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“FIND YOUR JOY” AT THE LIBRARY

National Library Week (NLW) is full of joy in 2026! From April 19-25, libraries across the country will celebrate all of the things that make libraries great, and this year’s theme is “Find Your Joy.”

Appropriately, award-winning librarian, author, and the new host of *Reading Rainbow* Mychal Threets is this year’s Honorary Chair.

“Celebrating libraries, thanking library workers, visiting libraries is how I find my joy,” Threets said. “There are so many library kids and library grown-ups who have yet to fully embrace their library joy, and I am so excited for them!”

“Find Your Joy” is an invitation for people of all backgrounds to explore and discover what sparks joy in them at the library. Discover your next favorite read, get support for your small business, or play *Dungeons & Dragons*. Using your library is supporting your library!

When you visit the library during the week, you may experience a random act of joyfulness—watch out for the library joy-spreading team! You could get a special YDL bumper sticker or another fun prize.

Celebration Days During NLW

Monday | April 20: Right to Read Day - A day for readers, advocates, and library lovers to take action to protect, defend, and celebrate the right to read. The American Library Association (ALA) kicks off National Library Week with the release of its *State of America's Libraries* report, including the list of Top Ten Most Challenged Books of 2025.

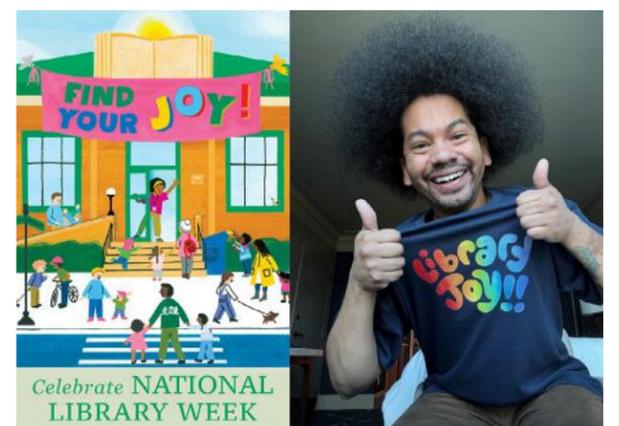
Tuesday | April 21: National Library Workers Day - A day for library staff, users, administrators, and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.

Wednesday | April 22: National Library Outreach Day - A day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.

Thursday | April 23: Take Action for Libraries Day - A day to rally advocates to support libraries. Aubree's on Whittaker Road is hosting another Dine to Donate in support of YDL. Pick up a flyer at any YDL branch (or download it online) and bring it to Aubree's from 11am-10pm. Aubree's will donate 20% of all carryout, dine-in, or delivery orders to YDL. (see page 4).

About National Library Week

In 1958, the American Library Association co-established National Library Week to encourage people to read in their leisure time and support their local libraries. Libraries are most frequently associated with reading and book borrowing, but NLW reminds us that libraries offer our communities so much more.



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THE 2026 FAMILY READ TAKES FLIGHT

YDL's 2026 Family Read is three times the fun! Featuring three books instead of one, this year's programming will explore birds and our connection to the natural world.

The Secret Language of Birds by Lynne Kelly

(chapter book): At summer camp, outsider Nina uncovers a mysterious whooping crane that shouldn't exist, and in solving the puzzle, she begins to find where she belongs.

Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends by Wong Herbert Yee **(early reader):** When spring arrives, Mole and Mouse find a unique way to bird watch.

Sparrow Loves Birds by Murry Burgess **(picture book):** Meet Sparrow—a curious young birder eager to explore her neighborhood's surroundings.

From March 1 - April 5, families can attend bird-themed programs to learn about local and migratory birds and discover simple ways to help protect them. Birds play vital ecological roles as seed dispersers, flower pollinators, pest predators, and so much more. However, habitat loss, urban expansion, and window collisions have put significant strains on wild populations.

YDL's Family Read programming will showcase many aspects of these important creatures. Meet live birds at "Night Owls" on

March 23 at YDL-Superior and "Feathered Friends" on March 28 at YDL-Michigan (see page 6 for more details). Observe birds in nature on a "Family Birding Walk" at Hewens Creek Park with educator Victor Chen from the Washtenaw Bird and Nature Alliance

(see page 6). Learn about owls and other birds of prey at "Outstanding Owls" on March 14 at YDL-Whittaker (see page 6). Create your own bird mask for a Bird Ball on March 18 at YDL-Michigan. The month will wrap up with Spring Break activities.

You'll be entered into a raffle to win a copy of one of the books each time you attend a program!

The Family Read is also paired with our Spring Challenge. Starting March 1, pick up a BINGO card at any YDL Youth Desk to earn prizes by reading, learning, and exploring. Young readers who complete any combination of five activities on the BINGO card in March earn a free book of their choice; adults get a "Birds of the Midwest" identification card. For each extra BINGO kids complete, they get to pick a prize from a Youth Department treasure chest.

Find details and dates for all Family Read programs plus resources for teachers and families—including conversation starters, at-home activity guides courtesy of Flight Path, and links to videos and activities—at ypsilibrary.org/familyread. Contact epietila@ypsilibrary.org for more information.

March is National Reading Month, and this year, YDL's Family Read is sponsored by Flight Path, a Spark of Science @ My Library campaign from HHMI Tangled Bank Studios and STAR Net.

FAMILY READ				
B I N G O				
Read one of the recommended Family Read books.	Attend a library program.	Write a poem about birds.	Family discussion: Read about bird adaptations. What adaptation would you like?	Make a collage that represents your favorite bird.
Attend a library program.	Family discussion: There are many myths and folktales about birds. Talk about ones you know or look up new ones.	Visit YDL's Family Read page. ypsilibrary.org/flight	Visit the author's website of the Family Read book you read and learn about their life.	Look up and interact with Bird Migration Tools. birdcast.info
Watch a video about feeding birds in your backyard.	Design a book jacket that represents the bird book you read.	FREE SPACE	Attend a library program.	Read about the famous bird ornithologist Florence Merriam Bradley.
Start a nature journal and record the birds you see.	Watch Wild Hope's "Building for Birds". bit.ly/BuildingforBirds	Watch a live bird cam. allaboutbirds.org/cams	Family discussion: When bird watching what behaviors do you notice? How do birds interact with each other and the environment?	Go on a bird walk and count the number of birds you see.
Identify local bird calls. Use the app Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab.	Design a poster, ad, or card to promote wildlife preservation for birds and highlight the importance of conservation.	Family Discussion: The state bird of Michigan is the robin. Why do you think it was chosen? Is it a good fit?	Read an informational book about birds. Ask a library staff member for a recommendation!	Attend a library program.

LEARNING TO READ WITH YDL

Youth Librarians at YDL constantly strive to improve our resources for kids learning to read. We've added more activities you can do at home to our reading kits and special stickers to some of our books to make it easier to identify what your emerging reader needs. We've also built a new page—ypsilibrary.org/learning-to-read.

How does a child learn to read?

Reading Rockets, a free national public media literacy initiative, explains it succinctly: *Reading is not a natural ability, but a complex skill that we are taught over time. Children learn to read through... instruction, practice, seeing models, and exposure to a rich variety of print.* Becoming a skilled reader requires learning to decode words through letter sounds and combinations, and understanding how the words fit together to make meaning.

Most kids are ready to start learning between the ages of 5-7.



How YDL is helping

- YDL offers a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction books to build vocabulary and help kids practice their reading. Ask at a Youth Desk if you need help finding a good fit.
- Early Reader collections have used three colors of stickers on book spines to denote how easy or difficult each book is. We've added two new colors to help even more. Light green stickers denote phonics books that work on letter sounds. Purple stickers denote books that focus on specific decoding skills. Our librarians are actively researching and purchasing more books to help in these areas, so the collection will continue to grow.

YDL also has:

- Reading Kits with games and sets of books for grades K-3 that focus on the five skills kids need to become proficient readers.
- Wonderbooks (print books with a ready-to-play audiobook inside) and CD/book sets your child can listen to while following along with the words on the page.
- Library programs designed especially for new readers.

If kids are learning to read at school, talk with their teachers about specific skills they need to work on, then use our Learning to Read webpage or ask library staff for help finding the right tools.

On the new Learning to Read page, you'll see upcoming YDL programs for building reading skills, links to online tips and videos from experts, and definitions to help you understand reading research.

These resources are for kids who are ready to start sounding out words and putting letter sounds together. Until then, be sure to read, talk, sing, and play with your child often to help them learn letter sounds, hear rhymes, build vocabulary, and love books. If you need ideas, sign up for text messages with play-based activities you can do at home by texting "TALK" to 75547. You can also reach out to our Head Youth Librarian directly at jodi@ypsilibrary.org.

END OF AN ERA

After 13 years, the Washtenaw County African American Genealogical Society is suspending their meetings. The last session will be March 21.

"We have enjoyed 13 years of fun and fellowship as together we researched and shared our families' stories," co-chairs Cheryl Garnett and Omer Jean Winborn wrote.

The group met each month and offered support to help navigate complex tools and resources used to research African American ancestry. Jean Winborn will continue offering training sessions and one-on-one genealogy help at YDL.

"To our members, we wish you many more years of successful research," they wrote. "Good luck and thank you."



LOOKING FORWARD

New Library Strategic Plan on the Horizon

YDL will soon be working on our next strategic plan, and we want your help! Informed by your feedback, our 2023-26 plan resulted in a new catalog system, an expanded Library of Things collection, and much more.

We'll be requesting your feedback to shape the next 3-5 years of YDL initiatives. Keep your eye out for ways you can offer your feedback and tell us what you want to see from your library.



Shifting to the Next Gear

This February, YDL's Bookmobile turned 18 years old. Although these specialty vehicles have an average lifespan of 10-15 years, ours is well-loved and has been well cared for.

That said, unexpected maintenance needs keep it off the road more and more each year. In 2025, the Bookmobile was off the road for 40 days.

As part of our new round of strategic planning, we'll look at what a bookmobile of the future should look like. With your help, we've already raised more than \$22,000 towards the \$350,000-\$450,000 we anticipate needing to purchase a new bookmobile. Once an order is placed, it typically takes 2-3 years to get a new bus.

If you'd like to contribute to the fund, visit ypsilibrary.org/donate and select Bookmobile from the drop-down list.



CHECKED OUT A THING LATELY?

YDL's Library of Things (LOT) has grown dramatically since it launched with around 90 items in 2022. With more than 250 unique items in the collection, now there's even more to explore.

The LOT allows patrons to borrow a range of everyday objects—from tools to kitchen appliances to tech gadgets. Visit ypsilibrary.org/lot to explore the library's catalog, reserve items, and check them out from the library. Access items you may only need for a specific project or just to try before you decide to buy.

In 2025, our most popular "Things" were:

- Puzzles
- Hotspots
- A portable DVD player
- A giant 4-in-a-row game
- A heavy duty sewing machine
- A digital radon detector
- Jumbo Jenga

In addition to those favorites, you'll now find cool new offerings along with more of the things you already love, including:

- A robotic therapy cat
- A guitar
- A thermal imaging camera
- An under-desk elliptical exercise machine
- A rotary cutter

WE CAN MEND THAT

For the first time, YDL is offering a repair clinic at our downtown branch. To start, we'll provide basic clothes mending, with the hope of offering more services going forward.

During the first clinic on Thursday, March 26, come for help repairing tears, holes, missing buttons or snaps, simple hemming, or small patchwork. We'll also gather feedback to inform how we can expand services going forward.

"We are honestly just formalizing something that many staff members have done for patrons into a program," said Stephanie Pocsi-Morrison, one of the YDL librarians organizing the event. "I've sewn a button onto a kid's shirt, I've hot-glued and stapled a broken flip-flop strap down, I've super-glued the soles of people's shoes back together, and I've quickly patched a hole in someone's sleeve."

Current staff expertise and resources center around mending, and we'll have sewing machines and knitting looms on hand. By making connections with other community members and organizations, YDL can discover what repair skills would be helpful to our community, as well as who we could partner with to offer those skills.

"My personal main reference point for how I hope we'll grow is the Detroit Repair Cafe that has been operating for several years," said YDL librarian Aaron Smith, another program organizer.

Depending on community needs, future clinics could include eyeglass repair tools and equipment to repair outdoor items, like sleeping bags or tents.

"We have many people who need clothes or textiles mended who do not have access to the equipment or a person to show them how to do it," said Pocsi-Morrison. "We can provide a stress-free space to learn, positive support from staff, and equipment to repair items that people cannot afford to replace."

If you have expertise, tools you'd like to contribute, or requests for future repair clinics, email smorrison@ypsilibrary.org or asmith@ypsilibrary.org.

ALL REPAIR CLINICS WILL BE HELD AT YDL-MICHIGAN:
Mar 26 | 10-11:30am
Apr 14 | 7-8:30pm
May 2 | 1:30-3pm



Our new robotic therapy cat is one of many new items you can explore in YDL's Library of Things.

EVENTS

Adult

Monday | Mar 2

DROP-IN TECH HELP

1-4pm | YDL-Michigan

Need help formatting a document or creating your own workbook? Bring your tech questions and we'll work on it with you.



Wednesdays | Mar 4 - May 27

S.E.A.T. - SUPPORTED EXERCISE FOR AGELESS TRAINING

1-2pm | Virtual

SEAT is a specialized low-impact, chair-based aerobic fitness program for adults, seniors, and those with mobility challenges to improve, maintain, and increase physical strength, balance, and cognitive function. *No session Apr 29.*

Saturday | Mar 7

INTUITIVE SONGWRITING WORKSHOP WITH YPSIWITES

11am-12:15pm | YDL-Superior

Join local singer-songwriter Joanna Sterling and YpsiWrites to develop ideas and lyrics to bring your song to life. All experience levels are welcome. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Tuesdays | Mar 10 & 24

SHARED HOUSING PROGRAM - WHA DROP-IN HOURS

10:30am-1:30pm | YDL-Michigan

A program coordinator from the Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA) will be on-site to:

- Share information about the program
- Complete intakes for home providers and home seekers (*people seeking housing must be ages 55+*)
- Help match participants when possible
- Provide referrals and information about additional community resources

Wednesdays | Mar 11 | Apr 15 | May 13

MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY OUTREACH

12-2pm | YDL-Whittaker

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

Friday | Mar 13

CRAFTERNOONS - WOODBLOCKING

(Ages 55+)

2-4pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us for a lighthearted afternoon working on woodblocking. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Wednesdays | Mar 11 | Apr 8 | May 13

CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT

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

Join us to watch some classic movies.

Mar 11: *The Narrow Margin* (1952) directed by Richard Fleischer (Noir)

Apr 8: *Easy Living* (1937) directed by Mitchell Leisen (Comedy)

May 13: *The Dark Corner* (1946) directed by Henry Hathaway (Noir)

Fridays | Mar 13 | Apr 10 | May 8

MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY OUTREACH

11am-1pm | YDL-Michigan

See March 11 description.

Saturday | Mar 14

DADS AS DOULAS WITH WRAPPED IN LOVE

10:30-11:30am | 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.

Sunday | Mar 15

LATIN SOCIAL DANCE WORKSHOP

2-3pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join U-M lecturer and theatre artist Emilio Rodriguez for a latin social dance/music workshop featuring original music from the upcoming musical *Salomé* from the Black and Brown Theatre which celebrates Caribbean and Puerto Rican folklore and will premiere at the Riverside Arts Center in March. *Supported by the Culture Source Washtenaw Artist Grant.*

Mar 14 | Apr 16 | May 23

YPSIWITES: WRITERS ROOM & DROP-IN CONSULTING

(Ages 15+)

Join other writers for open writing time with YpsiWrites. Register at tinyurl.com/YpsiWritesWritersRoom.

Saturday | Mar 14 | 11am-12:30pm | Virtual

Thursday | Apr 16 | 6:30-8pm | YDL-Superior

Saturday | May 23 | 11am-12:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Wednesday | Mar 18

WHAT IS A DOULA?

6:30-8pm | 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.

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Sunday | Mar 22

GARDENING 101

(Ages 12+)

2-3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Are you new to gardening and need help getting started? This basics presentation is a great way to begin. Advanced Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck will stay after the event to answer your gardening questions.

Mar 26 | Apr 14 | May 2

REPAIR CLINIC

See description for times | YDL-Michigan

Get help mending a variety of personal items and participate in a discussion about shaping future Repair Clinics. See page 3 for more.

Thursday | Mar 26 | 10-11:30am

Tuesday | Apr 14 | 7-8:30pm

Saturday | May 2 | 1:30-3pm



Thursday | Mar 26

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY

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

The last session of this free Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy (WACA) series, talks about behavior supports and school-based interventions. Hear a brief presentation followed by optional one-on-one meetings to discuss individual parent or caregiver concerns.

Saturday | Mar 28

PHIL HALE QUARTET

2-3pm | YDL-Superior

YDL welcomes the Phil Hale Jazz Quartet, featuring Phil Hale on keys, John Douglas on trumpet, John Barron on bass, and Djallo Djakate on drums. Hear modern takes on standard jazz with a strong swing twist. *Sponsored by the Jazz Foundation of America.*



Saturday | Mar 28

SENSORIAL GARDENS: WRITING TOGETHER WITH OUR SENSES

(Ages 14+)

3-4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Participate in guided awareness exercises and creative writing prompts to tune into our senses, bring attention to our bodily sensations, and observe more purposefully with 2025-2026 Writer of Ypsilanti Stephanie Heit. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Mar 28

INK DRINKER READING SERIES: SCI-FI WITH ANDREW LUDINGTON AND JARED BENTLEY

3-5pm | YDL-Michigan

Dive into sci-fi with authors Andrew Ludington—*Splinter Effect*—and Jared Bentley—*Robots, Please*. Each will read from their work and hold a conversation together with time for Q+A.

Thursdays | Apr 2-23

POETRY MONTH WORKSHOPS

4pm | YDL-Michigan

Come in to learn, meet new people, and workshop a piece of poetry. Participants can even enter it in YDL's Poetry Contest! Learn more on page 8.

Saturday | Apr 4

BETTER LIVING SENIOR HEALTH FAIR: FOCUS ON CANCER

10am-2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Local organizations and medical students from the University of Michigan will be on hand to answer all your questions and provide support and resources. The focus will be on seniors, but all are welcome.

Thursday | Apr 9

GAINING COURAGE THROUGH POETRY

(Ages 14+)

6:30-8pm | Virtual

Join YpsiWrites and retired EMU Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies Elisabeth Däumer, along with poet and clinical social worker David Boeving, in an exploration of courage and the poetry of Muriel Rukeyser. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Thursday | Apr 9

BREASTFEEDING BASICS WITH WRAPPED IN LOVE

6:30-8pm | YDL-Superior

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

Saturday | Apr 11

YDL PUZZLE COMPETITION

2-5pm | YDL-Superior

Join us for YDL's spring jigsaw puzzle competition. For questions or to sign up your two-person team, call 734-482-4110 x1470.



Saturday | Apr 11

INK DRINKER READING SERIES: A CITY ON MARS

3-5pm | YDL-Michigan

Explore new territory with Kelly Weinersmith, author of *A City on Mars: Can We Settle Space, Should We Settle Space, and Have We Really Thought This Through?*

Saturday | Apr 18

NEEDLE FELTING: BUMBLEBEES

11am-1pm | YDL-Superior

Learn the basics of needle felting by making an adorable little bumblebee in time for spring decorating and festivities. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Apr 18

THE GIFT OF SONG

(Ages 10+)

3-4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

The Threshold Singers will share peaceful, soothing music to bring you comfort and support in meeting life's challenges. Bring a cushion or yoga mat if you'd like. We invite you to quietly sing along with us.

Monday | Apr 20

GRIEVE WELL: UNDERSTANDING GRIEF WEBINAR

7-8:30pm | Virtual

Learn about grief and its effects on physical and emotional health. You will receive information and resources to help you move through your grief journey in a way that leads toward healing. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Tuesday | Apr 21

LEGO LETTERPRESS

6-7:15pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn how to use LEGOS for a unique twist on traditional printmaking! Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Thursday | Apr 23

DINE TO DONATE AT AUBREE'S

11am-10pm | 2122 Whittaker Rd.

Enjoy delicious pizza 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.

Friday | Apr 24

POETRY MONTH OPEN MIC AND AWARDS CEREMONY

3-5pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us for a celebration of creativity, expression, and the power of words! The evening will feature heartfelt poetry readings from our Poetry Contest finalists and anyone else compelled to share. Learn more on page 8.

Saturday | Apr 25

EBRU MARBLING

(12+)

1-3pm & 3:30-5:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Learn the history and science of ebru while creating patterns such as leaves, flowers, trees, and rainbows. Go home with a set of six marbled greeting cards and envelopes, as well as a 4"x6" frameable piece of basswood. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Apr 25

YPSILANTI POET PANEL

(Ages 14+)

2-3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join five local poets—David Boeving, Angelica Esquivel, Marie Williamson, John Allen Taylor, and Stephanie Heit—for a conversation about their creative process and publication journeys.

Saturday | Apr 25

EASE YOUR MIND: MINDFUL COLORING

(Ages 55+)

2-4pm | YDL-Whittaker

Reduce stress and increase focus by making greeting cards (including for Mother's Day) for loved ones. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Sunday | Apr 26

VEGETABLE GARDENING 101

(Ages 12+)

2-3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Want to grow your own tasty and nutritious salad greens and tomatoes? Come and learn the basics. Advanced Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck will stay after the event to answer your gardening questions.

Thurs-Sun | Apr 30-May 3

FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALE

See description for times | 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.

Apr 30 | 6-8pm (Friends of YDL members only)

May 1 | 11am-5pm

May 2 | 11am-3pm

May 3 | 1-3pm

Thursday | Apr 30

CHILDBIRTH BASICS

6:30-8pm | YDL-Superior

Join Wrapped in Love Doula & Lactation Support to learn what to expect as you welcome your new baby.

Saturday | May 9

MOTHER'S DAY CARDS & CRAFTS

11am-1pm | YDL-Whittaker

Celebrate Mother's Day by creating a keychain and/or making a card for your mother figure.



Saturday | May 9

CAR SEAT SAFETY WITH WASHTENAW SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

12-3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Officer Toneka Smith will provide all instructional materials, equipment, and resources to ensure you know how to install your car seat safely.

Saturday | May 9

YPSIWITES WRITER IN RESIDENCE CELEBRATION

(Ages 14+)

1-3pm | YDL-Whittaker

YpsiWrites' Writer in Residence Angelica Esquivel will reflect on and read her work from the past year. The 2026 Writer in Residence will be announced, and they will discuss their vision for their residency, followed by an open mic and light refreshments. Sign up for the open mic at tinyurl.com/YW05092.

Saturday | May 9

THE SEARCH FOR ANNA & LEVI: A LOST HISTORY OF THE BLACK HOMESTEADERS OF LEELENAU COUNTY

2-4pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us to watch this 40-minute documentary that brings to light an overlooked chapter of Leelanau County's history and the broader story of African American settlement in the Midwest.

Saturday | May 16

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SWAP

11am-12pm | YDL-Whittaker

Drop by and exchange your favorite native plants with fellow gardeners. Bring your own plants to share and leave with new treasures for your garden!



Saturday | May 16

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS FAIR

12-3pm | Prospect Park

Courtesy of YCS and NAMI Washtenaw County. Visit with over 20 vendors with mental health resources, and enjoy snacks and music.

Saturday | May 16

YPSIWRITES COLLECTIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: AMORPHOUS BLOB (15+)
2-3:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Local author Jared M. Bentley leads writers in an epic competition called the Amorphous Blob Story-Off! Participants will receive a story assignment, then team up to write together. Writers will keep combining their stories as they move through a tournament-style bracket, until only one blob (aka one story) remains. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Sunday | May 17

FLOWER GARDENING 101 (Ages 12+)
2-3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn the basics of growing your own lovely flowers to beautify your home or to give bouquets to others. Advanced Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck will stay after the event to answer your gardening questions.

Wednesday | May 20

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: HEALTH INSURANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES
6:30-8pm | Virtual

Mike Gatteri from HealthMarkets Insurance will discuss all the factors you may wish to consider when navigating the health insurance market. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | May 23

CYANOTYPE BOOKMARKS
1-2:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Cyanotypes are one of the most accessible alternative photographic processes. Discover how they work and create a one-of-a-kind bookmark! Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | May 23

GARDEN PLANTING
2-3pm | YDL-Superior

Come help us plant our Learning Garden. Gloves and tools will be provided. Wear clothing that can get dirty.

Friday | May 29

SELF LOVE IS NOT SELFISH: SELF CARE FOR CAREGIVERS
2-4pm | YDL-Whittaker

Caregivers work hard for those that they love, support, and care for, but often forget themselves in the process. This presentation will offer valuable tools, encouragement, and resources. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.



Saturday | May 30

INK DRINKER READING SERIES: POETRY WITH DAVID BOEVING AND JILL DARLING
3-5pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us for an evening of readings, discussion, and connection with local teachers and writers David Boeving and Jill Darling.

Adult Meetups

Mondays | Mar 2 - May 18

MAHJONG MEETUP
1-3pm | YDL-Whittaker

Weekly Mahjong group for new and experienced players. American and Chinese-style sets will be provided, but feel free to bring your own.

Mondays | Mar 2 | Apr 6 | May 4

READ IT & EAT IT: COOKBOOK CLUB
6-7:30pm | 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.
March: *Start Here* by Sohla El-Wayly
April: *Big Vegan Flavor* by Nisha Vora
May: *By Heart* by Hailee Catalano

Mondays | Mar 2 | Apr 6

SEW SOCIAL
7-8pm | YDL-Superior

Bring your latest project and meet others who enjoy needlework. All skill levels welcome.

Tuesdays | Mar 3 - May 26

ESL COMMUNITY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY
1-2:30pm | YDL-Superior

Practice English language skills in an informal, relaxed setting. **No classes Apr 28 or May 5.**

Tuesday | Mar 3 - May 26

MEDITATION WITH EASE: GUIDED IN-PERSON MEDITATION
6:30pm | YDL-Superior

Drop in for simple, guided, nonreligious awareness practices with friendly people. **No class May 5.**

Tuesdays | Mar 3 - May 26

FELLOWSHIP OF THE FIBER
6-8pm | YDL-Whittaker

Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or do other needlecraft? Join us to work on any craft you can carry.

Tuesdays | Mar 3 | Apr 7 | May 5

GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY BUNCH
7-8pm | YDL-Whittaker

Share stories and research techniques, work with old photos, and connect with other people interested in genealogy.

Wednesdays | Mar 4 - May 27

ESL BOOK CLUB
11am-12:30pm | 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. **No class Apr 1.**



Wednesdays | Mar 4 - May 27

MOVING FOR BETTER BALANCE WITH THE ANN ARBOR YMCA
4-5pm | YDL-Whittaker

Come to this free fall-prevention program that uses the principles of Tai Chi to help older adults increase their strength, improve their balance, and increase their confidence.

Wednesdays | Mar 4 - May 27

BASIC LITERACY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY
4-5:30pm | YDL-Superior

Drop-in tutoring in reading, writing, and more. **No classes Apr 29 or May 6.**

Wednesdays | Mar 4 & 18 | Apr 1 & 15 | May 6 & 20

CROCHET CLUB
6-9pm | YDL-Whittaker

Gather with other crocheters to crochet, share projects, get ideas, and more. Adults only.

Wednesdays | Mar 4 | Apr 1 | May 6

EUCHRE CLUB - MICHIGAN AVE
6:30-8:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Play tournament-style euchre at YDL. Players will be shuffled after each game. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events to ensure a spot.

Wednesdays | Mar 4 | Apr 22

BOOBIE CLUB WITH WRAPPED IN LOVE
6:30-7:30pm | YDL-Superior

This is a safe space for anyone planning to or currently breastfeeding to meet other parents and get support from lactation experts.

Thursdays | Mar 5 | Apr 2 | May 7

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP
10:30am-12pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join us on the first Thursday of the month to discuss a variety of fiction and nonfiction books.
March: *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes
April: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
May: *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel

Thursdays | Mar 5 | Apr 2 | May 7

YDL FILM CLUB
7-8pm | 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.

Fridays | Mar 6 & 13 | Apr 3-24 | May 22 & 29

CHAIR YOGA FOR ALL LEVELS
10:30-11:30am | YDL-Superior

Instructor Melanie Herron will lead you through slow, mindful movements to create length and space in both the mind and body.

Fridays | Mar 6 - Apr 24 | May 22 & 29

DIGITAL LITERACY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY
12-2pm | 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.

Saturdays | Mar 7 & 21 | Apr 4 & 18 | May 2, 16 & 30

YDL GUITAR CLUB
10am-12pm | YDL-Michigan

Practice your skills, learn new songs, and play in a group.

Mondays | Mar 9 | Apr 13 | May 11

DOWNTOWN QUEER CRAFTING GROUP
6pm | YDL-Michigan

LGBTQIA+ folks are invited to bring projects to work on and build a creative community.

Tuesdays | Mar 10 | Apr 14 | May 12

SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB
7-8pm | YDL-Whittaker

An adult book discussion group. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 10: *Alien Clay* by Adrian Tchaikovsky

Apr 14: *The Ophiuchi Hotline* by John Varley

May 12: *Hollow Kingdom* by Kira Jane Buxton

Thursdays | Mar 12 | Apr 9 | May 14

YPSILANTI ZINE CLUB
6-8pm | 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. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Thursdays | Mar 12 | Apr 9 | May 14

BOARD GAME MEET UP (Ages 13+)
6:30-8:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

The library will provide a rotating selection of board games, but you can bring your own to play, share, or teach. Each session, a staff member will teach and play a highlighted game for anyone interested.

Saturdays | Mar 14 | Apr 25 | May 23

BITE-SIZE BOOK CLUB
2:30-4pm | YDL-Michigan

We read a short story and then we talk about it. And that's literally it. No homework! Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Wednesday | Mar 18

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: STARTING YOUR CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS
6:30-8pm | Virtual

Jeff Brown from Dexter Builders will talk about licensing, bonding, financial and insurance requirements, as well as permitting issues for the different construction trades.

Wednesdays | Mar 18 | Apr 15 | May 20

RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP (Ages 16+)

7-8:30pm | YDL-Michigan or Virtual
Join Washtenaw Faces Race to discuss nonfiction books, articles, and reports exploring racism, privilege, discrimination, social justice, and our democracy. To register, email Joy Cichewicz at worksofjoy@gmail.com.

Thursdays | Mar 19 | Apr 16 | May 21

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
1-2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join us each month as we work to address the needs of older adults at the library.

Thursdays | Mar 19 | Apr 16 | May 21

QUEER BOOK GROUP
6:30-8pm | YDL-Michigan

Read and discuss literature written by diverse queer writers. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar. 19: *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant* by Curtis Chin

Apr. 16: *The Death I Gave Him* by Em X. Liu

May 21: *Falling Back in Love With Being Human* by Kai Cheng Thom

Thursdays | Mar 19 | Apr 16 | May 21

EUCHRE CLUB - WHITTAKER
6:30-8:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

See March 4 description.

Saturday | Mar 21

WASHTENAW AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (WAAGS)
10:30am-12:30pm | Virtual

March 21 will be the last meeting of the Washtenaw African American Genealogical Society. (See page 2). Attendees will obtain tools to successfully navigate the complex embedded resources of African American ancestry. Contact Jean Winborn at owinborn@yahoo.com.

Wednesdays | Mar 25 | Apr 29 | May 27

PARANORMAL CLUB
6:30-8:30pm | 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.



Mondays | Mar 30 | Apr 27

BANNED BOOK CLUB (Ages 16+)

7-8:15pm | YDL-Superior
Discuss books that have sparked controversy and inspired change. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

March: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

April: *American Street* by Ibi Zoboi

Tuesdays | Mar 31 | Apr 28 | May 26

VIRTUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
7-9pm | Virtual

Join us for lively discussions of books by African American authors.

Mar 31: *107 Days* by Kamala Harris

Apr 28: *King of Ashes* by S.A. Cosby

May 26: *The Devil You Know* by Charles M. Blow

Fridays | May 8 & 22

FRIDAY WALKING CLUB (Ages 55+)

10:30-11:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Join us for a 30-minute walk along a path near the library. Questions? Call 734-482-4110 x2411.



Teen/Tween

Thursday | Mar 5

TWEEN/TEEN INTERNSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FAIR (Ages 12-24)

6-8pm | YDL-Michigan
Local community organizations will help tweens and teens with networking skills, hard and soft skills, and provide them with opportunities for growth and empowerment.

Saturday | Mar 7

GYOZA AND A FILM (Ages 12-18)

3:30-5pm | YDL-Whittaker
Watch local filmmaker Toko Shiiki's short film *Tsumugu: Spinning the Thread of Life*, and learn to make vegetarian gyoza, then eat while you chat about the film, food, manga, and more.

Saturday | Mar 28

SPRING WREATHS (Ages 10-16)

3:30-4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Create paper flowers and arrange them into a lovely spring wreath.



Tuesday | Mar 31

TEEN SELF-CARE FAIR (Ages 12-18)

6:30-8:30pm | YDL-Michigan
A bonanza of self-care options for any and all teens! We will take over the basement floor to indulge our senses in multiple areas of self-care while filling our cups.

Saturday | Apr 18

TEEN TEA PARTY (Ages 12-18)

3:30-4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Make and sample a variety of teas such as boba, matcha, chai, and fruity blends. Eat fancy finger foods, too!

Tuesday | Apr 21

PLASTIC PIXEL ART
4-5pm | YDL-Superior

Using STEM principles, tweens and teens can make their own pixel art design—or recreate one—with Perler beads.



Saturday | Apr 25

INTRODUCTION TO SEWING

(Ages 10-16)
2-3pm | YDL-Whittaker
Learn sewing fundamentals as well as some basic stitches. Make a stitch and needle book out of felt.

Teen/Tween Meetups

Thursdays | Mar 5 | Apr 2 | May 7

TWEEN BOOK CLUB (Grades 6-8)

6:30-7:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and enjoy a snack. Registration required; email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org.

Mar 5: *The Girl Who Could Fly* by Victoria Forester

Apr 2: *The Hidden Oracle* by Rick Riordan

May 7: *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin

Tuesdays | Mar 10 & 24 | Apr 14 & 28 | May 12

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)

4:30-5:30pm | 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.



Saturdays | Mar 14 & 28 | Apr 11 & 25 | May 9 & 23

D&D: DROP-IN FOR TEENS

10:30-11:30am | 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.

Thursdays | Mar 19 | Apr 23

TEEN BOOK CLUB (Ages 13-18)

6:30-7:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join YDL board member and educator Jean Winborn and other teens to explore a different YA book each month. Email jodi@ypsilibrary.org with questions or to get a copy of the month's book.

Mar 19: Read *The Fragrant Flower Blooms with Dignity* by Saka Mikami and watch an episode of the manga while eating strawberry shortcake.

Apr 14: Read *The Dividing Sky* by Jill Tew and decorate cookies.

Fridays | Mar 20 | Apr 17

TEEN STEAM CAFÉ (Ages 12-18)

6-8pm | 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.

Wednesday | Apr 22

ROUTINES, PRODUCTS, AND HAIR CONCERNS (Ages 10+)

6-7:30pm | YDL-Michigan

In this session of the *Embracing Your Crown* series, we will explore hair care routines and hair products that address different seasonal or ongoing hair concerns. Licensed cosmetologist Jazmeen Fortune will lead conversation and activities.



Kids & Parents

Thursdays | Mar 5-26

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: COOKING

(Ages 8-16)

5-6pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn skills for making the ultimate sandwich. Topics will include sprouts and microgreens, pickling, bread baking, and sandwich making (flavor balancing).

Thursdays | Mar 5 - Apr 2

YOUTH ASTRONET PROGRAM

(Ages 9-15)

6-8pm | YDL-Superior

Learn about the universe and its many parts. Participants will manipulate robotic telescope images and create a presentation of their final chosen images. Use art materials to recreate the images found in the night sky. Contact nrussell@ypsilibrary.org to register for all sessions.



Saturday | Mar 7

LIFE-SAVING SKILLS 101

2-3pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn from a group of University of Michigan medical students how to perform CPR, administer an epi-pen, and how to respond to seizures and asthma attacks. This workshop is designed for kids 8-12 years old and their parents.



Sunday | Mar 8

SOMETIMES, I WISH

2-3pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join Spinning Dot Theatre for a reimaging of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. Spinning Dot Theatre performs global plays for family audiences with a mixed generation cast of actors.

Mondays | Mar 9 & 23 | Apr 13 & 27

READ TO SIMBA THE LIBRARY DOG

(Ages 4-10)

5-7pm | YDL-Whittaker

Come to the library between 4:45pm and 6:30pm to grab a ticket at the Youth desk with your assigned time slot to read to Simba.

Thursdays | Mar 12 & 26 | Apr 9 & 23 | May 14 & 28

READ TO QUINN THE LIBRARY DOG

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

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

Saturday | Mar 14

OUTSTANDING OWLS - FAMILY READ

(Ages 5+)

2-3pm | YDL-Whittaker

Explore "wide-eyed owls" through movement, artifacts, and taxidermy. We'll also listen to the sounds of Michigan owls and try to mimic them! No live animals at this event. Sponsored by *Flight Path*.



Saturday | Mar 14

SHOW & TELL FOR KIDS (Ages 4+)

2-4pm | YDL-Michigan

Kids can bring in an item that is special to them and take turns talking and answering questions about it.



Saturday | Mar 14

STEM AND STORIES WITH BLACK MEN READ

(Ages 5+)

3-4pm | YDL-Superior

Offered in two age groups: K-2 and 3-6. Each session introduces age-appropriate STEM concepts through fun, interactive activities grounded in everyday experiences. Then, hear a live story from one of Black Men Read's guests.

Monday | Mar 16

FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: BATIK EGGS

7-8:30 PM | YDL-Michigan

Make patterns on an egg with hot glue. Dip in dye, add more glue, dip in another color. Repeat. All supplies provided - bring your curiosity and creativity. Kids, bring an adult to help you. Choose hollow real eggs or wooden eggs. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Wednesday | Mar 18

BIRD BALL! FAMILY READ

6:30-8pm | YDL-Michigan

Create your own bird mask to delight the crowd, learn stunning dance moves based on bird movements, and show off your mask and new dance moves during our Bird Ball!

Thursdays | Mar 19 | Apr 16 | May 21

READ TO BAMBI THE LIBRARY DOG

5:45-7:30pm | 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 | Mar 21

COOL SPRING VEGGIES

1:30-2:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Help us sow seeds for cool-weather crops.

Saturday | Mar 21

STEMFEST: U-M SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT

2-4pm | YDL-Whittaker

Visit with University of Michigan scientists and participate in hands-on activities to learn about their cutting-edge research.

Sunday | Mar 22

BIRDING WALK - FAMILY READ

2pm | Hewens Creek Park | 6547 Bemis Rd

Take a walk with educator Victor Chen from the Washtenaw Bird and Nature Alliance to look for migrating water birds.



Monday | Mar 23

NIGHT OWLS BIRD PROGRAM - FAMILY READ

6:30-7:30pm | YDL-Superior

Join the Michigan Avian Experience and learn about owls. There will be live birds at this event!

Saturday | March 28

EASTER EGG HUNT

11am | Firemans Park 8795 MacArthur Blvd.

Arrive early, as space is limited.

Saturday | Mar 28

LESLIE SCIENCE & NATURE CENTER: FEATHERED FRIENDS - FAMILY READ

2-3pm | YDL-Michigan

Let your imaginations take flight as we soar through a story about our avian ambassadors. After the story, learn more about our feathered friends and meet a native Michigan bird. Tailored to a preschool audience and live animals will be present.

Mon-Fri | Mar 30 - Apr 3

SPRING BREAK STEM: BIRDS

12-1pm | YDL-Whittaker

Drop in over Spring Break for hands-on activities related to this year's Family Read topic: Birds.

Monday, Mar 30: Bird Origami

Tuesday, Mar 31: Bird Window Decals

Wednesday, Apr 1: Learn to identify local bird species and survival strategies of seasonal birds vs. year-round residents

Thursday, Apr 2: Ecosystem Comparison with tools from Huron-Clinton Metroparks

Friday, Apr 3: Make tiny homes for magical birds with members of the National Art Education Association from EMU.

Mon-Sat | Mar 30-Apr 4

SPRING BREAK DOWNTOWN

2pm | YDL-Michigan

Mon | Mar 30: Open Play STEM- Animal Habitats

Tues | Mar 31: Catapults

Wed | Apr 1: Lego Free Play

Thurs | Apr 2: Movie - *Wicked*

Fri | Apr 3: Ziplines

Sat | Apr 4: Lego Free Play

Tuesday | Mar 31

FAMILY HUSTLE PARTY (Ages 7+)

4-5:30pm | YDL-Superior

Sherry Hawkins and her team from Dance With Elegance will teach a few line dances to get the entire family moving.

Wednesday | Apr 1

MOVEMENT PLAY WITH HEALTHY HABITS (All ages)

12-2pm | YDL-Superior

Try out a variety of movement stations and enjoy a healthy snack.

Thursdays | Apr 9-23

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: SPACE TRAVEL

(Ages 4-14)

5-6pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn STEM skills related to space travel with hands-on activities for kids designed by NASA.

Apr 9: Make and launch foam rockets

Apr 16: Code a VinciBot "rover"

Apr 23: Take a tour of the planets in our solar system and make a planet to take home

Saturday | Apr 11

CHESS TOURNAMENT (Ages 6-18)

10am-4pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join Jenny Skidmore-Smith and the YDL Chess Club for a rated tournament, with 5 rounds of G/30 or G/25 5 sec delay time control. Trophies, prizes, pins, and pizza provided! Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Apr 11

ARABIC FOLKTALES

2-3pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join award-winning local author Hadil Ghoneim to celebrate National Arab American Heritage Month. Ghoneim will read from her new book, *Arabic Folktales for Children*, a bilingual collection of eight Arabic folktales.

Sunday | Apr 12

THE SPINNING DOT THEATRE PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP PERFORMANCE

2-3pm | YDL-Whittaker

Local playwrights José Casas and Adam Weisman led exciting free playwriting workshops in our community over the last year. In the culmination of this series, workshop participants will share their work. Come and hear new voices and new plays.

Saturday | Apr 18

BE BRAVE, BE KIND, BE YOU (Ages 8-12)

2-3pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join Ashley Jordan, author of *Social-Emotional Learning Advocate*, for a workshop on building confidence, focus, and self-esteem. Learn techniques while you make a glitter calm-down bottle and an affirmation jar to take home.

Monday | Apr 20

FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: SPROUT JARS

7-8:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Design your own simple label and watch our Cricut cut the design into a permanent vinyl sticker. Apply it to a mason jar, and go home with a sprout lid and a small packet of sprout seeds. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Saturday | Apr 25

FAMILY BIRDING INTRODUCTION AND WALK

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

Join us for a brief introduction to birding and take a short walk to the Water Street Trail. Then we'll come back to the library and make pine cone bird feeders.

Apr 25

KITE & ROCKET DAY

11am-2pm | 8795 MacArthur Blvd.

Tuesdays | May 5-19

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: GARDENING

5-6pm | YDL-Whittaker

Help start the library garden and learn about seed sprouting, complementary plants, and fertilization in this three-part series. Designed for kids and families, but teens can earn service hours, too. Contact mbrito@ypsilibrary.org for information.

Saturday | May 9

BIRD WATCHING FOR BEGINNERS

10:00am | Cherry Hill Nature Preserve | 6375 Cherry Hill Road

Saturday | May 9

BEE STORYTIME (Ages 3-8)

11am-12pm | YDL-Whittaker

Celebrate World Bee Day with a read-aloud of *Harlan and the Bee*, then make seed bombs with Growing Hope and learn to plant seeds to attract pollinators. Each child will get a take-home bag of supplies to help the bees at home!



Saturday | May 30

DOWNTOWN GARDEN PLANT OUT

1:30-2:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Help install baby seedlings in the library garden.

Kids & Parents Meetups

Tuesdays | Mar 3 - Apr 7

AFTER-SCHOOL WRITING LAB WITH 826MICHIGAN (Grades 3-5)

5:30-6:30pm | YDL-Michigan

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

Wednesdays | Mar 4 - Apr 8

YOUTH CHESS CLUB (Grades K-12)

4:30-5:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

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

Saturdays | Mar 7 - Apr 25

WEE-WRITE WITH 826MICHIGAN

(Ages 5-8)
12-1pm | YDL-Whittaker
Hear a book read aloud each week and pay attention to one special thing the writer does. Then work on activities inspired by that idea.

Thursdays | Mar 19 | Apr 16 | May 21

KIDS BOOK CLUB (Grades 3-5)

6:30-7:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and enjoy a snack. Registration required: email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org.
Mar 19: *Comics Squad: Lunch!* by Jennifer L. Holm et al
Apr 16: *Big Nate: In a Class by Himself* by Lincoln Peirce
May 21: *Hilo: Rise of the Cat* by Judd Winick

Tuesdays | Apr 7-28

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

(Grades 2-5)
5-6pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us this session for *Kindred Dragons* by Sarah Mensinga. Enjoy listening to the book read aloud, followed by a themed STEAM activity each week.

Stories and Fun for Little Ones

Fridays | Mar 6 | Apr 10 | May 8

FAIRY TALE FRIDAYS (Ages 4-8)

1-2pm | YDL-Whittaker
Participate in activities around a different fairy tale each month.
Mar 6: *The Ugly Duckling*
Apr 10: *Little Red Riding Hood*
May 8: *Rumpelstiltskin*

Saturday | Mar 7

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN FAIR

12:30-3pm | YDL-Michigan
Meet with representatives from local preschools and kindergartens to find a good fit for your little one. Learn about support organizations and local resources, what is available at the library to support you and your child, and connect with other parents of little ones. If you represent a school or daycare and want to have a table at the event, email djackson@ypsilibrary.org.



Wednesdays | Mar 11 | Apr 8 | May 13

READING READINESS BOOK CLUB

5:30-6:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Kids ages 3-6 and caregivers will work together to understand pre-reading skills, how they support reading readiness, and how to practice them. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Fridays & Saturdays | Mar 13 & 14 | Apr 17 & 18

SENSORY STATIONS (Ages 2-6)

11am-12pm | YDL-Whittaker
Explore themed sensory and art stations 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.
Mar 13 & 14: *Birds!* Part of this year's Family Read.
Apr 17 & 18: *Happy Birthday!* Explore sensory bins, play pretend bakery, and make art.

Friday | Mar 27

LITTLE ONES DANCE

11am-12pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join dance instructor Christina Sears for a lively creative movement class. Enjoy delightful music, fun motor activities, and creative play.

Saturday | Mar 28

CIRQUE AMONGUS (Ages 3-6)

11am-12pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join Cirque AmongUs to try out different circus skills especially designed for little ones.



Saturday | Apr 25

LITTLE ONES FAMILY PROM (Ages 0-6)

11am-12pm | YDL-Whittaker
Get dressed up for a morning of music, dancing, light snacks, and a craft. Capture the occasion with a commemorative photo to take home. Dance the day away, but still be home in time for naps.

Monday | May 4

KINDERCONCERTS

10am & 11am | YDL-Whittaker
Join members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra for a concert curated for little ones. Hear pianist Melissa Coppola and percussionist John Dorsey, with Jaxon Williams leading kids through movement as they listen to the music.

MONDAYS

Mondays | Mar 2-16 | Apr 13-27

JUMPSTART STORYTIME

10:30-11:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Find an engaging blend of activities and stories designed to help prepare preschoolers for school success, from scissor skills to STEM.



Mondays | Mar 2-16 | Apr 13 - May 4

LITTLE ONES STORYTIME

10:30-11:30am | YDL-Michigan
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 | Mar 3-17 | Apr 14-28

BABY TIME

10:30-11:30am | 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 | Mar 3-17 | Apr 14 - May 5

DISCOVERY TIME

10:30-11:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Learn preschool readiness skills from ABCs to kindness with music and movement followed by exploratory play-based learning activities.

Tuesdays | Mar 3-17 | Apr 14 - May 5

JUMPSTART STORYTIME

1-2pm | YDL-Whittaker

See Monday description.

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays | Mar 4-18 | Apr 15 - May 6

READ, SING, PLAY (Walkers to Age 3)

10:30-11:30am | 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.

Wednesdays | Mar 4-18 | Apr 15 - May 6

BABY TIME

10:30-11:30am | YDL-Whittaker

See Tuesday description.

THURSDAYS

Thursdays | Mar 5-19 | Apr 16 - May 7

DISCOVERY TIME

10:30-11:30am | YDL-Superior

See Tuesday description.

Thursdays | Mar 5-19 | Apr 16 - May 7

READ, SING, PLAY (Walkers to Age 3)

10:30-11:30am | YDL-Whittaker

See Wednesday description.

FRIDAYS

Fridays | Mar 6-20 | Apr 17-May 8

JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN: DOWNTOWN

10:30-11:30am | 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 YDL-Whittaker. To schedule a session at YDL-Superior, call 734-482-4110 x2431 or email mgeiman@ypsilibrary.org.

Tues, Mar 3 at 6:30pm | Sat, Apr 11 at 10:30am

MICROSOFT WORD – BASICS

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

Wed, Mar 4 at 2pm | Tues, May 19 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, Mar 10 at 6:30pm | Sat, Apr 11 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.

Wed, Mar 11 at 10:30am | Tues, May 5 at 2pm

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, Mar 18 at 10:30am | Tues, May 12 at 2pm

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.

Thurs, Mar 12 at 7pm | Wed, May 27 at 2pm

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, Mar 14 at 10:30am | Wed, Apr 15 at 2pm

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.

Sat, Mar 14 at 2pm | Thurs, Apr 23 at 6:30pm

MICROSOFT POWERPOINT – BASICS

YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation.

Tues, Mar 17 at 6:30pm | Sat, Apr 25 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, Mar 19 at 6:30pm | Sat, Apr 25 at 10:30am

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.

Mar 21 | Apr 21 | May 14

CANVA 201: TIPS & TRICKS

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

Saturday | Mar 21 | 11am | YDL-Superior

Tuesday | Apr 21 | 6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Thursday | May 14 | 6:30pm | YDL-Superior

Tues, Mar 24 at 7pm | Sat, May 30 at 10:30am

COMPUTER BASICS

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

Sat, Mar 28 at 10:30am | Wed, Apr 22 at 2pm

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.

Sat, Mar 28 at 2pm | Wed, Apr 29 at 2pm

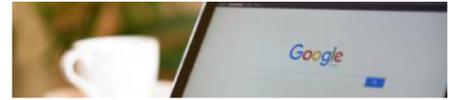
GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS

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

Tues, Mar 31 at 7pm | Thurs, May 7 at 2pm

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.



Wed, Apr 1 at 2pm | Sat, May 2 at 10:30am

GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS

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

Thurs, Apr 2 at 6:30pm | Sat, May 2 at 2pm

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.

Tues, Apr 7 at 7pm | Wed, May 20 at 2pm

GOOGLE DRIVE - BASICS

YDL-Whittaker
Learn to navigate Google Drive's interface and how to create, store, organize, access, and share your files/folders online.

Wed, Apr 8 at 2pm | Sat, May 16 at 10:30am

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.

Thurs, Apr 9 at 6:30pm | Sat, May 16 at 2pm

MICROSOFT EXCEL – INTERMEDIATE

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

Apr 14 & 24

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.

Tuesday | Apr 14 | 6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Fri | Apr 24 | 2pm | YDL-Superior

Thurs, Apr 16 at 6:30pm | Sat, May 30 at 2pm

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.

Tuesday, Apr 28 | 6:30pm

CANVA BY DESIGN: BUSINESS CARDS AND FLYERS

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

The spring Ypsi Stories episode will focus on Linette Lao's poem and zine, *1893 Cyclone Damage at the Chinese Laundry*, and how her research into Asian American history of the area changed her relationship with Ypsilanti. The episode builds on a talk Linette gave at YDL-Michigan.



VERSE & VERVE: YDL'S POETRY CONTEST RETURNS

Ready to rhyme? Or alliterate? Or hyperbolize? April is National Poetry Month, and once again we're enlisting your inner poets in YDL's community-wide poetry competition.

During the first three weeks of April, YDL will accept submissions for a series of poetic challenges. This year, the contest will center around themes, rather than styles. Week one's theme will be "Burn," followed by "Rot," then "Grow."

Our panel of judges will choose their favorite pieces from each challenge to advance as finalists, and the public will vote for their favorite finalists during the last week of April. The grand finale? On Friday, April 24, we'll host a community celebration at the YDL-Michigan Library Plaza, where winners from each week will receive prizes.



2025 WINNERS

HAIKU: Cole Hunter Dzubak, *Insulin Injections*

ACROSTIC: Samarth Kumar, *Refugees*

COUPLET: PD Roberts, *American Made*

FREE VERSE: Kaitlyn Johnson, *Sponge*

Whether you're a seasoned poet or just discovering your voice, don't miss your chance to be part of this month-long celebration of the written word! Follow YDL on social media or visit ypsilibrary.org for submission information to come.

Don't miss our Poetry Month workshops!

Starting April 2, we'll host four Poetry Month workshops on Thursdays at 4pm at YDL-Michigan where writers can explore different poetry styles and writing techniques related to this year's poetry contest. Plus, on Thursday, April 9, join YpsiWrites for a virtual workshop where prominent local poets will discuss how Muriel Rukeyser used poetry to respond to social, political, and personal events. See more details on page 4.

DO MORE WITH YOUR FUTURE FUND

Have you accessed your My Future Fund account? This spring, families enrolled in the My Future Fund program will receive login information from their schools to easily access their account information.



Logging into your account lets you:

- See the current value of the dollars set aside for your student(s)
- Claim your student's \$475 bonus deposit if you are eligible
- Link an individual Michigan Education Savings Program account to organize college/career training savings in one spot

Over 26,000 Washtenaw County public and charter school students now have My Future Fund early scholarship accounts. Through a generous investment of \$3.5 million by the Washtenaw County government and partnerships with local public schools, students in grades 1-8 will have money waiting for them to use after high school for college or career training. Students can still claim their share of the \$2 million!

To learn more, visit myfuturefund.org.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Mar 6: ½ Day for Grades K-5 (LCS)

Mar 12: ½ Day for Grades K-5 - Parent-Teacher Conferences (LCS)

Mar 13: No School (LCS)

Mar 20: ½ Day - Records Day (YCS)

Mar 25 & Mar 26: ½ Day - Parent-Teacher Conferences (YCS)

Mar 30-Apr 3: No School - Spring Break (Both)

Apr 6: No School (YCS)

May 22: ½ Day (Both)

May 25: No School - Memorial Day (Both)

May 29: ½ Day for Grades K-5 (LCS)

Jun 3: ½ Day for Grades 6-11 - HS/MS Exams (LCS)

Jun 4: ½ Day - Records Day (YCS) and ½ Day for Grades 6-11 (LCS)

Jun 5: ½ Day - Last Day of School (YCS)

Jun 6: ½ Day Grades K-11 - Last Day of School (LCS)

GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

What does "Kindergarten Ready" really mean? For many families, the transition to kindergarten brings excitement and questions.

Kindergarten readiness is about much more than knowing letters and numbers, and children come to kindergarten with a wide range of skills and experiences. Being ready for kindergarten requires:

- Following simple routines and directions
- Managing emotions and working through frustration
- Playing, sharing, and interacting with other children
- Expressing needs, thoughts, and ideas
- Showing curiosity, confidence, and a willingness to try

Families can support kindergarten readiness by reading together daily, having your child put on their own coat or clean up toys, talking and listening often, and providing opportunities for play with other children. These habits help build the social, emotional, and language skills that matter most in kindergarten.



How a Young 5 Program Can Help

Some children—especially those who are younger or still developing confidence, attention, or social skills—may benefit from an additional year in a Young 5 program. This option provides:

- A slower-paced, developmentally appropriate kindergarten experience
- More time to build social-emotional skills and independence
- Instruction that meets children where they are
- A foundation to support long-term academic success

WILL YOUR CHILD TURN 5 BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026?

Lincoln Consolidated Schools Kindergarten Parent Information Night

March 18 | 5:30-7:30pm

- Lincoln Performing Arts Center: 7425 Willis Road

Ypsilanti Community Schools Open Houses

Thursdays | 4:45-5:45pm

Mar 19 and Apr 23: All buildings

May 28: All buildings except YIES

- Ford Early Learning Center: 2440 E Clark Rd
- Perry Early Learning Center: 550 Perry Ave
- Beatty Early Learning Center: 1661 Leforge Rd
- Ypsilanti International Elementary School (YIES): 503 Oak St

A VALENTINE'S DAY BOOK TASTING

Ypsilanti Community Schools students recently enjoyed some literary speed dating.

Students in the Estabrook Library/Media Center rotated through tables of books in five-minute intervals and examined the front and back covers, explored design elements like images and fonts, and read one or two pages of a book. They had a menu-style rating card to note their impressions and decide whether a book sparked their interest. When time was up, they moved to a new table and repeated the process.

“The activity was a clear success, with high levels of engagement,” said librarian and media specialist Ashley Garner. “Many students were genuinely immersed in reading.”



PLANNING GARDEN PURCHASES? VISIT YDL FIRST!

In 2025, the Ypsi Seed Library distributed more than 7,500 free seed packets. This year, we are excited to offer more than 200 unique varieties of fruit and vegetable seeds, cycled seasonally for both indoor starting and direct sowing. Our Library of Things is also expanding its gardening offerings just in time for planting season.

All YDL branches have seeds to take home. At YDL-Whittaker, you'll also find seedlings, a year-round propagation station, and garden starting kits. We've also taken your feedback to heart and added even more resources to help start your garden and keep it growing all season long—including free guides on native planting, pest control, and a brand new indoor seed-starting zine.

The new offerings in the Library of Things range from basics—such as a garden hoe, small shovel, soil block makers, and a root weeding tool for easy seed starting and maintenance—to specialty tools like a mushroom log inoculator and a broadfork cultivator and tiller.

Can't make it to the library? Free Ypsi Seed Library resources will also be available at the YDL table at the Ypsi Farmers Market, making it even easier to get growing this season.



YDL GARDEN EVENTS

(Details on pages 4-7)

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: GARDENING

Tuesdays | May 5, 12 & 19 | 5-6pm
[YDL-Whittaker](#)

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SWAP

Saturday | May 16 | 11am-12pm
[YDL-Whittaker](#)

SUPERIOR GARDEN PLANTING

Saturday | May 23 | 2-3pm
[YDL-Superior](#)

MASTER GARDENER SERIES

(Ages 12+)

[YDL-Whittaker](#) | 2-3:30pm

GARDENING 101:

Sunday | Mar 22

VEGETABLE GARDENING 101:

Sunday | Apr 26

FLOWER GARDENING 101:

Sunday | May 17

LOOKING FOR JOB HELP?

Work at a county park

Work at your favorite park this summer!

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation is hiring for the summer season. Available positions include lifeguards, camp counselors, park rangers, and more.

Want to volunteer? Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation has a number of ways to get involved, including Neighborhood Nature Days at County Farm Park and Wildflower Ranger Days at Scio Woods.

To check out job and volunteer openings, visit washtenaw.org/660/Job-Volunteer-Opportunities.



Level up your small business

The Washtenaw County Office for Community and Economic Development (OCED) is partnering with a number of local organizations to get you the information you need to run your small business.

During their Small Business Fair on Friday, March 13, attendees can network, attend breakout sessions, and hear from speakers. Visit washtenaw.org/569/Community-Economic-Development or check OCED's social media feeds for more details. Register at bit.ly/4qjCMVp.

Whether you have an idea or a decades-long business, there will be something you can learn.



OCED'S 2026 SMALL BUSINESS FAIR

WHEN: Friday | March 13 | 9am–3pm

WHERE: Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E Huron River Dr, Ann Arbor

REGISTER: bit.ly/4qjCMVp

WATER STREET NEXT STEPS

After years of stalled progress, the City of Ypsilanti's Water Street Redevelopment Area is getting closer to its next chapter.

Located off South River Street and Michigan Avenue, the Water Street Redevelopment Area is the city's largest piece of vacant land, spanning 32 acres. In September 2025, crews from AKT Peerless Environmental Services began work to remediate the site from the lingering effects of its industrial past. After a four-month-long process, crews successfully removed the worst of the contamination from that portion of the site and have filled the area with clean, tested soil.

"Water Street has the potential to become a great asset to this city and we are ecstatic to see it ready for the next stage of development," said Katie Jones, Manager of Economic Development & Equity and Strategic Communications for the City of Ypsilanti. "We have heard the hopes, but also the

fears, that residents have expressed to us ... both types of feedback [are] crucial to make sure Water Street becomes something that will serve this city for years to come."

Last year, the city held several in-person and virtual community focus group sessions where participants shared their hopes for Water Street, desired community benefits, and concerns. Common hopes included more mixed-income housing, mixed-use development, green spaces, recreation, public river access, and an extension of the city's downtown character.

"It was important for us to document this information to ensure that any chosen developer builds with these findings in mind," Jones said.

In January, the City of Ypsilanti began forming



an ad-hoc citizens committee to review the site's Request for Qualifications through August. Once approved by the City Council, the ad-hoc committee will begin working with potential developers to create a community benefits agreement before continuing with the site's development.

Residents can read more about the history of the site's redevelopment efforts, access recent updates, and find the results of the community input sessions by visiting cityofypsilanti.com/waterstreet.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS COMING

Compiled using information from the Washtenaw County Road Commission

In 2026, Washtenaw County will see 24 separate road resurfacing projects that span 15 different townships. Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) officials announced the work will cost around \$8.2 million and cover about 30 miles of paved and unpaved roads across the county.

The roadwork will be funded through the countywide roads and non-motorized millage, federal funds, township partnerships, and state road funding.

"This 2026 resurfacing program is another step in our ongoing effort to revitalize and upgrade our transportation network," Brent Schlack, the WCRC's Director of Engineering, said in a statement. "These improvements happen thanks to teamwork, smart planning, and shared resources."

Roadwork is expected to begin in mid-April and continue into fall, weather permitting. The road commission will post project updates at wcroads.org. Residents can also sign up to have road updates sent to their email.



Resurfacing program road projects slated for 2026 in the YDL service area include:

- Dixboro Road between M-14 and Pontiac Trail in Ann Arbor, Northfield, Salem, and Superior townships
- Stony Creek Road between Willis and Bemis roads in Augusta Township
- Stone School Road between Ellsworth Road and Varsity Drive in Pittsfield Township
- Bemis Road between Warner and Platt roads in Pittsfield and York townships
- Munger Road between Textile Road and U.S. 12 in Pittsfield and Ypsilanti townships
- Plymouth Road between Dixboro Road and M-153 in Superior Township
- Clark Road between Leforge and Prospect roads in Superior and Ypsilanti townships
- Bridge Road between Textile and Grove roads in Ypsilanti Township
- Cross Road between Harris Road and the Ypsilanti city limits in Ypsilanti Township
- Ellsworth Road between Golfside and Hewitt roads in Ypsilanti Township
- Grove Street between Emerick Street and Harris Road in Ypsilanti Township
- Holmes Road between Ford Boulevard and Business Route 12 in Ypsilanti Township

WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS

This summer, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority will enter Phase 2 of their planned water main replacement work along Harriet Street between Hawkins Street and South Hamilton Street.

The project will replace existing old and undersized water mains as well as lead service lines within the corridor. These upgrades are part of a larger infrastructure improvement effort to help improve water system reliability and service quality in the area.



Once complete, road surface reconstruction will begin on Harriet Street from Hawkins to Hamilton. This pavement reconstruction was approved as part of the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study application for federal funding for the City of Ypsilanti.

The water supply system improvements will be constructed immediately in advance of road and drainage improvements being implemented by the City of Ypsilanti. For more information, including planned start time for the work, visit ycua.org.

“COOKING UP FUTURES”

Growing Hope broke ground in January on a new Accelerator Kitchen dubbed “Cooking Up Futures.”

Located at the Ypsilanti Farmers Market in downtown Ypsilanti, the Accelerator Kitchen will transform an underused building into a fully licensed shared commercial kitchen and collaborative retail space.

The project is designed to expand economic mobility, strengthen the local food system, and increase access to healthy, culturally rooted food in Ypsilanti.

When it opens this summer, the facility will support small food businesses that are ready to scale up but face systemic barriers to funding, space, and market access.

“This project is about more than a kitchen,” said Julius Buzzard, Executive Director of Growing Hope. “It’s about changing who gets to participate in, and



benefit from, the food economy. When we invest in entrepreneurs who have been historically excluded, we’re growing long-term resilience alongside every business.”

The Accelerator Kitchen builds directly on Growing Hope’s established food entrepreneurship pipeline and fills a gap for businesses that have outgrown early-stage production. It will offer expanded cold storage, prep space, longer-term access, and shared high-cost equipment, enabling entrepreneurs to enter retail and wholesale markets without incurring unsustainable debt.

Graduates of Growing Hope’s programs already operate storefronts, cafés, and food service businesses across Southeast Michigan, sourcing from Michigan farms and selling through SNAP-eligible outlets. The Growing Hope Accelerator Kitchen will help to formalize a place-based ecosystem where production, aggregation, and retail happen under one roof.

“We know that economic mobility doesn’t happen in isolation,” Buzzard said. “It happens when people have infrastructure, relationships, and power in the system. This brings all three together.”

The Accelerator Kitchen will be a year-round food hub, complementing the farmers market with a shared retail storefront where multiple makers can sell prepared and packaged foods.

“This is food sovereignty in practice,” said Buzzard. “People deciding what they grow, what they make, how they sell, and how they care for one another, right here, in community.”

For updates, partnership opportunities, or more information, visit growinghope.net or contact getintouch@growinghope.net.

EVERYONE DESERVES A HEALTHY SMILE

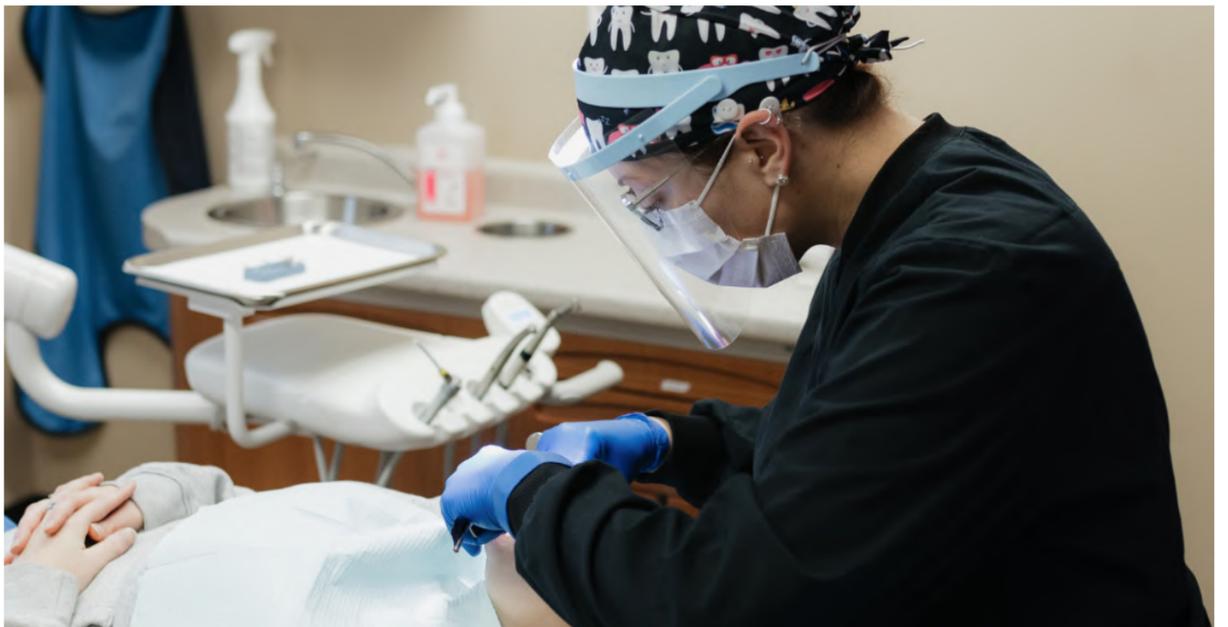
Did you know the Washtenaw County Health Department offers a dental clinic? After being filled to capacity for a number of years due to COVID, the Washtenaw County Dental Clinic—run by My Community Dental Centers—is accepting new patients.

“Oral health is a very important part of our overall well-being” says Nifiah Reid-Sanders, nursing director for the Health Department. “Everyone should visit a dentist twice a year to prevent oral diseases and maintain their health.”

For over a decade, the clinic has offered dental care for everyone, including people with Medicaid and those who are uninsured.

“It’s the same quality of care you would receive at a private, for-profit dental office,” said Health Department Communications Coordinator Beth Ann Hamilton.

Learn more and schedule an appointment at washtenaw.org/smile.



The Washtenaw County Dental Clinic is a partnership between My Community Dental Centers, the Washtenaw County Health Department, the Washtenaw Health Project, Trinity Health, and Washtenaw County government.

SIX STEPS TOWARD BETTER HEALTH THIS YEAR

Trinity Health has resources to help you incorporate healthy practices into your daily life.

Lifestyle medicine focuses on whole-person health and the prevention, treatment, and reversal of chronic health conditions. It prioritizes balanced nutrition, daily movement, restorative sleep, avoiding risky substances, positive stress management, and strengthening social connection.



TO INCORPORATE SOME OF THESE LIFESTYLE MEDICINE PRINCIPLES IN YOUR DAILY LIFE, YOU CAN:

- 1. Consume more minimally processed plant foods.** Beans, lentils, whole grains, nuts and seeds, and fruits and vegetables all contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Try plant foods in a rainbow of colors every day.
- 2. Move your body every day.** Find what feels good for your body and brings you joy, then do it as often as you can. Move outside or with a friend for even more health benefits.
- 3. Create conditions for restful sleep.** Dim the house lights in the evening, get bright sunlight exposure in the morning, and stick to a consistent wake-up time—even on the weekends.
- 4. Rethink your relationship with alcohol.** No amount of alcohol promotes health. Zero to two drinks a week is considered low-risk consumption. As an alternative, try mocktails, flavored waters, seltzer, or kombucha.
- 5. Adopt a strategy to cope with stress.** Stress is only problematic when it is constant and not well managed. Try deep breathing exercises, short meditations, gratitude journaling, time in nature, or the support of a professional to process your stress in positive ways.
- 6. Build strong relationships.** The quality of our relationships impacts our happiness and longevity. Prioritize time with loved ones and minimize distractions when you’re with friends or family.

YPSIWRITES, SO YPSI THRIVES



—By Angelica Esquivel,
2025-2026 YpsiWrites
Writer in Residence

Words are ink on a page. They're embossed Braille dots. They're syllables spoken into the air.

Words are a medium that have this magical ability to connect us to all of humanity's past, present, and future. Through language, we can understand ourselves and others in a more nuanced way.

When we write, we take part in a lineage of humans who are dedicated to finding or creating meaning in our shared existence. This is the work of YpsiWrites and the many writers, educators, and community members who host and participate in their programs.

Over the past few years, I have been lucky enough to take part in the mission of YpsiWrites, first as a 2023 Writer of Ypsilanti, and then as the 2025 Writer

in Residence. Ann, Kristi, and Brent—the wonderful YpsiWrites crew—have nurtured a thriving local ecosystem of writers and programming, creating opportunities for members of our community to connect and create together.

From writing haikus alongside horses to leading zine workshops at the library to presenting at educational conferences—the experiences I've had with YpsiWrites have immeasurably impacted the way I view community, craft, and my role as a creative writer. Celebrating our diverse lived realities and perspectives through the written word is critical to maintaining our humanity, especially now, when art and literature and the organizations that support them are under attack.

I am endlessly grateful for the friendships and memories this residency has brought me, and I look forward to seeing how the next Writer in Residence takes this mission and makes it their own.

Learn more about YpsiWrites at ypsiwrites.com.



GET A "FARE" DEAL

For those interested in TheRide's Fare Deal card, did you know that you can apply at the Ypsilanti District Library?

TheRide's Fare Deal program offers reduced-rate, fixed-route bus fares and discounted 30-day passes for eligible seniors (60+), persons with disabilities, and income-eligible individuals in the area.

There are forms available at YDL-Michigan. You can fill out the form at the library and have staff review it to confirm your eligibility. Once signed by the authorized library staff, bring it to TheRide's main office at 2700 S. Industrial Highway in Ann Arbor to receive your Fare Deal Card. You must have a valid form of identification when filling out and returning the application.

For more details on TheRide's Fare Deal program, visit TheRide.org.

CONSTRUCTION NOTICES

TheRide is preparing for a busy construction season on the roads.

The major construction is happening in downtown Ann Arbor on Fourth Ave. Starting May 3, all buses that serve the Blake Transit Center will have their downtown Ann Arbor bus stop moved due to this construction. You can sign up for TheRide's MyAlerts system at TheRide.org to receive service alerts with detailed information on detours and service changes.

GETTING TO YDL ON THE BUS:

- YDL-Whittaker:** Accessible on the 46 line
- YDL-Michigan:** Accessible on the 6 line, or 5-minute walk from the Ypsilanti Transit Center
- YDL-Superior:** Accessible on the 42 line

SPRING BOOK SALE

The Friends of YDL Book Sale is coming again this spring! Mark your calendars for April 30 - May 3 at Whittaker Road.

Book sale prices are \$1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for kids books, 50¢ for mass market paperbacks, and \$1 for oversize paperbacks. On May 3 there will be bags of books available for \$5, and some books will be sold for a reduced price. The hours are below. April 30 from 6-8pm will be a members-only preview sale. Friends of YDL memberships will be available for purchase at the door, so it's the perfect time to join the community group that supports library programs and services.

BOOK SALE HOURS:

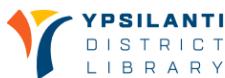
- Thursday | Apr 30** (Members-only) .. 6-8pm
- Friday | May 1:** 11am-5pm
- Saturday | May 2:** 11am-3pm
- Sunday | May 3:** 1-3pm

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



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.

Board of Trustees

Kristy Cooper, President	Patricia J. Horne McGee, Trustee
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