

U L T I M A T E SUMMER READING GUIDE

June, July & August

Summer 2026

*Jam Packed
with Extra
Content!*



Richland
Community Library

8951 Park Street
Richland, MI 49083

richlandlibrary.org
(269) 629.9085

Hours of Operation:

Monday	10 AM - 6 PM
Tuesday	10 AM - 6 PM
Wednesday	10 AM - 6 PM
Thursday	10 AM - 7 PM
Friday	10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday	10 AM - 3 PM
Sunday	Closed

RCL's Vision

Welcoming, inspiring, and connecting our community.

RCL's Mission

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

Follow us on social media:



WHAT'S IN OUR *ULTIMATE* SUMMER READING ISSUE?

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Road Trippin' This Summer?

WHY NOT SAVE SOME MONEY?

MI Activity Pass lets you use your library card to save on TONS of Michigan attractions.



Scan the QR Code or visit miactivitypass.org for more information.



A Note From The Director



Hello! I'm Anne Richards, and I'm so excited to step into the role of Director at Richland Community Library. After more than six years serving RCL in a variety of roles, it means a lot to continue this work in a new way.

I've spent over 20 years working in libraries and earned my MLIS from Wayne State University. My family and I have called Richland home for the past seven years, and with my kids in Gull Lake schools and all the sports, I feel lucky to be part of this community and the families we serve.

Summer is one of my favorite seasons in the library. From Summer Reading to the buzz of activity throughout the building, it's a time when the library really comes to life.

I'm looking forward to what's ahead and continuing to build on the strong foundation created by our staff, Board, and community. Thank you for being such an important part of RCL.

-Anne Richards, RCL Director

seed library

BORROW GROW SHARE

Find out more by scanning the QR Code or visit our website.



The Library will be closed on

July 4th

Regular hours will resume on Monday, July 6th.

Happy INDEPENDENCE Day!



UPDATE

BUILDING RESTORATION & FUTURE PLANNING

Thanks to the millage increase effective November 4, 2025, the library has made significant progress in building our Capital Improvement Fund, supporting immediate restoration work this summer and addressing long-standing structural needs.

What is a Capital Improvement Fund?

A Capital Improvement Fund is a dedicated reserve that the library accumulates over time to address both urgent and significant long-term physical and technological requirements.

RCL has officially contracted with **Building Restoration Inc.** for exterior restoration of the building. We are also working with **TowerPinkster** to develop a master plan for future renovation and possible expansion.

TIMELINE:

EARLY 2026

Restoration Plan *(available to view on our website)*

JULY/AUG. 2026

External Restoration Begins
(restoration est. to take 2-3 months)

FALL 2026

As restoration wraps up, the Library Board will continue reviewing the master plan created by TowerPinkster and will share updates with the community as future plans are developed.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Most work will take place on the exterior of the building and we do not expect any extended closures. Library services should continue as normal. At times, entrances or areas of the property may be temporarily closed, but these will be clearly marked. Please use caution around construction zones.



GET TO

KNOW

THE STAFF

Anne Richards

Director

Favorite Book/Author

A Discovery of Witches by Deborah Harkness
(the whole series!)

Fun Fact About Me

In the past 15 years, my husband and I have moved 9 times!



Anna Merritt

Assistant Director

Favorite Book/Author

I love horror. Grady Hendrix & Stephen Graham Jones.

Fun Fact About Me

I grew up in a hardware store, literally. It was attached to the front of my house.



Carrie Dunn

Children's Librarian

Favorite Book/Author

I really like Jenny Lawson.
She's hilarious!

Fun Fact About Me

My 13th great-aunt was accused of being a witch.



Erica Schiller

Teen Librarian

Favorite Book/Author

J.R.R. Tolkien is my favorite author, no contest.

Fun Fact About Me

I'm a classically trained lyric mezzo-soprano.
I can sing opera!



Eliza Van

Technical Services

Favorite Book/Author

I Who Have Never Known Men by Jacqueline Harpman.

Fun Fact About Me

I know American Sign Language (ASL).



Desiree Mills

Patron Services Lead

Favorite Book/Author

Anything by John Green or T.J. Klune.

Fun Fact About Me

Noah Webster (yes, the Dictionary guy) is my ancestor.



Mary Robertson

Outreach Coordinator

Favorite Book/Author

The Lord of the Rings
by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Fun Fact About Me

I love weaving and I have 4 floor looms.
Fiber arts are the best!





Heidi Lawver

Patron Services

Favorite Book/Author

What Does It Feel Like by
Sophie Kinsella

Fun Fact About Me

I was a 9 lb. baby. I came home from the hospital
and rolled over (according to my mother).

Jason McDonald

Patron Services

Favorite Book/Author

Dragons of Autumn Twilight by
Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman.

Fun Fact About Me

I rebuilt my first car and drove it to football practice
the week before freshman year. I still have the car!



Ann Weltevreden

Patron Services

Favorite Book/Author

Kristen Hannah, Hillary
Mantel, Ken Follett...

Fun Fact About Me

I was able to see the Berlin Wall before it came
down.



Jennifer Stratman

Patron Services

Favorite Book/Author

At the moment, N.K.
Jemisin.

Fun Fact About Me

I used to play ice hockey.



Ella Sabuda

Page

Favorite Book/Author

C.G. Drews is my favorite
author.

Fun Fact About Me

I play both the electric guitar & the bass!

Andrew Potter

Page

Favorite Book/Author

Most recent favorite:
Running Deep by Tom
Clavin.

Fun Fact About Me

I like to play the piano.



Next time you're at the
library, **say 'hi'** to our
staff and stop by
for a quick **chat**
about books.

We are all here to help
our patrons and **provide**
a friendly & positive
space for our
community.



Declan Koyle

Page

Favorite Book/Author

Hell's Paradise graphic
novel series.

Fun Fact About Me

I own over 100 dice.



READING CHALLENGE RULES



© CSLP

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Track your reading and complete activities to earn virtual badges and prizes.



Pick up your prizes at the library.



Every badge earned = virtual raffle tickets for **GRAND PRIZES!**



*Kids =
25 mins. per day*

*Teens =
45 minutes per day*

TRACK DIGITALLY OR TRADITIONALLY

Download the Beanstack app on your phone OR visit richlandlibrarymi.beanstack.org

If you need help registering, stop by the Children's Library.

OR, stop by the library & pick up a paper tracker after June 22nd.

DID YOU PARTICIPATE LAST YEAR?

If you registered for LAST year's Summer Reading, you can log into your Beanstack account and join this year's challenge.

If you've forgotten your log in info, contact the library.



© CSLP



beanstack



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SUMMER READING **SURVIVAL** TIPS



Make Sure You Are Keeping Track

Be mindful to keep up with logging your reading. You can use the Beanstack app or grab a paper tracker from the Children's Library desk.

Remember: listening to audiobooks, reading graphic novels, and reading webcomics counts towards your reading minutes, too.



Claiming Prizes

Everyone comes in on Mondays to get their prizes after the weekend. The middle of the week is usually quieter, so if you're looking for a calmer sensory experience, try visiting on Wednesday or Thursday.



Grand Prize Drawings

Don't wait until the last minute to submit your Grand Prize Tickets to the raffles. That's a good way to forget to enter them at all!

When you are claiming your badge prizes, ask if you have any raffle tickets available.



Help Out The Librarians

If the Children's Desk is crazy and all you need to do is check out, it's likely faster to take your stuff upstairs.

If you & your family are all claiming prizes at the same time, make sure you give yourselves enough library time. Come in earlier in the day, rather than the last hour we are open.





KIDS & FAMILY EVENTS

Make sure to note the programs that require pre-registration. These events are marked with a "SIGN UP" You may register via our website, phone, or in-person.



Summer Reading Kick-Off

All Families Welcome

June 22 @ 3-4 PM

Start your summer adventure with an afternoon full of fun, treats, and discovery!



SIGN UP

Youth Author/Illustrator

Grades 3rd - 5th

Tuesdays @ 2:30-4 PM

June 23 - Aug. 4

Dig into your imagination and unearth a story of your own creation!



SIGN UP

Youth Stepping Stone

Grades 1st - 5th

June 24 @ 10:30 PM

Inspired by discoveries buried in time, you'll craft a one-of-a-kind piece to take home and treasure.



LEGO Challenge

Youth - Teen - Adult

Thursdays - All Day

June 25-Aug. 6

Drop in anytime on Thursdays to take on a new LEGO challenge inspired by our "Unearth a Story" theme.



SIGN UP

Young Explorers

Ages 3-6

Thursdays @ 11 AM

June 25-Aug. 6

Young Explorers is a traveling storytime that visits local parks for stories, exploration, and hands-on fun.



Family Story Time

All Families Welcome

Fridays @ 10:15 AM

June 26-Aug. 7

Gather the whole family and join us for a cozy, interactive storytime adventure!



Cave Painting Chalk Art

All Ages Welcome

June 26 @ 1-4 PM

Decorate the library sidewalk with chalk art inspired by real cave paintings of the past.



SIGN UP

Dino Adoption

Ages 3-6

June 27 @ 1-2 PM

Young explorers are invited to adopt their very own dinosaur friend and learn how to care for it like a true dino expert.



Dino Terrariums

Grades 1st - 5th

June 29 @ 11-12 PM

In this program, participants will create their very own dino terrarium.



Family Movie Matinee

All Families Welcome

July 1 @ 3 PM

Join us for a family-friendly showing of *The Good Dinosaur*.

SIGN UP



Rock & Fossil Explorers

Grades 1st - 5th

July 9 @ 10:30 AM

Participants will explore how fossils are formed and what they can tell us about life long ago.



Paleo Joe

All Families Welcome

July 15 @ 3 PM

Paleo Joe brings the world of dinosaurs to life through engaging storytelling, real fossil discoveries, and fascinating facts.



Magic Show

All Families Welcome

July 22 @ 3 PM

Join us for an amazing magic show with Jeff Wawrzaszek, where impossible becomes possible right before your eyes.

SIGN UP



Stop-Motion Workshop

Ages 8-12

July 29 @ 1 PM

Join Alex Thomas and friends for a hands-on stop motion animation workshop where creativity comes to life.

SIGN UP



Watercolor Dinosaurs

Grades 1st - 5th

August 6 @ 10:30 AM

Learn simple techniques as you imagine what these ancient creatures might have looked like in their world.



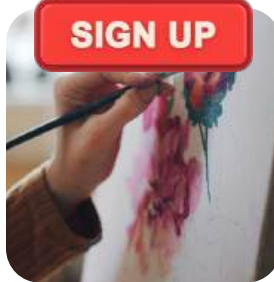
Family Dino Dance Party

All Families Welcome

July 8 @ 3-4 PM

Join us for a roaring good time at our Family Dino Dance Party, where music, movement, and prehistoric fun come together.

SIGN UP



Kids & Canvas

Grades 1st - 5th

July 13 @ 11 AM

Step by step guidance will help bring roaring dinosaurs to life.



Dino Discovery STEM Challenge

All Families Welcome

July 18 @ 1-3 PM

Participants will rotate through five exciting dinosaur-themed stations.

SIGN UP



Skull to Sketch

Ages 8-12

July 23 @ 10:30 AM

Participants will become mini scientists and illustrators as they examine animal skulls and try to imagine the creatures they belong to.



Alex Thomas & Friends Puppet Show

All Families Welcome

July 29 @ 3 PM

Join Alex Thomas and friends for a lively puppet show filled with humor, imagination, and unforgettable characters.



End of Summer Reading Party

All Families Welcome

August 8 @ 11-12 PM

Bring the whole family and help us close out the season with laughter, rewards, and a splash of fun!



T E E N E V E N T S

Make sure to note the programs that require pre-registration. These events are marked with a "SIGN UP" You may register via our website, phone, or in-person.



Dinosaurigami

Grades 6-12 OR Ages 11-17

Mondays in July @ 3-5 PM

Drop by to crease and fold colorful paper dinosaurs.

SIGN UP



SIGN UP

Dungeons & Dinosaurs

Grades 6-12 OR Ages 11-17

Wed. @ 3-5 PM -OR-

Thur. @ 4:30-6:30 PM

Come join DM Erica for a 2-hour fantastical adventure!

Must register for each session 1-week in advance.



SIGN UP

Flower Crowns

Grades 6-12 OR Ages 11-17

June 12 @ 3 PM

Make a flower crown from real flowers with Over the Moon Farms and drink boba tea from Pacific Rim Foods.

TASTING HISTORY

Make dishes with long histories using traditional methods and see how they've survived through the ages.



Zongzi

June 19 @ 2-5 PM

Learn about the Dragon Boat Festival and make sticky rice dumplings.



1st Thanksgiving

July 3 @ 2-5 PM

Celebrate the 250th birthday of the USA and make Wampanoag stew.



Tamales

Aug. 7 @ 2-5 PM

Take part in our tamalada as we trace the history of tamales.



SIGN UP

Mario Kart 8 Deluxe Tournament: Year of Yoshi

Grades 6-12 OR Ages 11-17

July 10 @ 12-3 PM

YOSHI! It's the Year of Yoshi, so we're snacking, racing, and dressing the part.



SIGN UP

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament

Grades 6-12 OR Ages 11-17

July 17 @ 12-3 PM

3 stock. Final Destination. No items. Think you can win?



SIGN UP

Bugs in Amber

Grades 6-12 OR Ages 11-17

July 24 @ 1-3 PM

Create an "amber fossil" paperweight using taxidermy bugs and colored resin.



SIGN UP

Bentosaurus

Grades 6-12 OR Ages 11-17

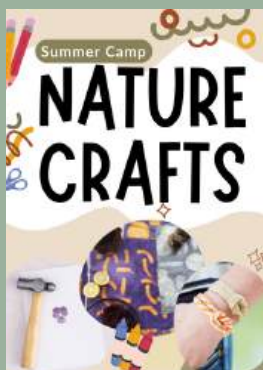
July 31 @ 12 PM

Design, craft, and eat a dinosaur-themed bento box!

ADULT Summer CAMP

PROGRAMS INSPIRED BY SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER CAMP ACTIVITIES!

While this program series is intended for adults, we understand that some events can be more fun with families. This icon indicates that minors 12 years or older are permitted to attend with an adult.



NATURE CRAFTS

JUNE 25 @ 7 PM

A MATURE TWIST ON SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER CAMP CRAFTS!

- NAUTICAL ROPE BRACELET MAKING
- FLOWER POUNDING PRINTS
- NATURAL DYING



GAME NIGHT

JULY 2 @ 7 PM

GRAB YOUR TEAM & SEE IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO MASTER THESE MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT STYLE GAMES!

- MIND READER
- NAME THAT TUNE
- MORE!



SPOOKY STORIES & SING-A-LONG

JULY 9 @ 7 PM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF SPOOKY STORIES AND A CLASSIC SING-A-LONG AROUND THE CAMPFIRE. HOSTED BY ROBIN NOTT.

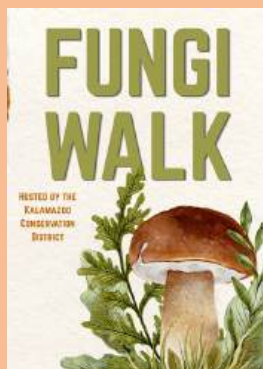
THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE R.A.C.C.



HAND WOVEN FLOWER VASE

JULY 16 @ 7 PM

LEARN THE ART OF BASKET WEAVING WITH THIS INTRODUCTORY PROJECT. HOSTED BY SUSAN HANNA.



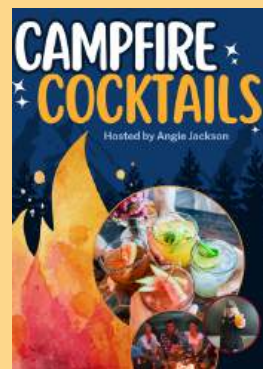
FUNGI WALK

JULY 23 @ 10 AM

STEP INTO THE ENCHANTING WORLD OF FUNGI ON OUR GUIDED FUNGI WALK.

HOSTED BY THE KALAMAZOO CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

KELLOGG FOREST
7060 N 42ND ST, AUGUSTA



CAMPFIRE COCKTAILS

JULY 30 @ 7 PM

MIXOLOGIST & AUTHOR ANGIE JACKSON SHOWS US HOW TO MAKE SUMMER-CAMP INSPIRED COCKTAILS. MUST BE 21+ TO ATTEND.



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DETAILS!



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