

Director's Report for Board Meeting October 15, 2025

Vision: *Welcoming, Inspiring and Connecting our Community.*

Mission: *We serve as a community hub by connecting our patrons to all forms of literacy, lifelong, learning and growth.*

[RCL Monthly Calendar](#)



Robust Collections

- ★ Provide barrier-free access to resources for the community that are most in demand.
 - Our library team helps patrons access MeLCat, the statewide interlibrary loan system with over 34 million items available from more than 435 libraries across Michigan. With a 90% success rate, we are able to get most requests filled, expanding access far beyond our own collection.
 - Public Libraries across America are working every day to reverse declining usage trends, and our community is showing up! In FY 2024–25, Richland Community Library recorded the highest circulation numbers in our library's history.
 - 5% increase in total circulation (including both physical and digital materials), showing steady growth in collection usage.
 - Library totes continue to be distributed one per Richland household, reducing damage to materials and encouraging more borrowing.



Enriching Programs

- ★ Provide opportunities to create, learn, be entertained and come together.
 - Self-Care September programs brought 20 teen participants together for wellness and connection, culminating with therapy dogs Mystic and Pablos visiting and a fun pet-treats activity.
 - Children's Services continue storytime three times weekly, now with added Saturday sessions. The September 26 Family Storytime welcomed 33 children and caregivers.
 - Family "Boo Bash" event drew approximately 280 attendees. Social Media post received approximately 450 responses and 20,000 view impressions.
 - The library participated in Banned Books Week with an informational display emphasizing the importance of intellectual freedom and open access to information. Social media post received approximately 200 responses and 7,000 view impressions.
 - Upcoming: Engineering Extravaganza on Saturday, November 1, in partnership with Kalamazoo Air Zoo and sponsored by Stryker, will offer hands-on invention and collaborative building activities.

Broad Outreach

- ★ Expand meaningful partnerships with local organizations to strengthen community inclusion.
 - Library to partner with the Gull Lake Area Rotary Club to place a North Pole mailbox at the library, supporting community holiday cheer.
 - The Friends of the Library will be highlighted in the next quarterly print newsletter and continue to help by resharing library events and news via social media channels.
 - The Director attended the Rotary Memorial Service honoring longtime library advocate Peter Graham for his community service.
 - “We Love Our Library” yard signs are available for pickup by patrons to promote library pride and visibility throughout the community.
 - On 10/17 our Library will be partnering with Little Hands Montessori School for a Spanish Musical Storytime



Strong Operations

- ★ Ensure sustainable funding sources for operating hours, collections, services, programs and staff.
 - The Director participated in a NowKalamazoo interview about the millage proposal, supporting transparency
 - Sprinklers were winterized by Maple Hill Sprinkling on September 26.
 - Dave’s Security Services completed the annual security inspection and testing on October 8.
 - The end-of-year financial audit is scheduled for December 8 with Siegfried Crandall.



Additional Information outside the scope of the RCL Strategic Plan.

- Social media and email campaigns launched on September 23 and throughout October leading up to Nov. 4 to inform residents about the upcoming millage and answer questions; millage voting FAQ information was sent to all library cardholders.
- 5% increase in total programs offered compared to the previous fiscal year, reflecting expanded community engagement.
- 37% increase in public WiFi logins, indicating greater use of in-library digital access.
- 10% increase in public computer use, showing that more people are using the library’s computers and internet services.