



Director's Report
Richland Community Library
Board Meeting
April 15, 2026

Operations

- Technical Services Specialist hired, Eliza Van. Training is underway, and she will be a great addition to the staff. She is currently pursuing her Master of Library and Information Science at Wayne State University.
- March statistics: See attached charts.
- Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority: The water meter will be replaced soon. They have visited the library to assess the current meter and determine the best replacement options. A replacement date will be scheduled soon.

Programming

- Adult
 - Anna continues to offer a great variety of programs this month, including art programs such as a Nature Printing class with the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center, two travel programs presented by Nikki Miller, and the “Banned Books, Brunch, and Bus Trip” program in collaboration with the Richland Area Community Center.
- Children’s and Teen regular programs continue to operate successfully.
 - Carrie has introduced “pop-up” programs on the Saturdays she is working, with this month’s theme being “Zen.”
 - Erica will host an after-hours program on Friday, April 17, 2026, featuring “Blood on the Clocktower” with a western murder mystery theme.
 - Carrie and Erica are also hard at work planning this year’s Summer Reading Program.
- All Ages
 - May the 4th Star Wars Celebration will take place on Monday, May 4, 2026, from 5:00–6:30 pm. The event will include crafts, trivia with prizes, refreshments at the Cantina, Sabacc tables, and special guests from across the galaxy. Multiple staff members are contributing to make this event a success.

Outreach

- Library Hop is underway this month, featuring cross-programming with sixteen other Southwest Michigan libraries. Participants pick up a passport booklet and are encouraged to visit as many libraries as possible. Each library offers different activities and opportunities for prize drawings.
- Rotary donated an additional \$500 for the purchase of VOX books, in addition to their regular annual contributions to the children's collection.
- Rotary will be installing a peace pole in memory of Pete Graham between the library and the Presbyterian Church, in the green space behind the bench where the tree was recently removed. The library will provide a commemorative plaque, and Rotary will plant flowers around the pole. The installation date is to be determined.
- Gateway Academy Poetry Night will take place on April 29, 2026, at 6:00 pm. This special event is a collaborative effort between the Meet Michigan Authors series, the Kalamazoo Poetry Festival, and Gateway Academy.
- Mary is currently working on securing dates for the Farmers Market at the RACC.

Collections

- Approximately 2,000 digital items and 7,600 physical items were borrowed last month. This represents an increase of over 500 digital items and 1,800 physical items compared to the previous month.
- Carrie has taken over purchasing for the children's collection. Anna is now selecting materials for Adult Fiction, Mystery, and Large Print. Anne will continue purchasing for Nonfiction, Teen, and Graphic collections. Eliza will take on some purchasing responsibilities once she is fully trained and comfortable with cataloging.
- The library is in the process of removing the Adult CD collection due to consistently low circulation, with most use coming through interlibrary loan. The shelving unit is large, and the space can be better utilized for other purposes. The CDs will be withdrawn and offered for sale through the Friends Book Sale.

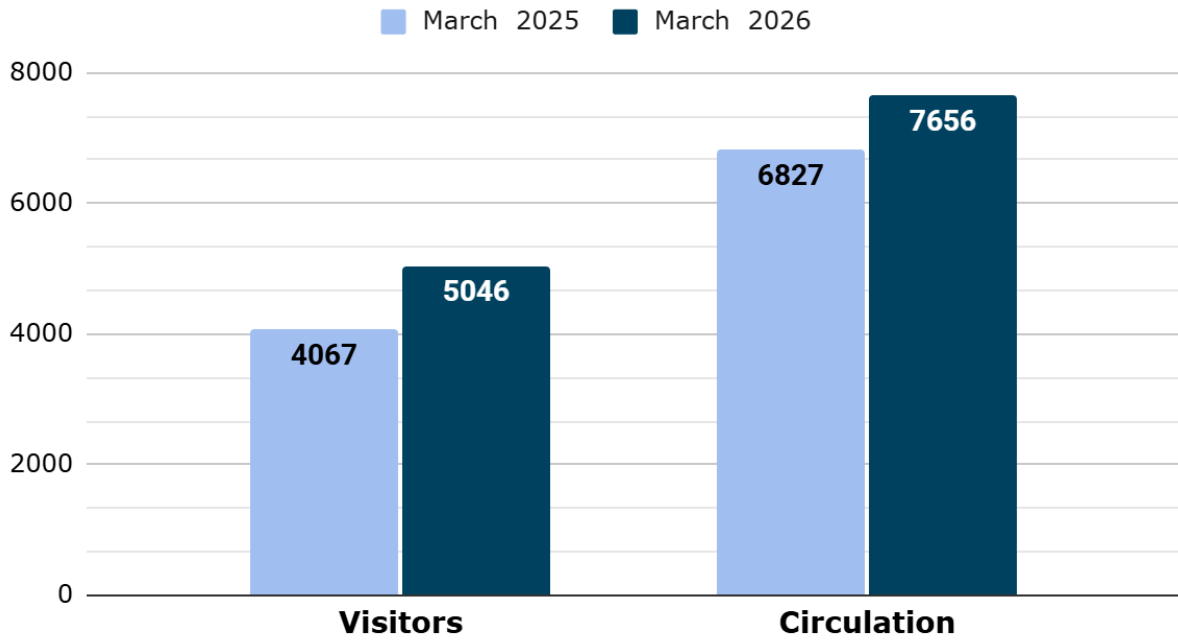
Additional Information

- The library's website platform has been migrated to a new management system, bringing it into compliance with current ADA federal requirements. The migration went smoothly overall, with only minor updates needed, such as fixing broken links and adjusting formatting.
- Anne has begun attending sessions for the Michigan Library Association Leadership Academy. This seven-month program includes five in-person sessions across Michigan and three virtual meetings, covering leadership fundamentals,

communication, and organizational dynamics. Participants also build a network of peers for ongoing support. The program concludes at the MLA Annual Conference in October.

- TowerPinkster has completed a walkthrough of the library to prepare a facility assessment report. As of April 13, 2026, the final report has not yet been received. Engagement sessions will be scheduled once the report is available.
- A half-day staff summer training is planned for Friday, June 5, 2026, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The Friends of the Library will provide lunch and refreshments.

March 2025 & 2026



March 2025 & 2026

