



**Director's Report**  
**Richland Community Library**  
**Board Meeting**  
**June 17, 2026**

## Operations

- The full day Staff Meeting provided a valuable opportunity for staff to connect, collaborate, and engage with one another. The day included meaningful learning and engagement opportunities and flowed smoothly overall. Staff shared positive feedback despite the longer schedule for some employees.
- The Square payment system is now in place, allowing the library to accept credit card payments for library fees and services.
- Kalamazoo Mechanical repaired a broken air conditioning unit after identifying and fixing two small leaks in the suction line outside of the evaporator coil.
- Anne is obtaining quotes for the installation of security cameras following staff and community feedback received during recent engagement sessions with TowerPinkster.
- Desiree Mills attended the Michigan Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Summit on June 10–11, 2026. The event was offered at no cost through funding from the Mellon Foundation. She had the opportunity to learn about the future of intellectual freedom policy, practice, and advocacy while networking with librarians from across Michigan.
- Anna Merritt continues to participate in the Library of Michigan's Public Library Management Cohort. Her coursework focuses on middle management and is expected to conclude in October.
- Anne continues participating in the Michigan Library Association's Leadership Academy and recently attended her third session in Saginaw.

## Programming

**Summer Reading | June 20, 2026 - August 8, 2026 | Unearth a Story**

### **PROGRAMS**

- **Adult Programs:** Six unique programs are planned this summer, in addition to weekly *Sit 'N Stitch* gatherings and four sessions of Adult D&D.
- **Children's Programs:** Eleven unique programs are scheduled, including two weekly Storytimes and a special Author/Illustrator Class.
- **Teen Programs:** Eight unique programs are planned, along with weekly *Dungeons & DINOSAURS* sessions and *Dinosaurgami* in July.

- **Family Programs:** Nine unique programs are scheduled, including a magician, a paleontology program, a puppet show, and both kickoff and end-of-summer celebrations.
- **Passive Programs:** Weekly LEGO challenges, craft projects in the Children's Library, and scavenger hunts will be offered throughout the summer. Additional dinosaur-themed activities upstairs include dinosaur footprint guessing, a dinosaur height chart, a community coloring table, take-home crafts, and more.

### READING CHALLENGE

- **Adults:** There is no separate summer reading challenge for adults this year. Adults are encouraged to participate in the library's year-long reading challenge of 25 books to earn a prize.
- **Children:** Participants earn milestone prizes for every 250 minutes read and complete the challenge at 1,000 minutes. Children receive raffle tickets for grand prize drawings throughout the program, with additional opportunities to earn tickets by completing activity challenges.
- **Teens:** Participants earn milestone prizes for every 10 hours read and complete the challenge at 40 hours. Teens can earn multiple raffle tickets for end-of-summer grand prize drawings through both reading and participation in various activities.

### Outreach

- Home Again Daycare will visit the library every two weeks throughout the summer, providing additional opportunities to connect with young children and families in our community.
- Mary will lead a weekly summer storytime series, Young Explorers Storytime, at local outdoor locations including Richland Township Park, the Bird Sanctuary, and local nature preserves. Each program will feature a storytime, a guided nature walk, and a hands-on activity designed to encourage exploration and environmental literacy.
- The Rotary Club plans to install a Peace Pole in memory of Pete Graham in September 2026. They will also plant perennials around the pole and the library will provide a commemorative plaque.

### Collections

- Patron Services staff continue to create engaging displays throughout the main floor of the library. Recent themes have included Pride Month, Men's Health Month, and Teen Reads for Adults, with upcoming summer displays featuring From Sea to Shining Sea (U.S. travel), What's Cookin'? (outdoor cooking and

grilling), Shark Week, bookish books, Dog Days of Summer, and Hiking & Camping.

- August through June circulation increased more than 7% compared to the previous year, totaling nearly 3,750 additional checkouts. Particularly notable growth occurred in youth materials, with Juvenile Easy Readers increasing 37%, reflecting strong demand for early literacy resources and supporting our focus on reading readiness. Additionally, Juvenile Library of Things circulation increased 141%, demonstrating strong community engagement with hands-on learning and nontraditional collections. Renewals also increased 16%, indicating sustained patron use and value in our collections. While some traditional formats such as DVDs and music continue to decline, overall collection use remains strong and reflects evolving patron interests.

### **Additional Information**

- A preliminary sketches meeting with TowerPinkster is scheduled for this month. Lori Beard and Anna Merritt will also participate in the meeting as the Master Plan continues to take shape.