



Director's Report
Richland Community Library
Board Meeting
September 16, 2026

Operations

- **Children's Computer:** The Library is planning to replace/acquire a new children's computer, with an estimated cost of up to \$4,000. The Friends of the Library received a \$500 donation from the Gull Lake Area Rotary Club toward the purchase. An additional \$1,000 funding request has been submitted to the Friends and will be considered at their September meeting.
- **Libby PIN Transition:** OverDrive will require PIN authentication for Libby users beginning October 15. Staff are coordinating with Book Systems and OverDrive to transition patron accounts from the current default password to an easy-to-remember PIN using the patron's birth year. PIN verification will be enabled October 1, with patron communication planned ahead of the change.
- **Professional Development:** Eliza Van and Anne will attend the Michigan Library Association Annual Conference at the end of October.
- **Parking Lot Maintenance:** Continued working with the neighboring church on plans for repairs, sealing, and restriping of the shared rear parking lot. Cost-sharing and the scope of the proposed work are currently being finalized.

Programming

- Fall programming is just getting underway. Children's and Teen programming has seen lower attendance with the start of the school year, which is typical for this time of year. We expect participation to increase as families settle into their fall routines.

Adult programming has had a strong start, with great turnout at several programs over the past two weeks. Highlights have included **Driving 100 on Route 66**, an **MMA program with James Elsener**, **Forest Bathing**, **Cookbook Club**, and **Beyond Books**, a new Saturday program offering opportunities for adults to gather, learn, and connect.

Outreach

- **Peace Pole Dedication:** Monday, September 21 at 1:30 PM, in partnership with the Gull Lake Area Rotary Club. The Peace Pole will be dedicated in memory of **Pete Graham**, who served on the Library Board from 2001–2006 and remained a strong library supporter and frequent patron until his passing in March 2025.
- **Richland Township Board Presentation:** Anne will present at the Township Board's October meeting about the Library, its services, and its role and impact in the community.
- **Richland Community Scarecrow Contest:** RCL will participate in the community scarecrow contest organized by Noteworthy/Evermere Collection. Our planned entry is inspired by the monster from *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak.
- **Beacon Pointe Outreach:** Mary is meeting with Beacon Pointe to discuss opportunities to expand our outreach and better meet the needs of residents, including possible on-site programming and take-home activity kits.
- **Storytime at the Township Park:** Exploring opportunities to offer storytime at Richland Township Park.
- **Jack & Jill Preschool:** Reached out to Jack & Jill Preschool to explore more regular field trips and storytime visits at the Library, taking advantage of their close proximity.
- **Newsletter at Gull Lake Schools:** Multiple copies of the RCL Fall Newsletter were distributed to each Gull Lake school to help increase awareness of fall programs and services among local families.
- **Homeschool Meet-Up:** Our first Homeschool Meet-Up had a great turnout, providing a new opportunity for local homeschool families to connect with one another and the Library.
- **Emerging Artists Display:** Issued a call for emerging artists who may not have a full collection available for an exhibit but would like the opportunity to display a selection of their work at the Library.

Collections

- **What's Circulating?** Traditional print remains the heart of RCL's *physical* collection, accounting for approximately **83% of our overall circulation** during the past year (Sept '25 – Sept '26). However, a look at our highest-circulating individual items tells another interesting story.

Among the **100 most-circulated items in the entire collection**, **63 are non-traditional items**, including video games, Tonies & Yoto, Library of Things, games, and mobile hotspots. These materials generated **64% of all circulation among our Top 100 items**, compared with 32% from print materials.

Expanding to our **Top 1,000 items**, non-traditional materials account for 24% of circulation—nearly four times their 6.5% share of overall circulation.

These numbers show that while books continue to drive the majority of our total circulation, our smaller non-traditional collections include some of the **hardest-working and most in-demand individual items we own**.

- See attached

Additional Information

- Submitted Oath of Office forms to Township and Village Clerks.
- Submitted Form L-4029 to Kalamazoo County.

Past Year Circulation Statistics

September 2025—September 2026

Top 10 Overall			
	Circ #s	Item	Item Type
1	158	Mobile Hotspot	Library of Things
2	82	Tonies Kit	Library of Things
3	60	<i>The correspondent</i> — Virginia Evans	Adult Fiction
4	40	<i>Theo of golden</i> — Levi Allen	Adult Fiction
5	36	Yoto Kit	Library of Things
6	32	Animal Crossing : new horizons.	Video Game
7	25	Super Mario galaxy + super Mario galaxy 2	Video Game
8	22	<i>Back on track!</i> — Christy Webster	J Paperback
9	20	<i>Upsy Minnie and Daisy</i> — Paige Desjardins	J Paperback
10	17	Thermal Laminator	Library of Things

Top Adult Fiction	
Circ #s	Item
60	<i>The Correspondent</i> — Virginia Evans
54	<i>Theo of Golden</i> — Allen Levi
30	<i>The Academy</i> — Elin Hilderbrand
30	<i>My Friends</i> — Fredrik Backman
26	<i>The Widow</i> — John Grisham
24	<i>The Intruder</i> — Freida McFadden
24	<i>The Housemaid</i> — Freida McFadden
23	<i>The Crossroads</i> — C. J. Box
22	<i>Nash Falls</i> — David Baldacci
22	<i>The Black Wolf</i> — Louise Penny

Top Library of Things	
Circ #s	Item
106	Mobile Hotspots
82	Tonies Kits
36	Yoto Kits
19	Ukulele Kit
17	Thermal Laminator
15	Portable DVD Player
14	Karaoke Machine
13	Steel Tongue Drum
13	Projector
13	Portable CD Player
13	Label Maker

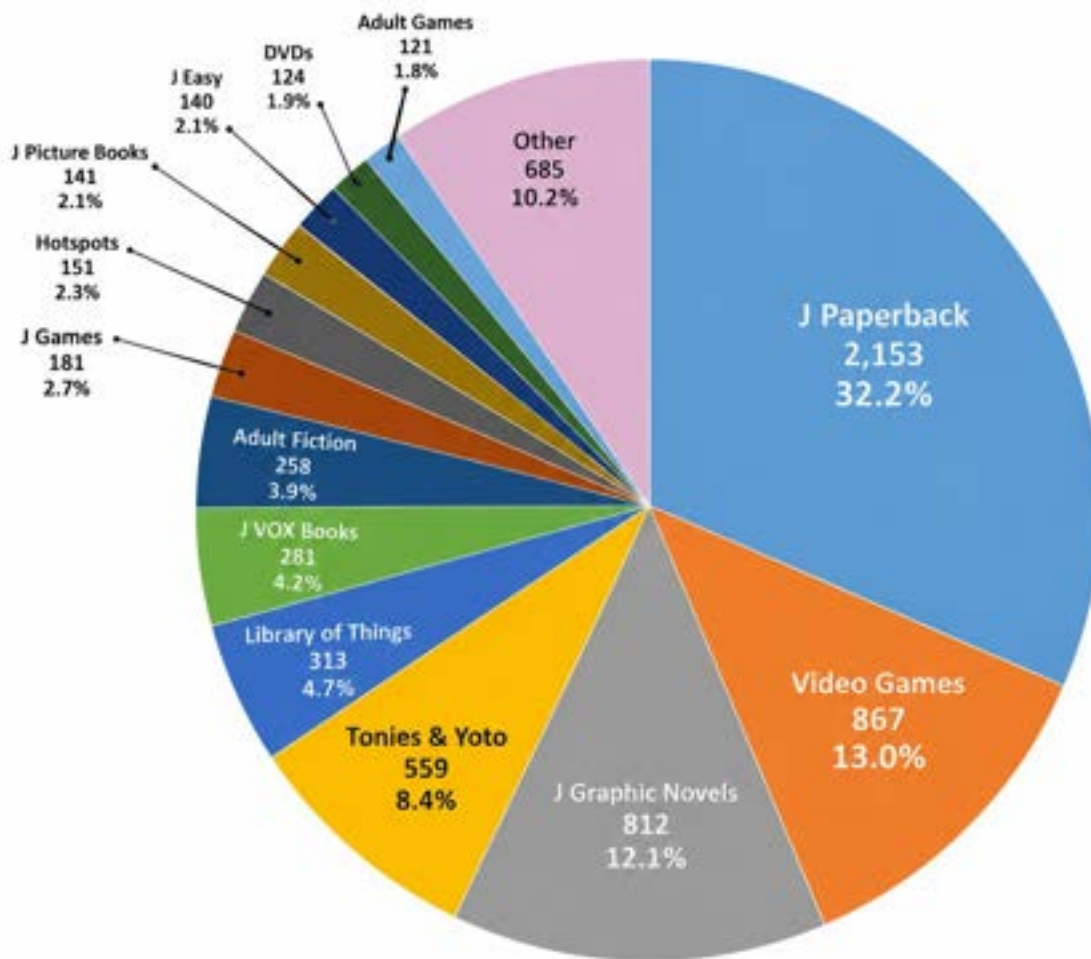
Top Picture Books	
Circ #s	Item
16	<i>Pete the Cat's cool new ride</i> — Kim Dean
15	<i>What would Bluey's mum do?</i>
14	<i>The bakery dragon and the fairy cake</i> — Devin Elle Kurtz
13	<i>Lena the chicken (but really a dinosaur!)</i> — Linda Bailey
13	<i>Bluey. 5 Minute Stories</i>
12	<i>Whoa Panda!</i> — C.S. Jennings
12	<i>The smart cookie</i> — John Jory
12	<i>Dinky the tinysaur</i> — Maggie Edkins Willis
12	<i>The Big Cheese</i> — John Jory
11	<i>The seven silly eaters</i> — Mary Ann HOber-

Top Juvenile Series	
Circ #s	Item
147	<i>Big Nate</i> — Lincoln Peirce
131	<i>Pokémon</i> — Hidenori Kusaka
103	<i>Dog Man</i> — Dav Pilkey
70	<i>Pokémon Adventures</i> — Hidenori Kusaka
66	<i>Baby-Sitters Little Sister</i> — Katy Farina
55	<i>Geronimo Stilton Reporter</i> — Geronimo Stil-ton
55	<i>Hilo</i> — Judd Winick
51	<i>Calvin and Hobbes</i> — Bill Watterson
48	<i>Wings of Fire: The Graphic Novel</i> — Tui T. Sutherland
47	<i>InvestiGators</i> — John Patrick Green

Top Board Games	
Circ #s	Item
20	Barnyard Bounce
19	Hues & Cues
18	Disney Eye Found It!
15	Throw Throw Burrito
15	Cats & Boxes
14	T-Rex Topple
14	Outfoxed
14	Chomp Champ!
13	Sneaky, Snacky Squirrel Game
13	Smart Dog Agility Course
13	Scoops Meow!
13	Hurry Up Chicken Butt

Top 500 Items by Collection

Total Circulation: 6,687



Note: Includes the top 500 individual items by circulation. "Other" includes all remaining collections not listed.

Collection	Items in Top 500	Circ #s
J Paperback	165	2,153
Video Games	61	867
J Graphic Novels	64	812
Tonies & Yoto	37	559
Library of Things	21	313
J VOX Books	22	281
Adult Fiction	19	258
J Games	13	181
Hotspots	12	151
J Picture Books	11	141
J Easy	11	140
DVDs	10	124
Adult Games	9	121

What does this tell us?

A closer look at RCL's 500 most-circulated individual items shows that our smaller, non-traditional collections are some of the hardest-working materials in the Library.

While print materials continue to drive the majority of our overall circulation, **nearly one-third (33%) of circulation among our Top 500 items comes from non-traditional materials**, including video games, Tonies & Yoto, Library of Things, games, hotspots, and STEM kits.

Video Games alone are the **second-highest circulating collection represented among the Top 500**, behind only J Paperbacks. This demonstrates strong patron demand for collections that extend beyond traditional books.