

# Off The RACC

Richland Area  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER



Plant  
Yourself



Farmers  
Market



OPEN ROADS  
FIXAPALOOZA

## TAKE IT OUTSIDE

If you're ready to get outside, then look no further. We are bubbling over with things to do this spring! We're holding a RACC Trail and Grounds Cleanup day on Sat. April 23 and will need many hands, so please volunteer! We'll provide the treats and thanks! You'll love the Ladies Tea we have on tap for April 24th and we'll also be hosting a do-it-yourself, "Great Garlic Mustard Pull!" in May to get rid of this invasive plant. Bring your black trash bags, take a walk and pull before it seeds!

## BIKE REPAIR & PLEIN AIR

Fix-a-palooza! We've partnered with Open Roads to bring their pop up bike-repair workshops here during the Farmers' Market several times throughout the summer. Opening day for the Farmers' Market is May 11, and you asked for it... food trucks at every market! ART HOP returns on July 8th, followed by the free concert featuring, "SHOUT!" the Beatles tribute band. Fun with the Fab Four! Look for our ever popular Perennial Exchange with a new garden book swap and a Plein Air painting class on the grounds with Lisa Olivarez.

## GET PLANTED!

Join us April 28th, for our 10th annual, "Plant Yourself!" an evening of food, flowers, friends and fundraising in the greenhouse just when we all need it! See neighbors you haven't seen all winter while raising funds for the RACC! Bring your friends, make it a girl's or neighbor's night out, or perhaps a date night! This is our favorite night of the year, seeing you, and so many others supporting the Community Center.

Margaret Atwood said, "In the spring at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." That made me laugh, and is probably true for me, at least! Here's to spring in all its forms. I hope you get outside soon, and revel in the smell of lilacs, fresh cut grass, and yes, even the dirt!

Jilisa Williams, Executive Director

# THANK YOU!

**Your generosity is an incredible gift to our community.**

**Thanks to you, we are able to continue to provide programs and events, enriching our community and the lives of those we serve! We are only able to do that thanks to you, our generous and caring donors!**

Anonymous	Anonymous	Joyce & Carl Harnden	Bob & Kay O'Boyle	Jeanne Turner
Amazon Smile	In memory of Murray Cooper	Susan Harrison & Jeff Price	in celebration of our family	Tyler-Little Family Foundation
Bob Arvidson & Joanne Arvidson	Patricia Crane	Henry B. Hawk	Rick & Jody Ouding	Uggen Family Charitable Trust
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in honor Bo & Mel Van Peenan	In memory of Geoff Johnson	Valli & James McDougale	Phillip Smith	Susan & Douglas Worgess
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John & Lynne Chipman	Bob & Marilyn Graber	June Millar	In honor of Betsi English	
In memory of Jamie Michael	Bjorn & Lori Green	Maggie Mosher	Harry & Tineke Stolt	
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Susan Chrisman	Gull Lake Area Community Volunteers	Pam Moseley	Kurt & Mary Beth Thoman	
Wanda Clawson	Gull Lake Area Rotary Club	Larry & Sue Myland	Bill Thomas	
in honor of Faye Koestner	Susan Haasch	in memory of Tom Kasdorf	in honor of Gretchen Thomas	
Carol Coggan	David & Michelle Halley	Bill & Joyce Nooney	Alison Thor	
in honor of my family	Margaret Hamlet	Robin Noren	Andrea Trautman	
Paula Cook	Harding's	Kim & Valerie Nuyen	Cathy & John Tucci	

Donations received after the printing of this newsletter will be recognized in our next issue. If there has been an error, or omission please accept our sincere apology, and please let us know so we can correct it.



# "PLANT YOURSELF!"



*Join us for this casual Evening of  
Food, Flowers, Fun, and Fundraising!*



**THURSDAY, APRIL 28**  
**6:00-8:30 PM**  
**RIVERSTREET FLOWERLAND**  
**\$45**

**Catering by Chinn Chinn,  
Fun Music, Wine Pull,  
Scavenger Hunt,  
Prize Drawings!**

*All proceeds benefit the RACC!*

## THANK YOU

### 2022 "Plant Yourself!" SPONSORS

#### WICKED GOOD!

Jaqua Realtors  
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#### FANTASTIC!

DOCKMASTER®  
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The McCann Family  
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#### WONDERFUL!

Beacon Pointe Richland  
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Education Center  
Howland Floor Covering  
Kooper's Marine, LLC  
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S&F Propane, LLC  
Urban Nest

#### IN-KIND DONORS

Kitchen House  
River Street Flowerland  
Serafino's  
South Kitchen  
The Ample Pantry



## GARDENING BOOK SWAP AND PERENNIAL EXCHANGE

What would spring be without this happy event? Dig up your loved (and not so loved!) perennials and leave with beautiful plants from a neighbor's yard! Bring plants between 9 and 9:30 a.m., then enjoy some coffee, treats and



advice from the Late Bloomers Garden Club. We go outside for the exchange at 9:45 a.m. sharp. Dress appropriately! New this year, bring the gardening books/magazines you no longer use to donate to the Garden Book Swap! (If you don't have plants, or are new to gardening, please come, there's always more than enough to share). Plants and books...what nice things to reuse and recycle!

## COMMUNITY CENTER GROUNDS & TRAIL CLEANUP

Will you help? Many hands are needed to clean up the trails and grounds at RACC on Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. - Noon. As part of Earth Week, we'll be raking, lopping, cutting trees, filling holes, weeding and getting the grounds ready for summer. Bring your family/friends out to give back to the community and care for the planet. Need volunteer hours? This is a perfect opportunity! Give us a call if you'd like to help out. 269-629-9430.

# Upcoming Classes!

## OPEN ROADS Fix-a-Palooza



### **FREE! OPEN ROADS BIKE FIX-A-PALOOZA**

#### **AT THE FARMERS' MARKET**

**Wednesdays: May 11, June 8, July 13, and August 10**

**3:00-6:00 pm, FREE**

Bring yourself and your bike to this pop-up bike repair workshop with skilled bike mechanics to help you and your bike stay safe on the road!

**These events are FREE and open to the public!**

***Open Roads Mission Statement:** Engage and Empower youth through bicycles to learn practical life skills for their future.*

### **SOFT PASTEL SECRETS WITH LISA OLIVAREZ**

**Monday, May 16, 6:00-8:30 pm, \$60**

Spend 2.5 hours with Lisa, a renowned local artist who has competed in Art Prize, belongs to the Plein Air Artists of West Michigan, and has studied under many well-known artists. You'll learn how to create your own 9"x12" ready-to-frame pastel painting. Lisa will share her tips and tricks and guide you through steps to help you achieve certain success! Bring inspiration photos. Suitable for beginner to advanced. **Must register by May 10.** (\$15 materials fee to be paid to instructor day of class) Min 6/Max 12



### **SPRING WREATH WORKSHOP—THE DO SOMETHING LADY!**

**Wednesday, May 4, 6:00-8:00 pm, \$70**

Join an intimate group of people to get creative and celebrate the survival of a long winter! Attendees will be guided through the skill of wreath making using beautiful, high quality, faux florals, attached to a wire frame. Connect, create and get inspired for all that's to bloom in this coming season. You'll leave with your own spring inspired wreath that you can display year after year, and the skills to make endless wreaths on your own! All wreath supplies and some sparkling beverages included.

**Registration and payment via** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-wreath-workshop-tickets-301909478377>.

### **LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION, REPEAT!**

**June 20-24 1:00-3:00 pm, \$45**

Acting camp is back! Are you between ages 11 and 15? Do you like to make short films or trailers? Act in plays? Play improv games? Would you like to be with people of similar interests? Join Amy, Madeline, and Cade Riker (Broadway Productions) for another summer acting camp using RACC's beautiful trails, open space, community room, and gazebo!

Camp includes improv games, acting skills, fun, laughs, and more.

**Min 5/Max 15**





## LADIES TEA AND FLORAL CREATIVE

**Sunday, April 24, Noon-2:00 pm, \$60**

After a delicious lunch catered by the Fountains of Parchment, we will create a floral design in a tea cup. Lunch will consist of turkey and chicken salad croissants, fruit salad, springtime pasta, veggie chips and scrumptious mini desserts. Enjoy an assortment of teas, water, and lemonade to complement your lunch. All materials are provided to make a beautiful teacup arrangement to take home and enjoy.

To register, please email Stacy Stulp at [stacystulp@gmail.com](mailto:stacystulp@gmail.com).



## PLEIN AIR SECRETS WITH LISA OLIVAREZ

**Sunday, June 5, 1:00-4:00 pm, \$75**

Engage all your senses as you paint Plein Air (outdoors) with artist Lisa Olivarez! A member of Plein Air Artists of SW Michigan, Lisa uses nature as her muse. The 3-hour class will focus on finding interesting subject matter to paint in plein air. Lisa will demonstrate in oil or pastel then help students at their easels. Bring an easel and medium of your choice. A materials list will be emailed prior to the class. Lisa holds a BFA from Wayne State University and develops her artistic practices through workshops and artists' residences in the US and Greece. See the website for more information. **Min 6/Max 12**

## 6-WEEK MAT PILATES CLASS WITH DEIDRE SMITH

**Tuesdays: April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 9:15-10:15 am, \$60**

Stretch, strengthen, and tighten your core and get in great shape to sport those skimpy summer fashions! Each Mat Pilates class will work to balance all muscle groups' strength and flexibility, with an emphasis on challenging the core muscles with each movement. Mat Pilates is a challenging, yet safe, method to sculpt your body and increase agility in your everyday movements. **Please bring a mat to class. Must preregister. Min 5/Max 15**



## RACC CLEAN-UP DAY!

**Saturday, April 23, 9:00 am-Noon**

We need your help! Join Rotary and other community volunteers as they weed, rake, prune and clean up the RACC campus and trails to help keep it beautiful for all to enjoy. Bring your gloves and gardening tools. This is a great way to get volunteer hours or volunteer as a family or group of friends! Call 269.629.9430 for more info. Please go to [www.richlandareacc.org](http://www.richlandareacc.org) to sign up.

*All classes require pre-payment. Please pay with check or cash; online at [www.richlandareacc.org](http://www.richlandareacc.org); or by phone by calling 629-9430. Class size is limited and they fill quickly, so please register early. We will notify you only if the class is full or has insufficient enrollment. Use this enrollment form if you're sending a check.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**  
**Richland Area Community Center**  
**9400 E. CD Ave. Richland, MI 49083**  
**269.629.9430**

Or pay online at [www.richlandareacc.org](http://www.richlandareacc.org)

*Registered students who make a refund request up to 7 days prior to the class start date will receive a full refund, minus a \$10 registration fee. No refunds will be given 6 days before the start date. Full refunds will be given in the event a class is cancelled by the RACC. See [www.richlandareacc.org](http://www.richlandareacc.org) for details.*



## Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group meets the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. Newcomers are welcome and encouraged!

<i>Killer of the Flower Moon</i> by David Grann.....	4/21
<i>The Four Winds</i> by Kristin Hannah .....	5/19
<i>A Woman of No Importance</i> by Sonia Purnell .....	6/16
<i>The Lighthouse Keepers' Daughter</i> by Hazel Gaynor .....	7/21
<i>American Dirt</i> by Jeanine Cummins .....	8/18



## Gull Lake Area Rotary Club

### Susan Iervolina

Exercise with Susan *9am start.....	4/14
Highway Clean Up.....	4/21
Saturday RACC Clean-up day.....	4/23

### Cathy Knauf

Human Trafficking Coalition .....	4/28
Kentucky Derby Party .....	5/5
Student Recognition Day .....	5/19
Disabilities Network.....	6/2

### Rebecca O'Connell

Michiganders for Fair Lending.....	6/9
Community Service Day.....	6/16
Hand-Over Dinner .....	6/23

### Chris Lawrence

Electric Vehicles .....	6/30
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Gull Lake Area Rotary Club meets on Thursday mornings at 7:30 am. Guests are welcome via Zoom or in person. Visit [gulllakearearotary.org](http://gulllakearearotary.org) for info

## ART HOP AND THE BRITISH ARE COMING!

Friday, July 8, 5-8 pm., After Hop Concert at the RACC from 8 - 9:30 pm.

Art, Music and the Fab Four! Plan a great night out in the Village for Art Hop, then join us for a FREE Summertime Live concert with SHOUT, on July 8th, right after Art Hop. We had to cancel our Beatles Tribute band twice (!) due to Covid, so third time's the charm! Bring your family out for a fabulous evening on the lawn with "John, Paul, George and Ringo!" Several businesses will be hosting artists throughout the Village. Thanks to the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo for all their support and sponsorship!



arts council  
of greater kalamazoo



## THANK YOU, BETSI, ANDREA AND HILARY

We are so grateful to Betsi English, who recently stepped down as President of the Board, for all she's done to improve and enhance the Community Center. She worked tirelessly to promote the RACC, through our Great Garden Tour; Plant Yourself, and the ever popular Wine Pull; as President, through countless meetings or working on committees to bring new initiatives to our community. Fortunately, she continues to help in a variety of ways and while thank you is never enough, a bottle of wine just might be appropriate!

We also said goodbye to Andrea Trautman. Andee was (and is!) ever ready to pitch in, on programs, the Purse Sale, our parade and events! We'll still get to see her here during exercise class, but will miss her wit at our Board meetings. Thank you also to Hilary Willavize, who helped us with our fundraiser, marketing ideas, the Wine Pull and brought the biggest dog we've ever seen to the parade! We will miss you all, and thank you for your time, energy and creativity. (But, we know where you live, so know we'll be calling!)

## RICHLAND FARMERS' MARKET

To market, to market! Our local farmers, bakers and artisans are getting ready for opening day on **Wednesday, May 11th!** We've partnered with Open Roads to bring a **bike repair Fix-a-palooza** to the market every 2nd Wednesday. This is a "wheelie" big deal, so ride or bring your bike over, it's free! Look for a bike donation at the end of the summer. We have lots in store, with food trucks too, so join us Weds. 3-6 pm, May 11th-Sep. 7th



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Thank you to our wonderful sponsors! We are so grateful for your support!



# RACC Announcements!

## 10th ANNUAL "PLANT YOURSELF!" EVENT!

Thurs. April 28, 6-8:30 pm \$45. Get your tickets before they're gone, gone, gone! Plan to attend this gorgeous event to kick off spring and support programs at the RACC! It's always a fun evening with great friends, food, drink and music in the beautiful and botanical River Street Flowerland!



## OPERATION POLLINATION!

Did you know ESRA (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group) is encouraging Rotarians and everyone around the world to engage in pollinator habitat and restoration? The number of pollinators (bees, moths, butterflies, etc) have declined by more than 40% in the last 50 years, and we're willing to pitch in! Watch for more opportunities to help plant pollinator gardens at RACC! Coming soon!

## EARTH DAY ACTIVITY

B.E.S.T. LABS, Inc is hosting an Earth Day Celebration April 21, from 1-4 p.m., offering a free Wildflower seeds giveaway and informational talks. Don't miss out!



## CALL FOR ARTISTS

We have hosted some incredible work by very talented people! If you are interested in being selected to show 2-D work at the RACC, please let us know. Contact info@richlandareacc.org with pictures of your work and an artist statement. We'd love to showcase your work on our walls!

## OPEN ROADS FIXAPALOOZA

Join us for a pop up bike repair workshop with skilled bike mechanics to help you & your bike stay safe on the road.

Wed. May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, 3-6 pm.



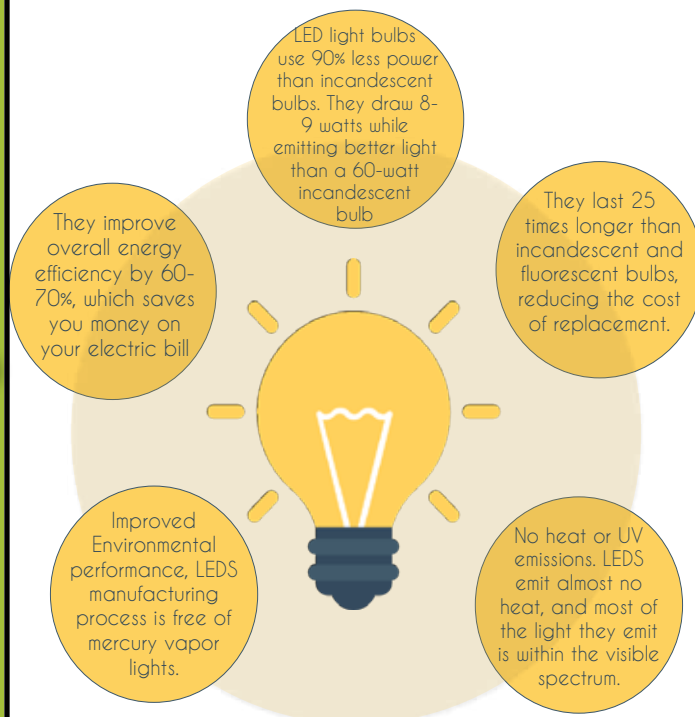
## PILATES! 6 WK CLASS W/DEIDRE

Just in time to tune up your core to be strong and healthy for summer, Deidre Smith is offering a 6 week Pilates class! Bring a mat and some light hand weights to class. Min 5/Max 15. \$60 Must sign up in advance. See website to register. Tuesdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m. beginning April 26.

## FARMERS' MARKET MAY 11!

Don't forget to stop by on Wednesdays, beginning May 11 to take advantage of locally grown produce and locally made products. We can't wait to see you.

## 5 REASONS TO SWITCH TO LED BULBS ASAP!



CONSUMERS ENERGY HAS A FREE HOME ENERGY ANALYSIS PROGRAM WHERE THEY PROVIDE LED BULBS FREE OF CHARGE. MAKE SURE TO CHECK THEIR WEBSITE: [consumersenergy.com/homeenergyanalysis](http://consumersenergy.com/homeenergyanalysis)

Sources: SilegicIQ, LiveScience, +FLATICON

## SPRING CRAFT SHOW

Sunday. May 15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. More than 38 vendors are expected, selling a wide array of products, a perfect spot to look for gifts for yourself and others!

## PASTELS AND PLEIN AIR

Sign up for Lisa Olivarez's pastel class on May 16 and then try Plein painting on June 5th. See the center spread for more info.

## LIFELINE SCREENING

Friday, May 13 \$5

Take a step toward staying healthy & active by getting screened for cardiovascular health. Must RSVP by calling 1-800-690-0323 or visit [LLSA.social/hs](http://LLSA.social/hs)



## ART HOP/FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT — AT THE RACC!

SAVE the DATE! Friday, July 8. We are bringing this fantastic event back to Richland! Partnering with the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, we will, once again, bring more art—and music—to our wonderful community! Follow our Facebook page and sign up for our enews so you won't miss announcements and details about the event!

ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS AND GATHERINGS			SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR	THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE RICHLAND AREA COMMUNITY CENTER
AYSO	SPRING & FALL		<b>TECHNOLOGY TUTORING</b> TUES, APR 19, MAY 3 & 17, 9 - 11 AM, <b>FREE</b>	Off The RACC is a publication of the Richland Area Community Center, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in Richland, Michigan. The newsletter is published in April and September.
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP	3RD THURSDAY	9:30 AM	<b>EARTH WEEK RACC TRAIL CLEAN-UP DAY!</b> SAT, APR 23, 9 AM - NOON	
GULL LAKE AREA ROTARY CLUB	THURSDAY	7:30 - 8:30 AM	<b>LADIES TEA AND FLORAL CREATIVE</b> SUN, APR 24, NOON - 2 PM, \$60	Please direct all correspondence to: Richland Area Community Center 9400 East CD Ave. Richland, MI 49083 (269) 629-9430
SENIOR DINING COUPONS	TUES & WEDS	9 AM - 5 PM	<b>"PLANT YOURSELF!" FUNDRAISING EVENT</b> RIVERSTREET FLOWERLAND THUR, APR 28, 6 - 8:30 PM, \$45	
CARD GROUPS			<b>SPRING WREATH WORKSHOP WITH THE DO SOMETHING LADY</b> WED, MAY 4, 6 - 8 PM, \$70	<b>Executive Director</b> Jilisa Grooters Williams <b>Board of Directors</b> Susan Chrisman, President Brenda Lauer, Treasurer Ella Segur, Secretary <b>Trustees</b> Fred Einspahr Marie Stech
EUCHRE	WEDNESDAY	NOON - 3 PM	<b>GARLIC MUSTARD PULL</b> MONTH OF MAY	
HAND & FOOT	WEDNESDAY	11:30 AM - 3 PM	<b>RICHLAND FARMERS MARKET</b> WEDS MAY 11 - SEP 7, 3 - 6 PM	Richland Area Community Center Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Tues. of every month at 5:30 pm.
DANCE, SPORTS, FITNESS, MUSIC, AND ART			<b>LIFELINE SCREENING</b> FRI, MAY 13 MUST RSVP W/ LIFELINE \$\$	
6-WK BOOT CAMP WITH STEPHANIE	MONDAY BEGINS 5/16	6 - 7 PM	<b>PERENNIAL EXCHANGE</b> SAT, MAY 14, 9 - 11 AM, <b>FREE</b>	Community participation is welcomed at RACC board meetings. A written request to speak is required at least 24 hours before the board meeting. Individuals are allowed 5 minutes to make their presentation.
6-WK MAT PILATES WITH DEIDRE	TUESDAY BEGINS 4/26	9:15 - 10:15 AM	<b>OPEN ROADS BIKE FIX-A-PALOOZA</b> , WED, MAY 11, JUN 8, JUL 13, AUG 10, 3 - 6 PM, <b>FREE</b>	
SENIOR BALLROOM DANCE	ON HOLD	2 - 5 PM	<b>SOFT PASTEL SECRETS WITH LISA OLIVAREZ</b> MON, MAY 16, 6 - 8:30 PM, \$60	
SQUARE DANCE	ON HOLD	7 - 10 PM	<b>PLEIN AIR PAINTING WITH LISA OLIVAREZ</b> SUN JUN 5, 1 - 4 PM, \$75	
SWINGIN' WITH SUSAN	MON & THURS	10:30 - 11:30 AM	<b>OUTDOOR SUMMER ACTING/FILM CAMP!</b> JUN, 20 - 24, 1 - 3 PM, \$45	
TAE KWON DO	THURSDAY	6 - 7:30 PM	<b>ART HOP!</b> FRI JULY 8, 5 - 8 PM, <b>FREE</b>	
YOGA-GENTLE, CATHY	MON & THURS	10:15 - 11:15 AM	<b>BEATLES TRIBUTE OUTDOOR CONCERT!</b> FRI JULY 8, 8 - 9:30 PM, <b>FREE</b>	
YOGA-INTERM., CATHY	MON & THURS	9 - 10 AM	<b>BIKE DONATION DRIVE</b> AUG 1 - 10	

*Farley*  
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