



## DIRECTOR MONTHLY REPORT

February 2026

### Board Subcommittees

Board Officer Nominating	<b>Tierney,</b> Carlson, Woods
Budget/Finance	<b>Jones,</b> Franklin, Sipes,
Facilities/Space Utilization	<b>Cook,</b> Asher, Jones, Sipes
Policy & Bylaw Review	<b>Tierney,</b> Carlson, Cleghorn, Franklin
Strategic Planning	<b>Asher,</b> Sipes, Tierney
Director Goals and Evaluation	<b>Carlson,</b> Asher, Cook, Woods

### Strategic Plan

- The Department heads met with Amanda with Fast Forward Libraries and we are working through the lists of potential activities that were shared during the staff and board workshops.
- Over the next several months, we will work with our teams to prioritize our work.
- We will be developing a reporting mechanism.

### Department Reports

- The Department heads and I discussed our monthly reports. They are going to be less structured while we dive into our strategic plan implementation phase.

### Statistics

- The same patterns continue – eMaterial use, database use, and public PC use are the only areas where, year-to-date, we have less use than last fiscal year.

### Facility

- We are working with the city's IT department and Convergent Technologies (who oversaw our security camera project) to upgrade our network throughout the building.
  - We are applying for Universal Service Fund money to fund the project.
  - This is a network upgrade that we definitely need, and will come at little to no cost to the city.

### Policies

- I received some policy templates from our attorney with Foster Swift for volunteering and programs (including outreach criteria).
  - Policy committee: I have to customize them for us (which includes some strategic plan language). Once complete, we can meet to review the drafts.
- I have attended multiple webinars on AI and privacy. I am going to develop a policy and some guidelines for staff.

### Programs

- 2/15 I partnered with a community member to bring the Michigan Immigrant Resource Center to the library for a presentation on knowing your rights.

### **Outreach**

- I attended the Chamber of Commerce Coffee Connection at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

### **Professional Development**

- I arranged for Sgt. Buckley with the ROPD to do a presentation on situational awareness and active shooter information. He presented on 2/10.
- I attended a webinar on legal issues with AI with the attorneys at Foster Swift (our library attorney firm).
  - I will be developing some policies and guidelines for our staff.

### **General News**

- Our Administrative Assistant and I worked with Cintas to get OSHA compliant first aid kits and cabinets in the library.
- I attended a Michigan Library Association webinar about the potential loss of penal fines due to a recommendation from the trial court study group.
  - MLA's lobbyist does not see this coming forward anytime soon. Penal fines are in the state constitution and would take a lot to make that kind of change. Civil fines would be easier to amend.
  - We would not be the only group affected; they are suggesting other funding mechanisms that take funds away from other agencies.
  - Nothing is moving forward in the legislature at this time.
- 2/19 I interviewed with Taylor Christiansen with the Royal Oak Review about our Annual Report.

### **Patron Feedback**

In January, I shared that a patron had wanted us to block Roblox from the youth computers. Instead of removing access, we purchased privacy screens so that those who are not interacting with the computer did not have to see the screens. Several weeks later, I received this response:

- With all due respect, this response is very frustrating. Privacy screens? That's your solution. This is where my children come to play. My young children. This is a youth space. There should not be any access to Roblox in this space. I encourage you to do more research on Roblox instead of just going off of what their "statements" are.

Here is a clip of what really happens on Roblox.

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQ9\\_TfdkohA/?igsh=djVyMHJzZ2I5dXJt](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQ9_TfdkohA/?igsh=djVyMHJzZ2I5dXJt)

Until you ban it from your computers, this could continuously happen on your property. Under your management. I understand your stance on parents parenting, their children. But when they come to your library without their parents after school, their parents have no idea what they're doing. As a public service, I think it is your job to continue to protect The citizens of Royal Oak, especially the youth.

I encourage you to do more research on what you were allowing to happen. If you want to keep this upstairs on the teen computers or adult computers that's your choice. But there is no need for this to be in the youth area downstairs. Not only could it be detrimental to the kids using it, but it also puts other kids at risk. It's not just visually seeing it. You're also encouraging groups of young boys to come to your library and take up the computers when people could be coming there to study or do something useful.

Adding privacy screens will only make this worse. They will then engage in even more disturbing behavior online. You're now giving them an outlet to do whatever they want. When I was there last time, your librarians were clearly distressed, trying to control the situation that was happening. Snacks all over the computers, multiple children at the computers, loud behavior, etc. This is all because of Roblox. It is creating more issues than just what little kids might be seeing.

- **I replied:** Thank you again for reaching out. I understand that you find it concerning that youth are able to access Roblox; however, it is the responsibility of parents or guardians to guide and supervise their children's online activities. It is not within the library's purview to "protect the citizens of Royal Oak" from publicly accessible websites that fall outside our existing, legally mandated filtering. Rather, our responsibility is to protect intellectual freedom and the ability of people to access what they choose, whether it is a book, a movie, or a website.

As to privacy screens, we respect the ability of people to use computers with some semblance of privacy, even in a public space. We are required by law to protect the privacy of people using the library, as per [The Library Privacy Act](#) of Michigan. I am comfortable with their use in the youth area. Because they are in place, it has reduced the grouping around computers because they cannot see from the sides.

When it comes to behavior issues, please let the staff know if you are experiencing a negative environment for youth after school, or at any other time. We will address it, and we will contact parents or guardians to discuss violations of our patron behavior policy. We have and will continue to address behavior issues.

If you wish to discuss this further, you and I can meet in person.

- Feb 18, 2026: Received an anonymous suggestion for us to add a ramp on the other side of the terrace, by the butterfly garden.
  - I am not sure if that is possible, but we can investigate it in the future.

### **Security Issues/Suspensions**

January 2026

- 9 incidents; 4 on a weekday, 5 on the weekend (4 on the same day)
- 3 trespasses:
  - 1-10-26 Threatening language toward staff - 2 yrs (had history of previous incidents)
  - 1-10-26 Sexual harassment - 1 yr
  - 1-10-26 Using obscene or threatening language or gestures - 1 month (2<sup>nd</sup> incident in January)

## ACCESS SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

January and February 2026

### Strategic Plan - Actions and Results

Royal Oak Public Library provides opportunities for all to learn, connect, create, and innovate.

- Long Term Goal 4- Ensure best practices in library governance, management, and curation in all areas of the library
  - Todd has begun copy- and original cataloging of new vinyl records, which should improve processing workflows in Tech Services and restore available time to Emily in Youth Services.

### Professional Development

- Retha completed the TLN Shared System training courses and Todd was trained in cataloging vinyl records.

### Staff News

- Kudos to the team for enduring multiple daily bin emptying trips during the several weeks of severe cold and frequent snowfalls!

## ADULT DEPARTMENT

February 2026

### Programs

- ROPL has again been selected to participate in the Michigan Notable Book Tour! We will be hosting author OCC Professor Cheryl Neely to discuss her book **No Human Involved: The Serial Murder of Black Women and Girls and the Deadly Cost of Police Indifference**. Oakland Community College professor Cheryl L. Neely traces the lives of Black women and girls from Detroit and other major US cities who were victims of targeted killings. Using personal interviews, court records, media reports, and analytical data, Neeley calls attention to serial cases of murder victims revealing why Black females are disproportionately more likely than white women to die from homicide. We will be scheduling an event with Dr. Neely sometime in late spring or summer and will partner with Sidetrack Book to sell copies during the event.
- Winter Reading Challenge was a resounding success for adults! 280 adults participated in the Winter Reading Challenge. They completed 1,395 activities, earned 3,535 badges and read for 162,038 minutes. 166 people completed the challenge. The number of adults participating in the Winter Reading Challenge increased by 95% from last year.
- All 50 Tiny Art Show painting kits have been claimed, and we are awaiting the finished art projects which will be on display in March. Patrons will again be able to vote for their favorite; this was very popular last year!

- Megan is hosting a Makerspace Open House on February 24 and nearly 50 people have registered as of February 18.
- Donna's Yoga and Essential Oils events were both very well attended and popular!
- Donna has also requested seeds from the One Seed, One State annual seed giveaway program.
- March is reading month and several members of the department are working on an interactive program where patrons tell us (and other patrons) the best book(s) they've recently read. It will be a great spot to find a recommendation during March – it will be installed March 2.
- Andrew has been in touch with the University of Michigan's Artificial Intelligence Laboratory to think about programming partnerships in Fall 2026.
- Gillian and Andrew's PowerPoint Night was fun and while they had only 4 presenters, the 16 people who attended had a great time and asked for the program to be repeated.
- Twenty-one patrons attended the Holocaust educational lecture led by the Zekelman Holocaust Center.
- January 2026 marked the start of a new book club, focused on non-fiction!
- Gillian's Puzzle Exchange in early February was a smashing success! Patrons were very generous and donated a huge number of puzzles; 50 patrons attended the swap. With the surplus puzzles we now have, Gillian is going to contact Welcome Inn and ask which they would like.
- As this summer is America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, not only are we planning for a fun community picnic on Friday, June 26, the adult department also has several of USA-themed events in the works. It should be a very busy and fun summer!
- Woolgatherers, Gillian's monthly meet-up for all fiber arts enthusiasts is going well, with strong interest. This event was created to meet community demand for a central location where like-minded creative patrons can learn from one another and share their knowledge.

### **Collection Updates**

- Megan continues to add requested items to the Library of Things collection: parents love the Yoto Mini interactive machines as non-screen ways for their children to learn.
- Book Club kits continue to be weeded and updated to increase usage.
- Gillian is working on updating the YA graphic novel collection and creating a dedicated non-fiction sub-collection which will aid in locating these items.

### **Home Delivery, Makerspace, Local History Room, & Outreach**

- Vibe Credit Union has generously increased their Summer Reading Program donation from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for the 2026 season, which is greatly appreciated. This donation will cover the cost of our Kick-Off Party on Friday, June 12; which will now be marketed as "Presented by Vibe Credit Union."
- We had 29 Makerspace appointments in January and 9 reservations in February through the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- On February 18 Donna and Gabby visited the Senior Center to provide technology assistance for seniors' smartphones, laptops, and other mobile devices.

- Andrew continues to supply book clubs at the Senior Center and Waltonwood Senior Community.
- Gabby mailed 46 items to 17 patrons in January.
- We had 10 appointments to use the Local History Room in January and Gabby is in the process of finding home for the items we own that are outside the collection's scope (Royal Oak History).

### **Professional Development**

- Trevor received a grant from the Library of Michigan for \$1,800 to attend the Public Library Association's conference in April. This funding will cover the cost of the hotel, airfare, and conference registration.

### **Staff News**

- Brenna, our computer aide who started in mid-2025, worked her last shift on February 7. She needed to focus on her education and several excellent research opportunities that were provided to her. We were sorry to see her leave, but very appreciate of her high-quality work!
- Our time with only one computer aide was but one day: We hired John and he started work on Monday, February 9. John was a top candidate we interviewed last year and we are very appreciative of his availability and initiative to learn our processes.

### **Patron Feedback**

- Two patrons let Bray know that they successfully found a job, after receiving assistance in the lab and using our equipment during their job hunt!
- Two additional patrons complimented the library overall, and another for Bray's assistance specifically.
- Patron let Megan know how much she appreciated the ability to make t-shirts for her husband's band, who are going on tour. The patron said she could not have done it without the Makerspace and Megan's help!
- A patron complimented Gabby on our Local History Room and how grateful she is that we have historical documents.

## **YOUTH SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT**

**January – February 2026**

### **Professional development**

- Emily registered for Michigan Library Association's Leadership Academy. She will start participating in this cohort in April. The Leadership Academy helps library professionals build additional leadership skills to effectively manage teams and navigate the challenges of library work. Through five in-person sessions and three Zoom meetings, she will learn about topics such as emotional intelligence, communication, change management, teamwork, finance, advocacy, and working with boards. She is really excited about this opportunity to take her leadership to the next level.

- All youth librarians completed IT's KnowBe4 training, "2025 Your Role: Internet Security & You".
- Tracy and Emily attended a 2-part webinar series offered through Ready to Read Michigan, "Foundations of the Science of Reading for Public Library Professionals." In this series, The Reading League explored the *Science of Reading* and how libraries can support early literacy development.
- Tracy attended MI Financial Wellness Network's, "Smart Money Kids Read" meeting in preparation for her Smart Money Kids Read Story Time in April during National Financial Literacy Month. Tracy has been partnering with OUR Credit Union for years to offer this interactive and educational story time.
- Tracy and I completed IT's KnowBe4 training, "2026 Common Threats".

### **Collection Maintenance**

- We are working on inventory of the J 700s and J 900s. We completed inventory of the magazines.
- We finished weeding the J Audiobooks on CD, J 800s and J Biographies. We are currently weeding the YA Nonfiction and YA Fiction collections.
- I attended a webinar presented by Library Ideas highlighting their new product, Blinkest. We will be adding this subscription in July. Blinkest offers simultaneous access to summaries of bestselling non-fiction books and podcasts in the form of "blinks" and "shortcasts" in text and audio.

### **PR, Marketing & Partnerships**

- We sent our digital newsletter for February and released our February youth program flyer. We are currently working on our digital newsletter and program flyer for March.
- All remaining programs for this winter/spring session have been published on our event calendar, and we are nearly finished with planning programs for the summer.
- We hosted our very first joint Preschool and Early Learning Fair with Ferndale Area District Library. We had around 40 organizations participate and roughly 350 patrons attended. We also released our updated Royal Oak Area Preschool and Child Care Directory. Emily intends to partner with Ferndale again in 2027, following the tremendous success of their previous collaboration.
- The Winter Reading Bingo challenge has wrapped. 560 people participated in the challenge, almost double the amount of last year. They completed 2,505 activities, earned 6,674 badges, read 272,129 minutes, and 326 of the participants completed the challenge.
- I worked with Samantha Jones from Royal Oak Schools to distribute postcards promoting our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program to the caregivers attending their Kindergarten Information Night. Sam and her team generously took the time to print and distribute the materials.
- Oakland County Park's approved our Recreation Assistance Partnership Program grant. This grant will provide inflatables and other outdoor activities for our Summer Reading Kickoff Party. This year they will be bringing the Blast Off Bouncer, Go Games! and Jump N' Jam mobile

recreation packages to our Summer Reading Kickoff Party in Centennial Commons on Friday, June 12 from 3:30 – 5:30pm.

- Erin met with members of Royal Oak Schools administration and teachers to finalize plans for the Oakland Schools Read-In with Kwame Alexander. The library will be hosting the event on Thursday, February 26 from 5 – 7 pm. Registration for this event is nearly full.
- Tracy met with Alesha Beistline an Art Teacher at Northwood & Oakland Elementary Schools and Alicia Duncan, the Art Department Visual Arts Teacher at Royal Oak High School to plan and develop our third annual Royal Oak Schools Art Show at the library on Saturday, April 18.
- Becca has been busy masterfully creating our promotional materials for summer reading. We will be ready to promote, “Unearth a Story”, earlier than ever before.

### **Patron Feedback**

One of Jennifer’s Baby Size attendees let Sandy know how good Jennifer is with all the babies. She’s received numerous compliments about how talented she is at leading programming for our youngest patrons. Excellent work, Jennifer!

### **Staff News**

#### **Volunteers**

- We have three new volunteers: Morgan, Saffron, and Alexis.
- We had 9 weekly volunteers who were here 24 hours a week.
- Volunteers completed 31 shifts for a total of 62.5 hours.
- Volunteers helped with program prep, cleaning toys, folding brochures, and collection management projects like shelf checks for damaged, lost, missing and not on shelf items, shelf reading, weeding, inventory and item record call number changes.