



Director's Report
Richland Community Library
Board Meeting
May 20, 2026

Operations

- Jessica Barboline, one of the new patron services hires, resigned to accept a position elsewhere. Her last day was April 30, 2026.
- Desiree Mills, Patron Services Lead, has increased her weekly availability to 28–32 hours. This adjustment qualifies her for retirement contributions, vacation time, and optional healthcare FSA benefits.
- Jennifer Stratman, the other new patron services hire, is available for 19 hours per week and will assist in covering shifts vacated by Jessica Barboline.
- Jason McDonald's role has shifted from patron services to a shared role as programming assistant and patron services, recognizing his strengths in program support and his strong communication skills with patrons.
- Anne is seeking quotes from asphalt companies and reaching out to Berkshire Hathaway and the First Presbyterian Church regarding repair and resurfacing of the back parking lot.
- The need for security cameras around the library continues to increase, and Anne is beginning the process of actively seeking quotes. This concern was raised frequently during the TowerPinkster engagement sessions.
- Since the implementation of expanded hours on March 2, 2026, door counter data shows strong and increasing use of both new Monday service and extended Saturday hours. Monday visits have grown from an average of 132 in March to 292 in May to date, now exceeding Tuesday averages. Saturdays show consistent use of the added 1:00–3:00 PM hours, which account for about 25% of total Saturday traffic. Overall, the data indicates that expanded hours are well-utilized and improving access to library services. See the statistical report at the end of the Director's Report.
- Dane Richards and his Pfizer work team volunteered their time on Friday, May 8, 2026, to assist with outdoor spring cleanup around the library.

Programming

- Adult
 - Summer programming, titled *Adult Summer Camp*, will be offered in June and July. These will be programs inspired by your favorite camp activities including:
 - Nature Crafts
 - Team Game Night (interactive games)

- Spooky Stories & Campfire Sing-a-Long
 - At the RACC around their fire pit
 - Flower Vase Weaving
 - Fungi Nature Walk
 - Campfire Cocktails
 - The **Meet Michigan Author** program featuring Robin Mather, scheduled for May 26, 2026, was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.
 - The **RCL Book Club** is wrapping up for the season this month. Regular group members will continue to facilitate the book club independently throughout the summer.
- Children's
 - **Storytime** programming concludes this month for the season and will resume in the fall. From September 2025 through May 2026, the library offered **109 early literacy/storytime sessions, serving 1,403 attendees.**
 - September - May average participants
 - Preschool Storytime - 369 total attendees (avg. **11.2**)
 - Wednesday Wigglers - 587 total attendees (avg. **17.8**)
 - Family Storytime - 351 total attendees (avg. **12.5**)
 - Once Upon a Saturday - 86 total attendees (avg. **12.3**)
 - Baby Storytime - 12 total attendees (avg. **2**)
 - Staff are exploring adjusted start times to better align with common morning nap schedules.
 - The **Reading Buddies** program continues to show strong engagement. The first two sessions featuring a certified therapy dog reached full registration. This month's program, Read to Frito the Turtle, is also nearing capacity.
- Teen
 - Volunteer opportunities for individuals under 14 years of age have been paused again due to ongoing uncertainty surrounding Michigan Department of Labor guidance. Libraries statewide are awaiting clarification on whether Teen Advisory Board volunteer participation is permissible under current regulations.
- All Ages
 - May the 4th Star Wars Celebration attracted 136 attendees.

Outreach

- The Summer Newsletter will be mailed to every Richland resident within the 49083 ZIP code. Approximately 3,500 newsletters will be distributed, made possible through the increased outreach budget. This initiative allows for broader community reach, and the library hopes to continue this mass mailing for future

summer newsletters. Printed copies will still be available for reciprocal members and visitors.

- Anne met with two representatives from the Gull Prairie Preserve to discuss potential partnerships. There is strong mutual interest, and opportunities for collaboration between the library and the Preserve are being explored. Additional details will be shared as the partnership develops.
- First grade classes from Richland Elementary walked over from the school for a library visit and planned activities.
- Gateway Academy Poetry Night was well attended, with 65 attendees.
- The library will host a table at the Richland Farmers Market on six dates throughout the season. The first date is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026.
- Mary has resumed Beacon Point visits, which will occur monthly during their book club meetings. She will also gather feedback on additional library services that may be of interest to participants.
- Mary will also visit Richland Elementary, Ryan Intermediate, and the Middle School before the end of the school year to promote the Summer Reading Program. She will be present during lunch periods with promotional materials and display major prize incentives. A dinosaur costume appearance is also planned.
- Mary has continued to expand the library's social media presence through short-form videos highlighting upcoming programming, including May the 4th and the Summer Reading Program. These posts have generated strong community engagement.
- The library has entered into a partnership with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy through their HOP! (Hike Our Preserves) program, which encourages families to stay active outdoors. Participating families may receive a walking stick at the library with proof of registration.
- The Friends of the Library Book Sale generated over \$2,000 in funds raised.

Collections

- The library was awarded \$1,500 through the Library of Michigan LSTA Public Library Services Grant. These funds will be used to expand circulating STEM kits, LEGO sets, and to acquire a high-powered telescope for patron use.
- Broken and lost mobile hotspots have been replaced, restoring the collection to 12 available units. This is one of the library's highest-demand circulating items, particularly with the approach of summer.

Additional Information

- TowerPinkster has begun engagement sessions with staff, Friends of the Library and patrons (13 attendees), and the Board. These sessions have generated

thoughtful and engaging conversations regarding the library building and overall use of space.

- A staff summer training day is scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2026. The library will be closed to allow for a full day of training. The Friends of the Library will provide lunch and refreshments. The administrative team would like to explore the possibility of offering full-day staff training on a seasonal basis moving forward.

Statistical Report: Expanded Service Hours Usage

March 2, 2026 – May 11, 2026

Purpose

This report summarizes door counter statistics related to:

- New Monday operating hours implemented beginning March 2, 2026
- Extended Saturday hours (10:00 AM – 3:00 PM) implemented beginning March 2026
- Comparative data from Tuesdays as a benchmark weekday

Mondays

Date	Visitor Count	Month	Total Visits	Avg. per Monday		
March 2	120	March	656	132		
March 9	138	April	675	169		
March 16	130	May (through 5/11)	583	292		
March 23	147	Total	1,914	174		
March 30	121					
April 6	172	Monday Usage Trends				
April 13	164	March → April: +28% increase in average attendance				
April 20	149	April → May (to date): +73% increase in average attendance				
April 27	190	March → May (to date): +121% increase in average attendance				
May 4	307	Highest Monday attendance: 307 visitors (May 4)				
May 11	276					

Saturdays									
Date	Daily Total	Last 2 Hrs (1-3)	Month	Total Visits	Avg. Sat Visits	Last 2 Hrs Total	Avg. Last 2 Hours		
March 7	125	23	March	543	136	136	34		
March 14	146	38	April	444	148	123	41		
March 21	126	21	May (through 5/9)	264	132	54	27		
March 28	146	54	Total	1,251	139	313	35		
April 11	148	40	Saturday Usage Highlights 313 visits occurred during the extended Saturday hours (1-3 PM). The added two hours averaged 35 visitors per Saturday.						
April 18	195	55							
April 25	101	28							
May 2	105	32							
May 9	159	22							

The extended hours represented approximately:	
Month	% of Sat Traffic During Added Hours
March	25%
April	28%
May (to date)	20%
Overall	25%

Tuesday Comparison							
<i>Benchmark Weekday Usage</i>							
Month	Total Visits	Avg. per Tuesday	Month	Mon Avg.	Tues Avg.	Mon Compared to Tues	
March	1,104	221	March	132	221	60%	
April	943	236	April	169	236	72%	
May (through 5/12)	500	250	May (to date)	292	250	117%	
Total	2,547	232					

Key Findings

1,914 total visits recorded on Mondays since service expansion began.

Monday attendance increased from an average of 132 visitors in March to 292 visitors in May (to date).

1,251 total Saturday visits recorded during the extended-hours period.

313 visitors used the added Saturday hours (1-3 PM).

Added Saturday hours accounted for **25% of total Saturday traffic overall**.

May Monday attendance currently **exceeds** Tuesday averages.

