

An open book is the central focus, resting on a red metal bicycle rack. To the left, a blue lamp is partially visible. The background is a bright, hazy outdoor setting with a sun flare in the lower-left corner. The text 'Romeo District Library' and 'Summer 2016' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Romeo District Library

Summer 2016



Hello Everyone,

Brief history of and update on lawsuit

The Romeo District Library (RDL) was established in 1969. The Village of Romeo and the townships of Bruce and Washington have been sharing controversy-free enjoyment of the library and its services until recently.

In July of 2014, Washington Township filed a lawsuit. You can read the facts of the case here: <http://romeodistrictlibrary.org> (under "library information / Board of Trustees"). Judge Caretti ruled in favor of the Library in February of 2015. Five days later Washington Township voted to appeal that decision. On Tuesday, May 3rd the Michigan Court of Appeals heard oral arguments from both sides. We are still waiting on a decision.

The lawsuit centers on control over RDL's budget, which is largely funded by a perpetual millage.

RDL is very fortunate to have a voter-approved millage. However, you may not know that the amount of our millage has decreased over the years due to the State of Michigan's Headlee Rollback Amendment. When annual growth on existing district property is greater than the rate of inflation, Headlee requires a permanent reduction in our millage. When this happens, our millage rate is "rolled back" for that fiscal year. We never recover what is lost. In the last 20 years, we have seen a drop from 1.3025 mils to our current rate of 1.1512 and this rate will only continue to go down.

Every year, the budget is drafted by the Director with input from the staff before it is brought to the RDL Board of Trustees (made up of two appointed members from each municipality) for approval. Then it is distributed in draft form to all three municipalities for input before it is approved by the RDL board in a posted, public hearing.

RDL's numbers are also thoroughly audited annually by an outside company. The audit results are presented both to the public in a posted open session and to the individual municipalities. Since I have been with the Library, we have had outstanding audit reviews. We have made recent changes to reduce operational and staffing costs, ensuring that we are moving forward with great services while executing a conservative budget. All of this is public record. Our fiscal year ends on June 30th and a draft of our new budget will be available shortly.

I cannot address everything that may have occurred at RDL historically. I can say, with utmost confidence, that substantial positive change has occurred since my start with RDL. I, my staff, and the Board have worked very hard to ensure that we are providing excellent customer service while listening to every tax payer concern that comes to our attention.

Services

We have entirely new children's department staff who have really hit the ground running! Under the direction of Team Lead Deborah Motley, the department has increased their weekly program offerings. We now have separate programs aimed at toddlers and pre-schoolers, and story times for kids up to 3rd grade with more new programming to come. We have wonderful new puppets, a play kitchen area, a great train table, and tons of new books for all ages.

I'm also excited about our new Teen librarian, Therese Bulszewicz. This is the first time since I've been the director here at RDL that we've had a librarian solely to focus on Young Adult programming and collection needs. You will find some of her exciting new programs in this newsletter.

We are in the planning stages for some renovations to the Graubner branch lobby which will make it more customer friendly. We are discussing an information desk at the front door, more comfortable seating, and some study rooms, which are currently very well-used at the Kezar branch.

Finally, the library recently acquired the entire Romeo Observer archive collection, generously donated by Mel Bleich. We are still sorting through the boxes, but we are anticipating a complete collection of the full run of the newspaper. We're discovering new things every day such as original historical photographs of our area and of events such as the Romeo Peach Festival. Once the dust clears we will be sharing these treasures with the public. This is the first step in making the Kezar branch, which already is a beautiful historical landmark, into a local history and genealogy hub.

It is an exciting time for the Romeo District Library! We have a dedicated staff and Board of Trustees that are working very hard to make this great library system even better and we can't wait to share these projects and programs with you. You, after all, are the reason we are here. Please drop by and see us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you and have a wonderful summer!

John McNaughton, Director
john@romeodistrictlibrary.org
 586-752-0603 ext. 1018



Summer Reading for Teens & Adults

Make your Summer make a difference!

Join us for a fantastic new take on Summer Reading! This year we will be having a Read-a-Thon to support local animal shelters and rescues. The program begins on Saturday, June 18 and will run through August 13th. Prizes will be awarded to top reader and top earner for both adult and teens. Join us for our closing program, a Pet Expo, on August 13th to meet with other readers and animal lovers.

Pet First Aid

Tuesday June 28th 7:00 pm

Join us for an informative evening with Laura from Wilson's Veterinary Hospital. She will be teaching basic first aid for your animals.

Make Your Own Healthy Dog Treats

Thursday July 21st 7:00 pm

Learn how to make healthy treats for your fur people. These recipes will give you the ability to make cheaper and healthier treats for your own pets. Materials will be provided. Registration is suggested.

Craft Your Own Pet Toys

Tuesday, July 26, 7:00 pm

Enjoy a fun night crafting with other animal lovers as we make cat and dog toys for our fuzzy friends! Materials will be provided. Registration is suggested.

Feathered Friends Feeder Craft

Thursday August 11th 6:00 pm

Birds need love and food too! We will be making fun and colorful bird feeders that will brighten up any yard and make a feathered friend's day! Materials will be provided. Registration is suggested.

Pet Food for Fines

July 11th – July 15th

This year our food for fines program will help out our furry friends. Please bring in donations of food, litter, toys, blankets, cleaning supplies, carriers, cages or any other needed pet supplies and we will be donating them to local shelters. You in turn can pay off your fines and feel good about your contribution!

Pet Expo

Saturday August 13th 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Join us for our first ever pet expo to round out our Summer Reading Read-A-Thon! You can visit with adoptable pets, meet with Leader Dogs for the Blind, get your pets some new toys or treats, grab a snack for yourself, get your pet micro-chipped and more!

Technology

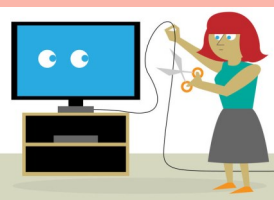
LinkedIn Basics

Thursday June 9 6:30 pm

We will cover setting up an account, presenting an effective profile, making connections, giving recommendations, and interacting for professional gain with other users! Registration requested but not required.

Cutting the Cord: Getting Your Content Without the Pricey Cable Package

Tuesday July 12th 7:00 pm



Roku Streaming Stick, Apple TV, PlayStation TV, Amazon Fire TV, Sling, etc. Discussion of HBO Go, Netflix, Hulu, Youtube, Showtime Anytime, etc.

Tech Privacy and Security: An Overview

Thursday August 25th 7:00 pm

Like to improve your security for browsing websites or email? Demonstration of choosing browsers (e.g. Firefox with extensions), tightening up email, PortableApps.com, apps on mobile devices, discussions of VPNs, etc.

Adult Programs

Beekeeping and Honey Making

Thursday June 2nd 7:00 pm

Join us as local beekeeper Neil McMillan discusses the art and skill of the beekeeping trade. Come try different homemade honey samples and learn a few things you never knew about bees. Guaranteed fun. Honey will also be available for purchase as well. No registration required.



Klezmeponic

Thursday July 14th 7:00 pm

The Romeo District Library is proud to bring to you the unique and entertaining sound of Klezmeponic. They are a MI based band who is rich in sound and tradition. Drawing on Jewish folklore and history, they provide their audiences with a rich blend of melody and memory. Come enjoy their charming style. No registration required. Note: If the weather is decent, this event will be outdoors.

5TH MI Regiment Civil War Band

Saturday July 30th 1:00 pm

Come join us for an afternoon of fun as members of the 5th MI Regiment Civil War Band provide us with an outdoor concert of historical and entertaining music. Members will be dressed in period clothing and will be discussing the history and meaning behind the various songs as well. Women will also be attending in period clothing. So, history buffs and music lovers, break out a lawn chair grab a blanket and make a picnic out of it.

My War in Afghanistan

Thursday July 4th 7:00 pm

SFC Steven Mrozek (Ret) of the 82nd Airborne Division will be presenting an exciting talk on his own combat experiences while fighting in Afghanistan. Come find out what it was like to be there.

Pirate Cannon Shoot II

Saturday August 6th 1:00 pm



Arrrr, the pirates are back! Captain Mike Martin and his crew of pirates make a return landing to the Graubner Library. Captain Mike and his pirates will be shooting their battle cannon, discussing how it works and talking about the life of being a pirate.

Teen Programs

Dungeons & Dragons

Wednesday June 15th 6:30 pm

Come join us as we continue our exciting adventure in Dungeons & Dragons! The fifth edition of the book will be used for gameplay. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Registration is not required. For teens age 12-18.

Teen Summer Reading Kickoff Movie Day

Saturday June 18th 12:00 pm

To celebrate the teen summer reading kick off, join us for an afternoon of movies! We will be showing two movies by Hayao Miyazaki: Howl's Moving Castle (Rated PG) and My Neighbor Totoro (Rated G). Pizza and popcorn will be provided. Registration is not necessary. For teens age 12-18.

Teen Craft Night

Wednesday June 22nd 6:00 pm

To celebrate the summer reading theme of animals, we will be making dog (or cat or any other furry friend) treat jars for your favorite pet. Supplies will be provided, as well as snacks. Registration is not necessary. For teens age 12-18.

Teen Craft Night

Wednesday July 6th 6:00 pm

We will be making super awesome animal bookmarks. Supplies will be provided, just come with your imagination! We will also have snacks. Registration is not necessary. For teens age 12-18.

Teen Double Feature Saturday

Saturday July 16th 12:00 pm

Come join us for a fun afternoon of movies! We will have a mix of new and old. We will be showing *The DUFF* (Rated PG-13) and *Pretty in Pink* (Rated PG-13). Pizza and snacks will be provided. Registration isn't necessary. For teens age 12-18.

Dungeons & Dragons

Wednesday July 20th 6:30 pm

Join us for an evening of fun role-playing in *Dungeons & Dragons*. We will be continuing our campaign from the previous meeting. Pizza and snacks will be provided. The fifth edition of the book will be used. No registration is necessary. For teens age 12-18.



Summer Reading Party/Movie Day

Friday August 12th 12:00 pm

All good things must come to an end! Come join us for the summer reading finale by watching some retro 80s movies! We will be showing *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* (Rated PG-13) and *Better Off Dead* (Rated PG). Pizza and snacks will be provided. Registration is not necessary. For teens age 12-18.

Teen Craft Night

Wednesday August 17th 6:00 pm

Please join us for an evening of sewing. We will be making Pusheen the cat stuffed animals. No sewing experience is required. Supplies and snacks will be provided. For teens age 12-18.

Dungeons & Dragons

Wednesday August 24th 6:30 pm

Join us for an evening of fun role-playing in *Dungeons & Dragons*. We will be continuing our campaign from the previous meeting. Pizza and snacks will be provided. The fifth edition of the book will be used. No registration is necessary. For teens age 12-18.

Children's Programs

Pajama Storytime

Mondays 7:00 pm

All ages welcome

Outdoor Storytime

Every other Wednesday, rain or shine 10:00 am

June 30th, July 7th and 21st, August 4th and 18th

All ages welcome

Storytimes generally include stories, rhymes, songs/music, movement and a craft.

Read to Rover

Every other Tuesday 6:30pm starting May 17th

If your child is shy reading to humans, let him or her read to a non-judgmental dog! Sign up for Read to Rover.



Summer Reading Program Kick-Off

Saturday June 11th from 2:00 -4:00 pm

We're having a carnival to usher in summer reading. There will be sno-cones, music, an obstacle course for all ages and much more. Enjoy the day and sign up for summer reading!

To sign up for summer reading from home, log into

<http://romeodistrictlibrary.readsquared.com/>

You can register as a family or an individual. Come back to log in minutes (or books for the pre-school crowd.) Play games on the site, read from our booklists, come to our programs and get badges. When you earn 5 badges, no more than one per week, come into the library to get a prize!

Yoga and Smoothies

Wednesday June 15th

Toddlers-2nd grade 10:00 am

3rd-6th grade 11:30 pm

Learn how to stretch and relax,

then make a healthy smoothie to nourish your body!

Duct Tape Flowers

Tuesday June 21st 2:00 pm

Make a beautiful bouquet of flowers or any other item your imagination desires of duct tape!

Native American Dance by Reg Pettibone

Thursday June 23rd 7:00 pm



Get a better understanding of true Native American culture through dance, song, and narration with a strong environmental emphasis.

Build a Blanket Fort

Saturday June 25th 5:30 pm

Bring blankets and pillows to make a fort where you can read and relax!

Family Board Game Night

Wednesday June 29th 6:30 pm

We'll put out all the popular board games for kids of all ages: Trouble, Monopoly, Candyland and more!!!

Minute to Win It

Saturday July 9th 2:00 pm

Beat the clock in these fast paced games. Prizes for the fastest and snacks for everyone! For grades 5-8.

Mad Science

Thursday July 14th 2:00 pm

Mad Science is back with a program called "The Marvels of Motion". Learn science while having fun!!!

Relay Races

Tuesday July 19th 10:00 am

We'll have sack races, 3-legged races and all the other traditional relay races. Come for a morning of healthy fun!

Grossology

Saturday July 23rd 2:00 pm

Fake snot, edible dinosaur poop, armpit fudge and flubber. Get grossed out!!!!

March of the Stuffed Animals

Monday July 25th 7:00 pm

Bring your stuffed animal to story time and parade them around the library. Leave them overnight so they can have a library sleep-over. We'll show you pictures of the fun time they had while they were here.

Lego Day

Wednesday July 27th 7:00 pm

Bring your imagination to this fun-filled evening of Lego building. We'll give you an object to build and you'll make it with all the Lego you need. Projects will be on display in the Children's Department for the whole month of August!

Toddler Drive-In

Saturday August 6th

1:00 pm Make your cars,

2:00 pm watch the movie Cars

We'll help you make a car out of a cardboard box then you can watch the movie Cars while sitting in your car!

Science Summer Camp

Tuesday August 9th - Thursday August 11th

Grades K-2 10:00 am

Grades 3-5 2:00 pm

We're going to do science experiments and learn new things both indoors and out! It's science and lots of fun!

Summer Reading Closing Ceremony**ANIMAL MAGIC**

Saturday August 20th

2 Shows: 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm

It's free, but come to the library to get tickets.



Be entertained and educated about exotic animals, with a little magic and humor thrown in. Marc Rosenthal brings in exotic animals that have been rescued to share with everyone!

Back to School Crafts

Friday August 26th 2:00 pm

Maybe we'll make book marks or pencil toppers. But whatever we decide, it'll be fun and useful for back-to-school!

Adult Programs

Crochet Group

Every Tuesday 5:45 pm

Join us as we share patterns, problems and laughs! Beginners welcome!

Great Books Book Group

1st Thursday of the month 5:45 pm

Join us for a discussion of classic and modern & "Great Books". The "Great Books" book group meets the 1st Thursday of the month at the Kezar Library, unless otherwise indicated.

June 2: *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jaqueline Kelly

July 7: *The Virgin of the Small Plains* by Nancy Pickard

August 4: *To Have and Have Not* by Ernest Hemingway

History's Mysteries Book Group

3rd Tuesday of the month 5:45 pm

Join us for a fascinating discussion about historical mysteries, suspense and thrillers!

June 21: *Murder as a Fine Art* by David Morrell

July 19: *The Book of Speculation* by Erika Swyler

August 16: *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane* by Katherine Howe

Crochet Flip Flop Workshop

Tuesday June 14th 5:45 pm



Join us for a summertime fun workshop where we will create embellished flip flops. Basic crochet skills are helpful but not required. Please bring your own flip flops and crochet hooks. A limited supply of novelty yarns will be provided.

Children's Programs

Drop In Story Time

Every Thursday 11:15 am

Fingerplays, music and stories to help young children develop an appreciation for and enjoyment of books and reading. Caregivers will learn how they can enjoy their roles as early literacy teachers and be more effective while reading at home.

Saturday STEAM



When kids explore, create and experiment in an informal learning environment like the library, they learn a lot - and have fun at the same time. Join us for activities that will inspire and motivate kids with fun, hands-on learning activities. The kids of today are the innovators of tomorrow. Let's spark their passion and creativity for the sciences now.

Saturday June 11th 12:00 pm: Candy Construction

Saturday July 9th 12:00 pm: Ice Cream Challenge

Saturday August 13th 12:00 pm: Outdoor Egg Boats

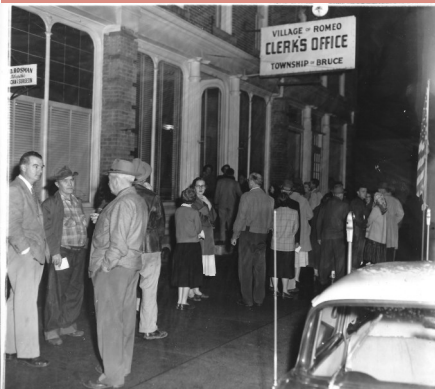
Build and Break Lego Time

Join us at the Kezar Library for Build and Break Lego Time - You can join in the challenge or you can build whatever you like. All creations will be on display for the month!

Saturday June 18th 12:00 pm

Saturday July 9th 12:00 pm

Saturday August 20th 12:00 pm



Pictures from the Joan D. and Melvin E. Bleich Romeo Observer Newspaper Collection.

Staff is working diligently so that you can see these pictures and more soon!

Romeo District Library
65821 Van Dyke
Washington MI
48095

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8 Friends of the Library



Celebration of Gardens and Art

SECOND SATURDAY IN JULY



Saturday, July 9, 2016

Tapper Garden - 4700 Raap Road, Bruce Township, MI 48065

Tickets - \$10

Tickets go on sale June 1 at Graubner Library, Kezar Branch Library,
Starkweather Arts Center (219 North Main in Romeo), or online

Visit romeodistrictlibrary.org/friends/ for more information

For many years, the Friends of the Romeo District Library have hosted the Romeo Area Garden Walk to raise funds for the Library. Garden Walk proceeds have helped to purchase furniture and computers and funded reading programs and special events at both Graubner Library and the Kezar Library.

This year the event has a new name – **Celebration of Gardens and Art**. The Celebration will take place at the Tapper Garden in Bruce Township, and will feature displays and how-to demonstrations from garden businesses and professionals. Topics will include herbs, pruning, bees, garden art, native plants, monarchs, and so much more. We will also have a book sale, a visit from a local author for young adults, and children will love the story walk hosted by the Library!

Our partners at Starkweather Arts Center will put the 'Art' into the Celebration, with live music throughout the day and artists painting and creating in the gardens.

Proceeds from the Celebration will support the future launch and long-term maintenance of a Romeo District Library bookmobile along with other projects to bring the Library out into our communities. This multi-year project will raise funds to kick-start the bookmobile project and leverage grants from other sources. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Starkweather Arts Center's historic preservation fund.

We invite you and your business to become a sponsor of the Celebration. We are also looking for exhibitors - garden-related business that have terrific ideas, products, services, and knowledge. Applications are available on our website or contact us at friends@romeodistrictlibrary.org.

Attention: Gardeners! The Romeo Area Garden Walk will be back in 2017 as part of the Celebration of Gardens and Art. If you have a garden you would like to share with us in 2017, please contact us – we would love to talk with you and visit your garden this summer!

Graubner Library

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm
Friday - Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday - Closed

Kezar Library

Monday - Thursday 11:00 am - 7:00 pm
Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sunday - Closed