

Off The RACC

Richland Area
COMMUNITY
CENTER



EMBRACING GRATITUDE

Look at all those smiling faces! We've had an exciting summer, with Art Hop and the Summertime Live concert, our weekly Farmers' Market, the new Pollinator garden project, the Open Roads Bike donation, soccer camps, grad parties and so much more! Now, the crisp mornings bring an even greater sense of gratitude as the year draws to a close. Seeing your smiles just brings it home. We are so glad to be part of such a joy-filled and caring community.

HELP SOMEONE ELSE

There are many ways to make this a better place to live. We recognize not everyone can enjoy all we have to offer, so this year we developed the Program Assistance Fund. Look for the Bright Holidays tree-last year thanks to you and the GLCVs, we were able to bring Christmas joy to 70 families! We held a Program Palooza earlier this year, to get your input on programs/classes/events you'd like to see in our community. Many of these are in development, and will be rolled out in 2023. Stay tuned for some exciting new collaborations and initiatives that will help us all understand and improve the world around us, and as always, continue to find ways to work together in this lovely little place we call home.

FALLING FOR ARTS & CULTURE

We hope you'll get outside and take the Arts & Eats tour, visit the Harvest Market Festival and the newly added, juried Artisan Market in November. We'll head to Frankemuth and round out the season with an old-fashioned Christmas carol singalong in December. We hope to see your smiling faces at many of these events!

PLEASE GIVE

All this is possible, thanks to you. When our fall fundraising campaign arrives, I hope you will give generously. What a difference it makes in our community! Thank you!

Jilisa Williams, Executive Director



THE BIRDS AND BEES AGREE

Conrad Kaufman transformed our very ordinary fence into something beautiful and meaningful! This is part of our Pollinator Project, in honor of Donna "Bee" Smith, a long-time friend and employee, who passed away in 2020. The project includes a pollinator garden created by Eagle Scout Clayton Austin, which will include a garden bench in the future.

Thank you Conrad, for bringing beauty to our community with your paintings, furniture, and murals! Want to see more of Conrad's work? Head to the children's section in the Richland Community Library or visit fencerows.com

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE FUND

We started the Program Assistance Fund to help those who may be less fortunate benefit from RACC's great programs. The development of the Program Assistance Fund (PAF) will allow those who may not be able to afford a class, take advantage of our fee-based classes and programs.

If you're interested in helping to fund PAF, note when you pay for a program, you'll be given an option to "pay it forward" and help someone attend a class or event. You can also donate online, richlandareacc.org, or send a tax deductible contribution to RACC.



TECH TUTORING RETURNS!

"I love this program! He was so helpful!" A collaboration with Gateway Academy, this program provides much-needed smart phone and tablet assistance to elders, while providing students with invaluable experience learning how to problem-solve, act professionally, and effectively relate to those from other generations.

Being appreciated for their abilities is a major win for these students. In some cases it is the first time students experience praise outside of the classroom. Call RACC at 629-9430 to get help with your tech needs! Gateway Academy is the alternative Gull Lake high school which serves students who find success outside a traditional high school setting.

ARTISAN MARKET

On November 5th, we'll have an incredible array of artists and crafters here as part of Shop Small, Shop Richland. More than 25 juried booths will be on site, filled with gorgeous prints, jewelry, paintings, kayak paddles, photos, charcuterie trays, woolens-marvelous gifts for sure! We're glad to be part of Shop Small, Shop Richland, be sure to visit all the other local sites as well!





ARTS AND EATS AT THE RACC

Just one more reason why we love fall in Michigan--ARTS and EATS! Enjoy this Southwest Michigan celebration, focused on the beauty of art, nature, and great food! The 11th Annual Arts and Eats event will be held October 15 and 16, from 10 am-5 pm. Thirty-five studios, galleries, restaurants, and farms, spread across Barry, Allegan, and Kalamazoo Counties, will be open to the public for an awesome, backroads experience!

Stop in and see us! The RACC is delighted to be a Central Venue on the tour. We are hosting several well-known and talented artists who use a wide variety of materials to create unique and beautiful pieces which will be displayed for your viewing and for sale.

RACC Arts and Eats Artists:

Birch and Blooms

CuLove Designs – Artisan Jewelry

KScheffersStudioArt – (Feathered n Framed)

Wonderland Alpacas of Michigan


Ellen Nelson Artist

House Jewelry & Glass

Kiefer Prints

Be sure to pick up your map for the self-guided tour at any ARTS and EATS location, or go online to learn more at artsandeats.org

Don't forget to stop at other local sites on the tour, including: The Little Yellow Frame Shop, Michael Kifer Clay Studio, Seven Sisters Shoppe, Northwoods Gallery, W.K. Kellogg Biological Station Bird Sanctuary, Valli Thayer McDougle, and Stasevich Studio at Tall Trees Farm.



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wfscpas.com

It's time to clean your solar panels!!

<p>Dust, leaves, dirt, pollen, debris and bird droppings are the most common solar blockers</p>	<p>The NREL* estimates a potential 30% energy yield loss per year if solar panels are not cleaned regularly. A thorough solar panel clean can make panels 3.5% more efficient.</p>	<p>RACC just cleaned their solar panels this year, to ensure their maximum efficiency. Now it is your turn</p>
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Sources: *NREL (US National Renewable Energy Laboratory)

Upcoming Classes!

EVENING SLOW-FLOW YOGA W/WENDY SINICKI

This 6-week, EVENING, 60-minute, slow-flow class works on combining breath and poses to build strength and flexibility. Suitable for beginners to intermediates. No prior experience or ability to touch your toes required! **Class begins Monday, October 24, 6:00-7:00 pm. \$60**

Wendy Sinicki started her yoga journey a decade ago as a way to ease the pain of migraines. Before she knew it, she was a registered yoga teacher helping others find ease and strength in their bodies. **Must preregister. Min 5/Max 15**



6-WEEK MAT PILATES CLASS WITH DEIDRE SMITH

Tuesdays: Nov. 1, 15, 22, 29, Dec. 13, and 20. 9:15-10:15 am, \$60

Stretch, strengthen, and tighten your core and get in great shape! 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**

SIX MINI YOGA WORKSHOPS: Using Yoga to Open Ourselves to Daily Life w/Cathy Tucci

6 wks. Wednesdays 9:30-10:45 am Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Dec. 7 \$48

This daytime set of six mini yoga workshop classes, taught by Cathy Tucci, will include a variety of pranayama techniques, deeper poses using bolsters, straps and blocks, and an extended savasana (relaxation) or a period of time for focused meditation. *These yoga practices will be different in nature than the Monday/Thursday Gentle & Intermediate yoga classes., no drop ins to maintain consistency.*

All levels welcome, **Min.8,/Max 12 Must preregister**



BEGINNING WATERCOLORS: WINTER BIRDS W/KRISTINA SPITZNER

Sunday, Feb. 19, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, \$45

Join local watercolor artist Kristina Spitzner for an introduction to watercolor illustration to brighten up your winter! We'll practice drawing and painting our small feathered friends with your choice of reference photos to complete up to 3 small paintings in this introductory workshop. All supplies included as well as handouts and direction to begin or continue your creative journey! **Min 8/Max 25 Must preregister**

HEAD TO OPEN ROADS!

If you missed Open Roads at the Farmers' Market (they'll be back next spring) you can visit their workshop on Riverview Dr. for their pop-up bike repair workshops! Drop in on Thurs from 4-6 pm or Friday 3-6 pm all winter and learn what you need to do to take care of your bike so it's ready to roll next spring! **1523 Riverview Dr, Kalamazoo, MI**



BUS TRIP TO FRANKENMUTH AND BRONNERS!

Friday, Nov. 11, 8:30 am to 7:30 pm \$70

Revel in the Christmas spirit as you tour the largest Christmas store in the world, Bronners Christmas Wonderland, and visit beautifully scenic Frankenmuth for shopping and dining. Seats are limited, please sign up ASAP to reserve your spot. Perfect for a daytrip with friends, let us do the driving! Wine and snacks on the return. Visit richlandareacc.org to sign up or stop by in person.

CAROLS, COOKIES AND COCOA!

Sunday, Dec. 4, 1-3 pm FREE Adults (kids ages 10 & up)

Take a break from the holiday bustle, and join us for some good old fashioned Christmas caroling around the piano. Come as you are, but bring good cheer, a willingness to sing all your old favorites, led by Rev. David Brown (who tunes a mean piano, and sells produce at our Farmers' market in the summer!) We'll provide the lyrics, and refreshments.



BEGINNING WATERCOLORS: SPRING BOTANICALS W/KRISTINA SPITZNER

Thursday, April 13, 6:30-8:30 pm \$45

Using fresh flowers and photos for inspiration, (just when you need it most, early spring!) you'll draw and paint lovely floral designs all with the help of Kristina and her expertise. You'll go home with 3 small paintings. **Min 8/Max 25 must preregister**

All classes require pre-payment. Please pay with check or cash; online at 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

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 for details.

HARVEST MARKET FESTIVAL

Join us for our 3rd Annual Harvest Market Festival on Wednesday, October, 19, 3-6 pm.

There'll be a family-friendly games, giveaways, and pumpkins, produce, arts and crafts, scavenger hunt for the littles, delicious baked goods and more! It's sure to be a great time! It's your last chance to stock up on your farmers' market favorites!

Thanks to Beacon Pointe Assisted Living, Richland for their generous sponsorship! Are you interested in learning more about Beacon Pointe? Shuttle busses will be running to their Open House during the Harvest Market beginning at 3:30, 4, 4:30 and 5 pm.



THAT'S A WRAP

The Richland Farmers' Market enjoyed record attendance this year—we must be doing something right! We hosted visiting author, Gina Stevens twice, Open Roads bike repair program four times, collected more than 40 bikes to donate to the Open Roads program, and hosted the Montessori school which provided a free bilingual Music Together class. We also gave away four Market Goodie Baskets. Thank you to all our vendors, shoppers, sponsors, volunteers, RACC staff, and especially to market coordinator Ashley Moody; Jody Elms and Jami Richmond for keeping it organized and running smoothly. We are so grateful for your support of this community treasure. We can't wait to do it all again next year!

See you at the Harvest Festival Market, Wednesday, October 19, 3:00-6:00 pm!

Our generous 2022 RFM sponsors.



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LOOKING TO MEET PEOPLE?

Do you like exercise that is gentle and comes with laughing and friendship? Join "Swingin' with Susan" held on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 am! Susan Iervolina has led this crazy group for almost 10 years! This class is tight-knit yet welcoming, often going to lunch after class, sending notes and cards and watching out for one another. They make everyone feel welcome and yes, they get in some good exercise as well. One of our friends called us "her happy place" based on her experience with this class. The first class is free, but after that, you'll want to spend two days a week with your newfound friends, we promise! M-Th 10:30 \$5 per class

ART HOP! WHAT A NIGHT!

The rain didn't dampen our fun! SHOUT! delivered a fantastic concert in Living Hope Community Church—our rain site—right next door! We are so grateful for our wonderful neighbors! Community members of all ages—about 400 of them, couldn't stay in their seats as they listened to the fun, familiar, and lively Beatles tunes! Thanks to all our volunteers, staff, participants, musicians, artists and especially to the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo for their support! We love bringing this fun program to our community.



Book Discussion Group

The book discussion group meets the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. **Newcomers are welcome!**

Maybe You Should Talk to Someone
by Lori Gottlieb 10/20

When We Believed in Mermaids
by Barbara O'Neal 11/17

The Personal Librarian
by Marie Benedict &
Victoria Christopher Murray 12/16



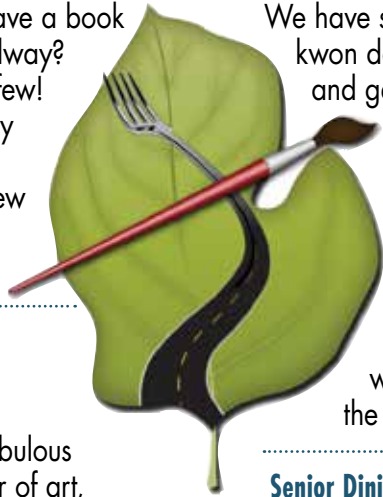
Gull Lake Area Rotary Club

What do you know about solar powered cars, human trafficking, local policing, or the importance of pollinators? By attending a Rotary meeting at RACC, you could have expanded your knowledge. These are just a few of the topics GLARC brought to our community this year. The public is always welcome, and if you can't make our 7:30 am meetings, you can always Zoom in, or help out at one of our service projects. Visit us on Facebook or at gulllakearearotary.org

RACC Announcements!

Book Exchange

Did you know we have a book exchange in our hallway? Bring a few, take a few! Trade in your recently read (and enjoyed!) books, and take a few home with you and enjoy a good read.

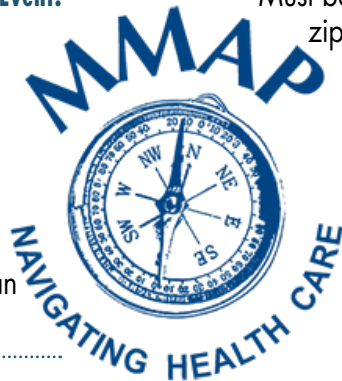


Arts & Eats

Oct. 15 & 16, 10 am - 5 pm. Get ready for the fabulous backroads color tour of art, farms and food!

Medicare Open Enrollment Event!

Tues. Oct. 25, 9-3 (in Kalamazoo) Could you decrease your out of pocket medical costs for 2023? Make sure you're in the best plan for you. Call 800-803-7174 to schedule an appt. with an MMAP counselor today.



Coffee Hour

Mon. & Thurs. 9:30-10:30 am. Looking for a place to land, chat with your friends for an hour? Join us Mondays and Thursdays, bring your favorite morning beverage, or you can purchase Keurig coffee for \$1. Come hang out with your neighbors and friends!

Shop Small, Shop Richland Artisan Market!

Sat. Nov. 5, 10 am - 4 pm. We'll have more than 25 local artists, crafters and vendors here with hand crafted art, ready for you to purchase for Christmas! This juried selection offers some delightful, whimsical, one of a kind items, don't miss it!



Looking for exercise classes?

We have several-yoga, pilates, taekwon do, aerobics-see the calendar and get your fit on!

Poetry & Prose

Thurs. Nov. 3, 7 pm. Meet Michigan Authors presents Memoir: Poetry & Prose-Writers Elizabeth Kerlikowske & Jennifer Clark will read from their works at the Richland Community Library.

Senior Dining Coupons

Purchase coupons for \$3 and enjoy a fixed menu at Liz's Café in Richland! Must be over 65, be in a qualifying zip code. Tickets sold Tues/Wed. from 10 am - 1 pm.

Don't Wait too Long!

We're taking reservations for Grad parties, baby & bridal showers for 2023. Call to schedule your party or event while we still have spaces left!

Need help with your Smart Phone?

Call and sign up for your personalized 30-minute session today. Call 269.629.9430 to RSVP. Tues. 9 am - 11 am. Oct.18, Nov. 1 & 15, Dec. 6 & 20.

Want to teach a class?

Do you have a skill you'd like to share? Have an idea for a program? Teach an art class, host a summer camp? Maybe there's a meetup group you'd like to start. We've had many great ideas come from our community survey and the Program Palooza, keep them coming! Give us a call, 629-9430, stop by, or send us an email at info@richlandareacc.org. This is your Community Center!

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WE'RE HEADED TO FRANKENMUTH "MICHIGAN'S LITTLE BAVARIA!"

Just in time for the holidays, join us for a day trip to festive Frankenmuth, and home to the world's largest Christmas store, Bronner's Christmas Wonderland! Perfect for couples or a girl's day out! Branson beckons and so does beautiful historic Savannah, Charleston and Myrtle Beach!

FRANKENMUTH/BRONNERS CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

Friday, Nov. 11, 2022- \$70 pp
SAVANNAH, CHARLESTON, AND MYRTLE BEACH
April 16-24, 2023 - \$2,599 pp. dbl. occ.
A BRANSON ADVENTURE
May 15-20, 2023 - \$1,399 pp. dbl. occ.

Book your trip today! For details, please go to www.richlandareacc.org and click on the travel tab.

ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS AND GATHERINGS

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE RICHLAND AREA COMMUNITY CENTER

AYSO	SPRING & FALL	
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP	3RD THURSDAY	9:30 AM
GULL LAKE AREA ROTARY CLUB	THURSDAY	7:30 - 8:30 AM
SENIOR DINING COUPONS	TUES & WEDS	10 AM - 1 PM
COFFEE HOUR	MON & THURS	9:30 - 10:30 AM
GLVP	MON & TUES	NOON-3:30 PM

CARD GROUPS

EUCHRE	WEDNESDAY	NOON - 3 PM
HAND & FOOT	WEDNESDAY	11:30 AM - 3 PM

DANCE, SPORTS, FITNESS, MUSIC, AND ART

6-WK MAT PILATES WITH DEIDRE	TUESDAY	9:15 - 10:15 AM	BEGINS 4/26
PING PONG	WEDNESDAY	1 - 3 PM	
SWINGIN' WITH SUSAN	MON & THURS	10:30 - 11:30 AM	
TAE KWON DO	THURSDAY	6 - 7:30 PM	
6-WK SLOW FLOW YOGA	MON	BEGINS 10/24	6 - 7 PM
6-WK YOGA, CATHY	WED	BEGINS 11/2	9:30 - 10:45 PM
YOGA-GENTLE, CATHY	MON & THURS	10:15 - 11:15 AM	
YOGA-VINYASA., CATHY	MON & THURS	9 - 10 AM	

TECHNOLOGY TUTORING
TUES, OCT 18, NOV 1 & 15, DEC 6 & 20, 9 - 11 AM, **FREE**

ARTS AND EATS
OCT 15 & 16, 10 AM - 5 PM, **FREE**

HARVEST MARKET FESTIVAL
WED, OCT 19, 3 - 6 PM

ARTISAN MARKET
SAT, NOV 5, 10 AM - 4 PM

FRANKENMUTH/BRONNERS BUS TRIP
FRI, NOV 11, 8:30 AM - 7:30 PM, \$70

WASSAILING
THURS, DEC 1, 5:30 - 8 PM, VILLAGE GREEN

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG
SUN, DEC 4, 1 - 3 PM, **FREE**

KRISTINA SPITZNER, BEGINNING WATERCOLORS "WINTER BIRDS"
SUN, FEB 19, 1-3 PM, \$45

KRISTINA SPITZNER, BEGINNING WATERCOLORS "SPRING BOTANICALS"
THURS, APRIL 13, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, \$45

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 January, April and September.

Please direct all correspondence to: Richland Area Community Center 9400 East CD Ave. Richland, MI 49083 (269) 629-9430

Executive Director
Jilisa Grooters Williams
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Susan Chrisman, President
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Richland Area Community Center Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Tues. of every month at 5:30 pm.

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.

THANK YOU 2022 "PLANT YOURSELF!" SPONSORS

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