Dec 10 | Jan 13 & 27 | Feb 10 & 24

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) (Ages 14-18)
4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Plan and lead library programs, design new services and spaces, look for funding opportunities, write grants, earn service hours, and meet new friends. Apply to join at ypsilibrary.org/tag.

Fridays | Dec 19 | Feb 20

TEEN STEAM CAFÉ (Ages 12-18)
6pm | YDL-Michigan
Hear interactive, lively discussions about STEAM careers with professionals in various fields that you may have never heard about. Enjoy fun STEAM activities, dinner, and a gift card raffle. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Thursdays | Jan 22 | Feb 26

TEEN BOOK CLUB (Ages 13-18)

6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join YDL board member and educator Jean Winborn and other teens to cook and/or do an art project that ties into a different YA book each month. Email jodi@ypsilibrary.org with questions or to get a copy of the month's book.

Kids & Parents

Thursday | Dec 4

EMU STEM ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS

5:30pm | YDL-Superior

Stop in to learn how electrical circuits work and use SnapCircuits to build circuits with Zach from EMU's STEM department. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Friday | Dec 5

DOWNTOWN TREE LIGHTING

5:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Sip on hot chocolate, devour a cookie or two, and listen to singing and stories to celebrate the Downtown Tree Lighting. There will be free parking in the lot across Adams Street, courtesy of Beal Properties, during this event.



Saturday | Dec 6

SOFT PRETZEL MAKE AND BAKE

(Ages 6-12)

2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Come make a soft pretzel! Help make the dough, shape your pretzel, and choose the toppings. Then hang out and make art while your pretzel bakes.

Mondays | Dec 8 | Jan 12 & 26 | Feb 9 & 23

READ TO SIMBA THE LIBRARY DOG

5-7pm | YDL-Whittaker

Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children build confidence and become better readers. Kids grades K-5 can come to the library starting at 4:45pm to grab a ticket at the Youth desk with your assigned time slot. The 10-minute time slots range from 5-6:45pm.

Thursdays | Dec 11 | Jan 8 & 22 | Feb 12 & 26

READ TO QUINN THE LIBRARY DOG

5:30-7:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children develop confidence and become better readers. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org to sign up for a 10-minute slot with Quinn.

Saturday | Dec 13

JEWELRY WORKSHOP (Ages 9-15)

12-2pm | YDL-Superior

Patricia Wei returns to the library to help kids create colorful accessories for themselves or to give as gifts. Snacks will be provided. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Dec 13

MALI CULTURE: WHY THEY WEAR HEADWRAPS

1pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us for a cultural exploration of Mali as we learn more about the head wrap, make our own, and learn ways to style and wrap fabric. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Dec 13

BLACK MEN READ BOOK PARTY

3pm | YDL-Superior

Join us for a book party with a fun storytime and crafts.



Tuesday | Dec 16

FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: SNOW GLOBES

7pm | YDL-Michigan

Make your own snow globe! All supplies will be provided. Bring your imagination and a sense of adventure. Kids, bring an adult with you. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Thursdays | Dec 18 | Jan 15 | Feb 19

READ TO BAMBI THE LIBRARY DOG

5:50-7:35pm | YDL-Superior

Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children build confidence and become better readers. Email nrussell@ypsilibrary.org to reserve a 10-minute slot with Bambi.

Saturday | Dec 20

SATURDAY SNOW GLOBES

2-4pm | YDL-Michigan

If you missed Family Maker Night, it's another chance to make your own snow globe! All supplies provided. Kids, bring an adult with you. Drop-in by 3:30 to get started.



Monday | Dec 22

LEGO FREE BUILD (Ages 8+)

2pm | YDL-Superior

Come spend time building with a variety of LEGO blocks and bricks. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Tuesday | Dec 23

WEATHER THE STORM (Ages 7+)

2pm or 3:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Join the Michigan Science Center at YDL for the most challenging building project you've ever attempted. Come at 2 or 3:30pm for the same activities. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Friday | Dec 26

STEM OPEN PLAY: TRAINS AND BUILDINGS

10:30am | YDL-Michigan

Build the tallest railroad track, or create the biggest city or the fastest race car course. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Saturdays | Dec 27 | Jan 24 | Feb 21

CIRCUITLAB AT MICHIGAN AVENUE

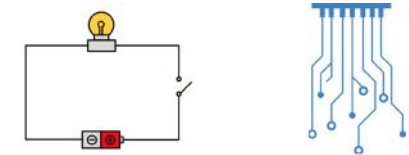
3pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us each month for a simple circuit project for beginners. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Dec 29: Light Up Felt Ornaments

Jan 24: Sound and Light Cards

Feb 21: Conductive Slime



Monday | Dec 29

SAVING SONGBIRDS

12pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn about songbirds with special guests Martha the Mourning Dove and Clementine the Baltimore Oriole from The Bird Center of Michigan. Sponsored by Flight Path, a Spark of Science @ My Library campaign.

Dec 29 | Dec 30 | Jan 2

DROP IN D&D: 3-DAY CAMPAIGN

1-4pm | YDL-Michigan

You asked and we provided - A WHOLE 3 DAY CAMPAIGN! If you think you can solve the riddles that devious DM Stephanie has cooked up, then this is the campaign for you.

Monday | Dec 29

STEM: MAKEDO FREE BUILD

2pm | YDL-Superior

Makedo makes building from cardboard easy. YDL will bring the Makedo tools and supplies, all you need to bring is your imagination. Join us to build together! *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Tuesday | Dec 30

LESLIE SCIENCE & NATURE CENTER: LIVING IN WINTER

10am | YDL-Michigan

Meet three animals that prepare for winter in Michigan in different ways. Enjoy stories, and learn more about how animals adapt to different seasons with the Leslie Science & Nature Center. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Friday | Jan 2

STEM OPEN PLAY: CHAIN REACTIONS

10:30am-12:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Use our stash of ramps, dominos, planks, and blocks to create the zaniest chain reactions course that you can! *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Saturday | Jan 17

CANDY SUSHI FOR KIDS

2pm | YDL-Michigan

Use gummy candies, rice crispy treats, and other delicious sweets to make your own sushi-inspired masterpieces.



Monday | Jan 19

HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO THERE? (Ages 8+)

4:30pm | YDL-Superior

Enjoy a light dinner, hear from a panel of educators who will share insights on helping children get the most out of their school days, and take part in a hands-on vision board activity to imagine the future we want to build together.

Tuesday | Jan 20

FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: CHERRY PIT HEATING PAD

7pm | YDL-Michigan

Use a sewing machine to make your own microwaveable flannel heating pad, then fill it with clean cherry pits. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Jan 24

MAKE-IT, TAKE-IT READING KIT

3pm | YDL-Michigan

Hear a story, do some activities, then make your own reading kit to take home. In collaboration with VT Seva Club.

Wednesday | Jan 28

THE BRAIDING BASICS (Ages 10+)

6pm | YDL-Michigan

In this session of the Embracing Your Crown series, we will explore different braid styles and techniques with licensed cosmetologist Jazmeen Fortune using conversation and play. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Jan 31

CHALLENGE ISLAND: PENGUINS

2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join Challenge Island for a penguin-themed STEM challenge. Work in small teams or as a family to design, test, and race penguin sleds. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Monday | Feb 2

FROM IDEA TO INK: AUTHOR DEBBIE TAYLOR

6pm | YDL-Michigan

Join local author Debbie Taylor for a deep dive into her latest book, *Step It Up! The French Dukes*. Learn about Taylor's writing process and the French Dukes, a legendary precision drill team founded in 1961 in Ann Arbor.

Wednesday | Feb 4

MOVIE NIGHT: THE WIZ (Ages 8+)

6pm | YDL-Superior

Ease on down the road and join us for a classic movie night celebrating Black History Month. Light snacks provided.

Saturday | Feb 7

BLACK ILLUSTRATOR ART STATIONS

2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join us to celebrate three Black author/illustrators: Oge Mora, Brian Pinkney, and Christian Robinson. Make art at each station as you learn about each illustrator's life and artistic style.

Saturday | Feb 14

FANCY NANCY PARTY

2-4pm | YDL-Michigan

Dress in your fanciest attire for our soiree (a fancy word for party). Hear a *Fancy Nancy* story, decorate picture frames, make ribbon and tulle skirts and sparkly bracelets, take part in a fashion show, and enjoy cupcakes and punch.

Tuesday | Feb 17

FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: PAJAKI CHANDELIER

7pm | YDL-Michigan

Pajaki (say it like "puh-YONK-ee") are traditional Polish decorations made from straw and hung in the home. Join us to make one for your own home, using felt, wool balls, wooden beads, colorful string, and craft straws. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Feb 21

BLACK EXCELLENCE MUSICAL STORYTIME

1pm | YDL-Michigan

Enjoy a storytime and music play with Bichini Bia Congo Dance Theater Company to celebrate Black History Month. Join us as we recognize the contributions and influence that Africans and Black Americans continue to have on music.

Saturday | Feb 21

FENCING 101 (Ages 8-12)

2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join Plymouth Ann Arbor Fencing Academy for an introductory lesson from Coach Ian Rozich. Please come 15 minutes early to complete the online waiver. Space is limited.

Wednesday | Feb 25

IN OUR OWN WORDS, IN OUR WAY (Ages 8+)

6pm | YDL-Superior

Celebrate Black history and liberation with poetry, music, and art. Enjoy a few poems and songs, and check out our February art display.

Saturday | Feb 28

THE FUTURE INNOVATORS ACADEMY: WHIMSICAL WANDS

2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join Future Innovators for the ultimate maker mash-up: 3D-printed wizardry + light-up electronics! Pick your wand, learn about the simple circuits that make it light up, then add your own decorations. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Kids & Parents Meetups

Tuesdays | Dec 2 & 9

AFTER-SCHOOL WRITING LAB WITH 826MICHIGAN (Ages 8-12)

5:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Young writers and trained adult volunteers will work together to cultivate joy and confidence around writing. Register and find more information at 826michigan.org/programs/after-schoolwriting-lab.

Wednesdays | Dec 3 & 10 | Jan 7 - Feb 25

YOUTH CHESS CLUB (Grades K-12)

4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn chess at the library with Jenny Skidmore Smith. Casual play, lessons, and quick round rated play each month.

Fridays | Dec 5 | Jan 16 | Feb 20

FAIRY TALE FRIDAYS

1pm | YDL-Whittaker

Fairy tale fun followed by STEM and art activities related to classic stories.

Dec 5: *Three Billy Goats Gruff*

Jan 16: *Jack and the Beanstalk*

Feb 20: *Rapunzel*

Saturdays | Dec 6 | Jan 24 - Feb 28

WEE-WRITE (Ages 5-8)

12pm | YDL-Whittaker

Read a book aloud each week and pay attention to one special thing the writer does. Then work on activities inspired by that idea.

Wednesdays | Dec 10 | Jan 14 | Feb 11

READING READINESS BOOK CLUB

(Ages 3-6)

5:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Caregivers and kiddos will work together to understand pre-reading skills, how they support reading readiness, and how to practice them. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Thursdays | Dec 18 | Jan 15 | Feb 19

KIDS BOOK CLUB (Grades 3-5)

6:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and enjoy a snack. Registration required:

email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org.

Dec 18: *Doodleville* by Chad Sell

Jan 15: *The First Cat in Space and the Wrath of the Paperclip* by Mac Barnett

Feb 19: *InvestiGators: Heist and Seek* by John Patrick Green

Dec 22 | Dec 26 | Dec 29 | Jan 2

WINTER BREAK STEM

12pm | YDL-Whittaker

Drop in Mondays and Fridays over the break to hone STEM skills through hands-on activities and play. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Dec 22: ChompSaw Creations

Dec 26: VinciBots and Ozobots

Dec 29: Saving Songbirds

Jan 2: Classic Kids Games

Thursdays | Jan 22 & 29

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: STEM CAREERS (Ages 5-14)

5pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn about STEM careers through hands-on activities. Designed for kids in elementary and middle school. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Jan 22: Veterinarians: with the Huron Valley Humane Society

Jan 29: Paleontologists: with Lynnea Jackson from the University of Michigan

Tuesdays | Jan 27 - Feb 17

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

(Grades 2-5)

5pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join us this session for 39 *Clues: The Maze of Bones* by Rick Riordan. Enjoy listening to the book read aloud, followed by a themed STEAM activity each week.

Thursdays | Feb 5-26

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: ART & ARTISTS

5pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Look at the work of a different artist each week to see how they used geometry, perspective, color mixing, engineering, or inspiration from science and nature to make art, then make your own art with a variety of media. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Stories and Fun for Little Ones

Friday & Saturday | Dec 5 & 6 | Feb 6 & 7

SENSORY STATIONS

11am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Explore different themed sensory and art stations. Attend Friday or Saturday for the same set of stations.

Dec 5 & 6: Sensory Bins

Feb 6 & 7: Hungry Caterpillar

Saturdays | Dec 20 | Jan 17 | Feb 14

ASL FRIENDLY STORYTIME

10:30am | [YDL-Superior](#)

Join us for songs and books fully interpreted in ASL. There will be time to play with age appropriate toys for kids up to age 5.

Dec 22 | Dec 27 | Dec 29

LITTLE ONES OPEN PLAY

10:30am | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Feeling cooped up at home? Join us on Monday and Saturday mornings this winter break for open play. Each day has a different theme:

Dec 22: Car Wash Time

Dec 27: Box Play

Dec 29: Animal-tastic Adventures

Saturdays | Jan 3 | Feb 28

SPANISH STORYTIME WITH NORMA RODRIGUEZ (Ages 0-5)

10:30am | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Join us for a storytime where every book and song will be presented in Spanish and English. Enjoy an art project after the storytime and leave with a book, in English or Spanish, provided by the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor.

Saturday | Jan 10

LIFE WHEN IT'S SNOWY (Ages 3-5)

11am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Children will compare and contrast the different methods animals use to survive the cold, using hands-on animal artifacts. Presented by Huron-Clinton Metroparks. Space is limited.



Saturday | Jan 17

SPANISH STORYTIME

11am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join Norma Rodriguez for stories and songs in Spanish, followed by play, process art, and sensory activities.

Monday | Jan 19

KINDERCONCERTS

10 & 11am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra for a concert curated for little ones. This concert will feature pianist Melissa Coppola and double bassist Gregg Powell, with Jaxon Williams leading kids through movement as they listen to the music.

Friday | Jan 23

BABY AND TODDLER FREE PLAY

11am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Help your baby or toddler get some wiggles out with music, toys, slides, and other fine and gross motor activities.

Saturday | Jan 31

ZUMBINI (Ages 2-5)

11am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Dance, sing, and play together with upbeat original music that boosts early learning and helps little ones grow.

Saturday | Feb 14

HUGS AND KISSES STORYTIME

11am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Enjoy stories and songs followed by cookie decorating, crafts, and a Valentine's Day sensory bin.

Saturday | Feb 28

MUSIC TOGETHER

11am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join Leah Fox of Robinsongs for Kids for an introduction to Music Together, a music class for little ones and their adults.

MONDAYS

Mondays | Jan 12 & 26 | Feb 2-Mar 16

JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN

10:30am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Find an engaging blend of activities and stories designed to help prepare preschoolers for school success, from scissor skills to STEM.

Mondays | Jan 12 - Mar 16

LITTLE ONES STORYTIME

10:30am | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Each week, we will sing and move, read books, and provide toys for open play. We will also offer space for caregivers to connect with each other.

TUESDAYS

Tuesdays | Jan 13 - Mar 17

BABY TIME AT SUPERIOR

10:30am | [YDL-Superior](#)

Enjoy a few books, sing fun songs during our short lap-sit storytime, and chat with other caregivers while your little one plays.



Tuesdays | Jan 13 - Mar 17

DISCOVERY TIME AT WHITTAKER

10:30am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

This fast-paced storytime is filled with music, movement, fingerplays, and books paired with exploratory learning and play.

Tuesdays | Jan 13 - Mar 17

JUMPSTART STORYTIME

1pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

See Monday description.

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays | Jan 14 - Mar 18

BABY TIME AT WHITTAKER

10:30am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

See Tuesday description.

Wednesdays | Jan 14 - Mar 18

READ, SING, PLAY (Walkers to Age 3)

10:30am | [YDL-Superior](#)

Little ones learn colors, shapes, and numbers through books, music, and movement. Build early literacy, social-emotional skills, and physical skills through play.

THURSDAYS

Thursdays | Jan 15 - Mar 19

DISCOVERY TIME AT SUPERIOR

10:30am | [YDL-Superior](#)

See Tuesday description.

Thursdays | Jan 15 - Mar 19

READ, SING, PLAY AT WHITTAKER

10:30am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

See Wednesday description.

FRIDAYS

Fridays | Jan 16 - Mar 6

JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN: DOWNTOWN

10:30am | [YDL-Michigan](#)

See Monday description.

Tech Help

Register at ypsilibrary.org/events or call 734-482-4110 X2411.

ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP FOR SENIORS (Ages 55+)

[YDL-Whittaker](#) & [YDL-Superior](#)

Call 734-482-4110 x1384 or email brigitte@ypsilibrary.org to schedule a one hour in-person, phone, or virtual session at Whittaker. To schedule a session at Superior, call 734-482-4110 x2431 or email mgeiman@ypsilibrary.org.

Tues, Dec 2 at 6:30pm | Sat, Jan 17 at 10:30am

GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, and create simple formulas. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a spreadsheet.

Wed, Dec 3 at 2pm | Sat, Jan 3 at 2pm

MICROSOFT WORD – BASICS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

An introduction to word processing. Learn to enter, format, select, copy, paste, and edit text.

Thurs, Dec 4 at 7pm | Sat, Feb 28 at 2pm

GOOGLE DRIVE - BASICS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

Google Drive provides access to free web-based applications for creating documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more. Learn to navigate Google Drive's interface and how to create, store, organize, access, and share your files/folders online.

Tues, Dec 9 at 6:30pm | Sat, Jan 31 at 10:30am

GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

Explore more advanced features of Google Sheets like using formulas, conditional functions and formatting, sorting, filtering and linking data, and defining a print area.

Wed, Dec 10 at 2pm | Sat, Jan 17 at 2pm

MICROSOFT WORD – INTERMEDIATE

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

Add visual interest to your documents. Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and insert tabs.

Thurs, Dec 11 at 6:30pm | Sat, Feb 14 at 2pm

GMAIL - BASICS

[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.

Sat, Dec 13 at 10:30am | Thurs, Feb 12 at 6:30pm

GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

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

Sat, Dec 13 at 2pm | Thurs Feb 5 at 6:30pm

GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and share and collaborate on a presentation.

Tues, Dec 16 at 6:30pm | Wed, Jan 7 at 2pm

MICROSOFT POWERPOINT – BASICS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation.

Wed, Dec 17 at 2pm | Sat, Jan 31 at 2pm

MICROSOFT WORD – TIPS, TRICKS, AND HACKS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

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.

Thurs, Dec 18 at 7pm | Sat, Jan 3 at 10:30am

GOOGLE CALENDAR - BASICS

[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 to your devices.

Sat, Dec 27 at 10:30am | Thurs, Feb 19 at 6:30pm

GOOGLE DOCS TIPS & TRICKS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

Explore more advanced features of Google Docs: headers and footers, tabs and indents, inserting breaks (page, section, and column) and finding & replacing text.

Dec 27 | Jan 15 | Feb 7

CANVA 101: INTRO TO CANVA

See description for times and locations. Explore Canva, a free graphic design tool that lets you make flyers, social media content, and more. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events for one of the following sessions:

[Saturday | Dec 27 at 11am | YDL-Superior](#)

[Thursday | Jan 15 at 7pm | YDL-Whittaker](#)

[Saturday | Feb 7 at 11am | YDL-Superior](#)

Sat, Dec 27 at 2pm | Thurs, Feb 26 at 7pm

VEGA DISCOVER – BASICS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

An introduction to YDL's online public access catalog, Vega Discover. Learn how to find, request, and renew items. Understand the tools for managing lists and account information.

Tues, Jan 6 at 7pm | Wed, Feb 4 at 10:30am

COMPUTER BASICS - GETTING STARTED

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn the parts and proper use of a computer and Windows basics, including opening/closing applications and managing files/folders.

Tues, Jan 13 at 7pm | Wed, Feb 11 at 10:30am

INTERNET BASICS - HOW TO SEARCH THE WEB

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

This class covers the browser toolbar and menu options, managing your favorite websites, and using search tools and techniques.

Tues, Jan 20 at 2pm | Wed, Feb 18 at 10:30am

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

Virtual

Learn the basics of navigating the Zoom meeting interface. While working with other seniors, you can see yourself on camera, test your microphone, learn to chat, and more.

Wed, Jan 21 at 2pm | Tues, Feb 3 at 6:30pm

MICROSOFT EXCEL – BASICS

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

A basic introduction to spreadsheets. Learn to enter and edit data, select cell ranges, format cells, use the fill handle, and create simple formulas.

Thurs, Jan 22 | Sat, Feb 21

CANVA 201: TIPS & TRICKS

See description for times and locations

This intermediate class will focus on more advanced editing tools, like text effects, photo editing, working with apps, color palettes, and Canva AI.

Thursday | Jan 22 | 7pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Saturday | Feb 21 | 11am | [YDL-Superior](#)

Tues, Jan 27 at 2pm | Wed, Feb 25 at 10:30am

HOW TO HOST A ZOOM MEETING

Virtual

Learn the basics for hosting a Zoom meeting from start to finish. Topics include: scheduling, securing, and starting your meeting; inviting participants; using host controls; Zoom etiquette; and basic troubleshooting.

Wed, Jan 28 at 2pm | Tues, Feb 10 at 6:30pm

MICROSOFT EXCEL (INTERMEDIATE)

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn to apply functions, filter data, create charts, and print worksheets.

Thurs, Jan 29 at 6:30pm | Tues, Feb 17 at 6:30pm

MICROSOFT EXCEL – PIVOT TABLES – INTERMEDIATE

[YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel's PivotTable feature. Reorganize and summarize selected columns and rows of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information.

Saturday | Feb 14

CANVA BY DESIGN: BUSINESS CARDS AND FLYERS

10:30am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn how to use Canva's free collection of editable templates to make personalized business cards and eye-catching flyers. No prior design knowledge is needed.



Ypsi Stories Episode 29: Café Ollie

Hear a conversation with Danielle Schwerin who once helped run Café Ollie, a staple of Ypsilanti brunch life. It was also part of the secret concert life in Depot Town, and the place where Miller's Ice Cream, Schramm's Deli, and Cafe Luwak once stood.

LCS Awarded Grant for Literacy Work

Lincoln Consolidated Schools (LCS) has been awarded over \$130,000 to launch a new high school course and expand its ongoing literacy mission. LCS is one of 39 school districts across Michigan selected to receive state funding through the competitive Section 35n Grant for Innovative Literacy Initiatives.

Over the past several years, LCS Literacy Coaches have collaborated with teachers on literacy initiatives like the Summer Book Mobile (which delivers books directly into neighborhoods) Summer Reading in the Park, and the development of diverse classroom libraries.

With the grant, Lincoln High School will debut a new course to build on those successes. *Reading One: ELA for Impact – Literacy, Voice, and Community* is a yearlong elective that engages students in real-world literacy through four project-based themes:

- **Genre Study & Creative Emulation** – Students analyze a chosen genre and craft their own original works inspired by it.
 - **School Publication Project** – Students study journalistic models and collaboratively produce a digital or print publication.
 - **Place-Based Learning & Local Action** – Students research local issues through fieldwork, interviews, and data collection, creating informational or advocacy materials.
 - **Community Outreach & Service** – Students design and lead literacy-based service projects that benefit the community.
- “This initiative brings literacy to life,” said LCS



“Our students will not only become stronger readers and writers, they’ll discover how their words can make a difference in the world around them.”

Superintendent Gregory Smith. “Our students will not only become stronger readers and writers, they’ll discover how their words can make a difference in the world around them.”

Participating teachers will receive targeted professional development in genre-based strategies, collaborative publishing, and peer modeling to ensure high-quality instruction and consistent assessment. As part of the grant, all 39 districts will report their progress and six finalists—three elementary schools and three secondary schools—will receive an additional \$375,000 during the 2026–27 school year to expand their innovations. In summer 2027, those finalists will present their results, and two winners—one elementary and one secondary—will each receive \$500,000 in incentive funding for making the greatest impact on student achievement.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

DECEMBER

- Dec 5:** ½ Day for Grades K-5 (LCS)
Dec 18 & 19: ½ Day (YCS)
Dec 22-Jan 2: Winter Break, No School (YCS and LCS)

JANUARY

- Jan 5:** School Resumes (YCS and LCS)
Jan 19: No School - MLK Day (YCS and LCS)
Jan 21-23: 1/2 day for Grades 6-12 - HS & MS exams (LCS)
Jan 26: No School - Work Day (LCS)

FEBRUARY

- Feb 11:** Student Count Day (YCS)
Feb 12: No School (YCS)
Feb 13-16: No School - Mid-Winter Break (YCS and LCS)
Feb 18: No School (LCS)



5th-Graders Meet the Mayor

Fifth-grade students at Ypsilanti International Elementary School (YIES) recently received a firsthand lesson in civic engagement when they hosted Ypsilanti Mayor Nicole Brown. In October, Mayor Brown came to answer questions and discuss city challenges. This special visit was facilitated by Jeffrey Klein, YIES Media Specialist, to anchor the students' current academic unit on local government. “The students were fully engaged, asking thoughtful questions throughout the session, and the mayor did an excellent job responding, even to the unexpected ones!” one of the program's teachers said. “It was a powerful experience for my students to see that people in office hold important roles, yet are also regular people who care deeply about their community.”

The curriculum on local government is intended to make students think critically about how their personal values influence the kind of community they wish to create. Mayor Brown answered in-depth questions from the fifth graders about the day-to-day operations of Ypsilanti's city government, shared the personal values that guide her decisions, and discussed the complex challenges inherent in her role. “It's refreshing to know that no matter how serious a guest may seem, they are happy to answer silly questions from the students,” another YIES teacher said. “At one point, the mayor was talking about the food at Ma Lou's and the next she was addressing a question about the data center potentially coming to Ypsi.”

Meet the 2025 Writers of Ypsilanti



YpsiWrites has named its 2025 Writers of Ypsilanti. YpsiWrites’ theme for the coming year is “Writing Together,” and all nine of this year’s writers embody that theme.

Writers of Ypsilanti are writers of all ages who live, work, or have significant ties to the Ypsilanti community. They may be published or unpublished across a variety of genres. Writers may be nominated by others or self-nominate, and selected writers will collaborate on YpsiWrites programs, help facilitate workshops, and work on YpsiWrites’ resources.



Alexandra Pryplesh (she/her) attends high school in Ypsilanti and writes philosophy papers, essays, and poetry. She believes that writing is essential for human connection and understanding.



Brandi Wentworth (she/her) just graduated with her Bachelor’s in General Studies from Eastern Michigan University’s College in Prison program at the Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility. Brandi is co-editor of *Behind the Wire*, the first college-in-prison newsletter in the state of Michigan. Brandi considers revision key to her writing process and loves watching her writing change as she rewrites her drafts by hand.



Jared M. Bentley (he/him) lives in Ypsilanti and is an Eastern Michigan University alum. He writes long-form fiction and short stories, including his book *Robots, Please*, a collection that humorously explores absurdity.



Jihyun Ko (she/her) lives in Ypsilanti and writes poetry and investigative pieces about the community. She values how deeply personal moments in fiction and poetry can also become collective experiences.

Continued on Page 12

New Tax Help Info Session

Tax help at YDL is back! This year, we’re kicking off with an info session on January 8 with AARP volunteers. Anyone interested in a tax help appointment can attend to learn what’s new this year and find out if they’re eligible for help.

After the meeting, you can take advantage of early-bird appointment sign-ups and get first pick of your preferred date and time. Appointment bookings open up for everyone on January 12, which is later than usual. Register for the info session in advance at ypsilibrary.org/events.

AARP’s Tax-Aide assistance program is provided by trained volunteers in partnership with the IRS. This program is primarily for taxpayers over 50 with low to moderate incomes.

Tax-Aide volunteers have been doing taxes for patrons at YDL at no cost for over 17 years, completing taxes for hundreds of taxpayers annually. AARP membership is not required.

You can visit ypsilibrary.org/taxprep for more information. Before meeting with your AARP tax preparer, you’ll need to pick up an informational packet with forms that must be filled out in advance of your appointment.

- TIPS TO MAKE YOUR FILING APPOINTMENT RUN AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE:**
- If filing jointly, both spouses must be present.
 - Make sure you bring: W-2s, 1098s, 1099s, and any other records of income.
 - Valid photo ID of you and your spouse.
 - Social Security card for you, your spouse, and any dependents.
 - Birth dates for you, your spouse, and any dependents.
 - A voided check or other bank document with account and routing numbers printed on it for direct deposit of your refund.
 - 2022 and 2023 tax returns, if you have them.
 - If you have health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace (ACA), bring Form 1095-A.
 - If you are eligible for a heating credit, bring your DTE bill from Dec 2024, Jan 2025, or Feb 2025.
 - If you are eligible for the property tax credit, bring Summer & Winter tax statements OR bring proof of rent paid along with the name and address of your landlord.



Those attending the info session (Thurs | Jan 8 | 7pm | YDL-Whittaker): Get early-bird sign-ups.

Everyone else: Starting January 12, call 734-482-4110 to make an appointment:

Whittaker: x2411
Michigan Avenue: x2421
Superior: x2431

Oscar Contest

It’s time for YDL’s annual Oscars and Razzies Awards Contest! Help us celebrate the best, and worst, movies of the year. Guess the most correct winners in both award shows to win a movie prize pack.

Ballots will be available starting January 26 and are due by 9pm on March 10. Enter online or at any YDL branch. To qualify, you must live within YDL’s service area and be able to pick up your prize from a YDL location in person. Limit one entry per person.



Oscar & Razzie award winners you can stream with your library card on Kanopy

Growing Hope Through Every Season

Something new is taking root in downtown Ypsilanti this winter. For the first time, the Ypsilanti Farmers Market will extend its indoor season through March, marking an exciting step toward Growing Hope’s long-term vision of a year-round indoor/outdoor community market.

“Expanding the winter market is about deepening our commitment to food sovereignty, ensuring that fresh, local food remains accessible, dignified, and rooted in the hands of our community,” said Growing Hope’s Executive Director Julius Buzzard.

Buzzard envisions the market as a hub for local food, connection, and care. Winter market shoppers will find winter greens, root vegetables, and handmade goods.

“Each market day is a celebration of our local growers and makers, neighbors who keep nourishment close to home and reinvest every dollar back into Ypsi’s thriving food ecosystem,” said Buzzard. “By coming together under one roof through the colder months, we’re investing in a vibrant and resilient local food system.”

The Winter Farmers Market will be open 10am–2pm on select Saturdays at 16 S. Washington Street:
Dec. 6, 13 & 20 | Jan. 10 & 24
Feb. 14 & 28 | Mar. 14 & 28

Learn more at ypsismarkets.info.



Warming Centers



Daytime and overnight warming centers will once again be available in Washtenaw County this winter for people experiencing homelessness and others who require shelter as temperatures dip below freezing. The Delonis Center (312 W Huron Street in Ann Arbor) offers an overnight warming center for anyone experiencing homelessness. Shelter is available beginning at 7pm every night through April 14. There may also be an overnight shelter added in Ypsilanti (TBD).

All YDL locations can be used as daytime warming centers during regular hours (see Page 12 for hours of operation and branch addresses). Visit ypsilibrary.org/about/visit to stay up to date on holiday closures and hours of operation.

In addition, daytime shelter accommodations are available Monday-Friday at rotating locations:

DAYTIME SHELTER LOCATIONS	ADDRESS	2025-26 DATES
Ypsilanti Freighthouse (Mon-Thurs, 8am-6pm)	100 Market Pl., Ypsilanti	Nov 10 - Mar 31
Ann Arbor Day Site (Mon-Fri)	TBD	Dec 8 - Jan 9
St. Mary’s Student Parish (Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm)	331 Thompson St, Ann Arbor	Jan 5-30
First Baptist Church (Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm)	517 E. Washington St, Ann Arbor	Feb 16 - Mar 27
First Congregational Church (Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm)	608 E. Williams, Ann Arbor	Feb 2-13
Delonis Center (Fri-Sat)	312 W. Huron St, Ann Arbor	Nov 10 - Apr 14

In addition to the listed daytime warming locations:

- Families seeking support can call Alpha House at 734-822-0220.
- Youth and young adults (under age 25) can call Ozone House at 734-662-2222 or visit:
 - » Monday–Friday, 9am-5pm at 1600 N. Huron River Dr., Ypsilanti (Main Office)
 - » Tuesday and Thursday, 12-6pm at 102 N. Hamilton, Ypsilanti (Drop-in Center)
- Survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, dating violence, or stalking can call SafeHouse Center at 734 995-5444 for domestic violence help.

During daytime hours, those seeking overnight shelter should first contact Housing Access of Washtenaw County (HAWC) to obtain a referral for shelter at 734-961-1999. If it is after 5pm or a weekend, please go to the Delonis Center or call 734-662-2829, and they'll assist with ensuring you're served and provide transportation to an offsite location if needed.

During extreme weather (real or wind chill temperature 20° F or below) there will be additional shelter locations open during the day. The list of temporary winter weather havens will be updated regularly at washtenaw.org/2789/Winter-Warming-Centers.

10 Years of Food Help

In September, Swoop’s Pantry at Eastern Michigan University celebrated its 10th anniversary. Since 2015, Swoop's has distributed over 1 million pounds of food to shoppers facing food insecurity and seen nearly a tenfold increase in the number of yearly visits.

This year, more than 90 shoppers a day have visited on average. According to Swoop’s, over 46% of EMU students experience some level of food insecurity.

“Swoop’s has been a real lifesaver for me this year. There were times when I wouldn't eat because I couldn't afford groceries,” one shopper shared in a survey conducted by Swoop’s. “It's not just the food they offer, it's the sense of support and care that really helped me keep going.”

Any EMU student or staff member with a valid EID can use the pantry during open hours once they have filled out a current intake form. The pantry offers no-cost food items, school supplies, infant diapers and formula, sexual health and menstrual care items, and other household goods and clothing.

“I knew coming to Swoop’s Pantry for help that I would most likely get some food and maybe some stuff for my dorm,” another shopper shared. “What I did not expect to find there was friendship, community, and super supportive employment.”

This winter, Swoop’s is working on new ways to

create more access to the pantry and hiring and training new team members. To learn more about Swoop’s, including open hours and how to get involved, visit emich.edu/swoops-food-pantry.



Mission: Literacy

Washtenaw Literacy rolling out a new strategic plan with new Executive Director

Washtenaw Literacy’s new Executive Director has hit the ground running, working to roll out the organization’s new strategic plan for 2026-28.

David Martineau took over the role July 10 and, to help develop the organization’s new goals, has spent time acclimating himself to the community partners that inform Washtenaw Literacy’s work.

“I’ve been so pleasantly surprised at how welcoming all these groups have been of me and how very much they care about the work of Washtenaw Literacy,” Martineau said.

The 2026-28 strategic plan was approved at Washtenaw Literacy’s October board meeting. Most of the new goals involve better communication about the challenges the organization is trying to address and strategically engaging the volunteers and partners that support them.

“We want to develop much more inspirational and motivational communication about our efforts and what we’re trying to do,” Martineau said. “We play a unique role in advancing adult literacy, but we’re certainly not alone, and we want to shine a light on other folks who make it possible for us to play the role we play.”

Washtenaw County is one of the most educated counties in the country (31% of the population has a graduate or professional degree). However, it’s also one of the most economically disparate. An estimated 40,000 adults in Washtenaw County experience low literacy — a challenge that touches every part of life, from employment and health to parenting and civic participation.

“We’re trying to figure out how we can do a better job of getting the word out about what we’re up against and what we’re trying to solve,” Martineau said.

Washtenaw Literacy has hundreds of tutors who work with individuals to set up personalized goals and learning plans. Martineau believes it’s vital for learners to develop their goals themselves. He added that 100% of their learners reported making progress toward at least three goals last year, and 68% achieved a primary goal that they had set for themselves.

“These could be goals like being able to read a book to their child...getting their driver’s license...preparing for the citizenship test. It could be a promotion at work,” he said. “They set these goals, and then are able to tap into that intrinsic motivation.”



About David Martineau:

David most recently served as Acting Executive Vice President at the Forum for Youth Investment’s Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, where he led a national team through organizational transition and strategic alignment. He has held previous leadership roles, including Executive Director of National Conference for Community and Justice St. Louis. David holds a Master of Social Work from U-M, with a focus in Community Organization and Community and Social Systems, and a Bachelor of Arts in French with a minor in Social Work from Western Michigan University.

To learn more about Washtenaw Literacy, visit washtenawliteracy.org.

Safe Firearm Storage Saves Lives

We’re all spending more time inside during these cold winter months. If you have guns in your home, the Washtenaw County Health Department recommends making sure they are stored correctly.

“Safe storage can save lives, and it’s also the law in Michigan,” the Health Department wrote in a news release. “State law requires gun owners to store firearms in a locked container and/or unloaded and locked with a locking device when kids might be around.”

Free gun locks are available throughout Ypsilanti. You can pick one up from any YDL branch (including the Bookmobile), the Health Department, the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department, the Ypsilanti Police Department, or the Ypsilanti Township Law Enforcement Center.

The Health Department also recommends teaching your kids to get help from an adult if they see a gun that is not locked away. Get more safety tips at bit.ly/aapguns.

Remember, you can also call Washtenaw County’s 24/7 hotline for mental health and substance use support at 734-544-3050 or call or text 988 to speak with a crisis counselor.



Rx Kids Available in Ypsilanti

The first months of a baby’s life are critical for development. It’s also often the time when families are struggling the most. Rx Kids was launched to help combat this disparity, and now it’s coming to Ypsilanti!

Originally launched in Flint in 2024, Rx Kids provides unconditional, direct cash assistance to parents and families in participating cities. Moms receive \$1,500 during pregnancy, and babies receive \$500 a month for a designated length of time (between 6-12 months).

“Hundreds of studies show that unconditional

cash transfers can be life-changing across countries and contexts,” Rx Kids says on their website. “Mothers and babies are no different, and early intervention is shown to have sustained health and development impacts years after cash is delivered.”

Rx Kids selects participating locations based on characteristics that indicate a high level of need, along with feasibility of running the program.

Starting December 1, Ypsilanti residents can apply at rxkids.org/communities/ypsilanti.



Jim Clark (he/him) is an Eastern Michigan University alum who lives in Ypsilanti. He writes op-eds, journalistic pieces, and interviews. You can catch his writing in *Groundcover News*. Clark enjoys both the historical importance of writing as well as its entertainment value.



John Allen Taylor (he/him) lives in Ypsilanti and believes there is something uniquely special about the city. Poetry is his genre because it lights up the “dusty, tangled parts” of his brain like nothing else.



Lee Van Roth (she/they/he) is an Eastern Michigan University alum and local journalist whose work covers Ypsilanti organizations through a solutions-based lens. They love the sense of community in Ypsilanti and how everyone here wants to see everyone else succeed in whatever capacity they can.



Stephanie Heit (she/her) lives in Ypsilanti and codirects Turtle Disco, a somatic writing space grounded in disability culture. She engages in poetry, essays, and movement as forms of writing. Stephanie believes

writing is “an act of imagination that can document the past, amplify the present, speculate the future, and create mediums with which to engage the world.”



Tree Hammons (they/them) lives and works in Ypsilanti. They write poetry, creative nonfiction, grants, and short stories. Hammons loves the experimental and playful aspects of writing poetry. To them, writing is important because it necessitates thinking, and it helps put words to feelings.

Learn more about the Writers of Ypsilanti at ypsiwrites.com/writers-of-ypsilanti-2025.

Friends of YDL January Book Sale



The Friends of YDL Book Sale is coming again in January! Mark your calendars for January 16-19 at YDL-Whittaker. Book sale prices are \$1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks. On January 19 there will be bags of books available

for \$5, and some books will be sold for a reduced price. See hours below. January 16 from 6-8pm will be a members-only preview sale. Memberships will be available for purchase at the door, so it’s the perfect time to join the Friends and help make library events possible!

BOOK SALE HOURS:

Thurs | Jan 16: (Members-only) 6-8pm
Fri | Jan 17: 11am-5pm
Sat | Jan 18: 11am-3pm
Sun | Jan 19: 1-4pm

Whittaker Book Shop Hours:

Monday 10am-6pm
Tuesday 10am-6pm
Wednesday 10am-6pm
Thursday 10am-6pm
Friday..... 10am-4pm
Saturday 10am-4pm
Sunday 2-4pm

Know What You Sign

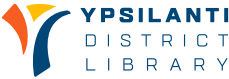
In Michigan, citizens have the power to propose new laws or constitutional amendments through the initiative petition process, a form of direct democracy that lets voters shape state policy outside the legislature. There are currently eight approved petitions, and people may approach you to ask you to sign them. The League of Women Voters encourages you to be aware of petitions that are circulating and what they mean before you decide whether or not to sign.

- There are three different types of proposals:
- Amendments, which change the Michigan Constitution
 - Initiatives, which add a law
 - Referendums, which reject a law passed by the legislature

All require a simple majority to pass. If enough signatures are gathered, they will appear on the November 2026 ballot.

Learn more about the potential ballot proposals at lwvmi.org.

WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG



LOCATIONS & HOURS

YDL-WHITTAKER	YDL-MICHIGAN	YDL-SUPERIOR	YDL-BOOKMOBILE
5577 Whittaker Road Ypsilanti, MI 48197	229 W. Michigan Avenue Ypsilanti, MI 48197	1900 Harris Road Ypsilanti, MI 48198	Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm Fri and Sat: 10am-6pm Sun: 1-5pm	HOURS Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm Fri and Sat: 10am-6pm	HOURS Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm Fri and Sat: 10am-6pm	HOURS Mon-Thurs: 4-8pm
			Neighborhood route and schedule: ypsilibrary.org/bookmobile

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 meeting schedules, locations, agendas, and minutes.

Visit ypsilibrary.org/contact-us or call 734-482-4110 for assistance.

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