MINUTES OF THE SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Members Present: Jim Pitsch - Supervisor, Renee Busscher - Clerk, Ashley Brower – Treasurer, Dan Striegle – Trustee, Don Sebright – Trustee
Also preset: Adam Mays –Fire, Lisa Vandebunte – Library Director, Heidi Wolf – candidate for District Court Judge
Absent: n/a

Meeting was called to order by Jim Pitsch at 7:00PM
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Renee Busscher

Reading of previous board meeting Minutes and Bills, if no additions or corrections Minutes and Bills were approved and paid by consent.

***County Road Commissioner*:** n/a
County Commissioner: Not present this meeting, see attached report.

Comments from Commissions & Departments of:

- *Zoning:* no new reports
- *Planning:* Dan Striegle presented. Top Grade submitted special use permit that expires in April and they will need extension as project is estimated to take longer. Then looking to sell 15 lots around created 9 acre lake. Planning Commission learned more about Data Center in Lawrence and Dorr. Also looking to update ordinance so less special meetings would need to be requested by residents.
- *Fire:* Adam Mays presented. See attached report.
- *Ambulance:* Jim Pitsch to attend meeting 9/9/2026.
- *Library:* Lisa Vandebunte presented, see attached paper. Library is hiring – 2 current openings. Check out Library webpage for all information https://salemtownshiplibrary.org/
- Parks Planning: Township asked Williams and Works about dividers and looking to make sure we don't compromise the post tension concrete. They recommended high dividers. Also looking into cost of mobile dividers. The parking lot is striped as well.
- *Roads:* n/a

Public Comment:

Jaclyn Hulst from Allegan County Conservation District presented updates. Let us know Allegan County would like to be informed of our recycle tonnage data.

Question about Cemetery and if there are regulations on which way stones face.
Will have to review - markers are regulated by cemetery/township ordinance.

Old Business:

1. Pickleball Court Grand Opening: (9/26 Saturday at 10am)
   Moved by Ashley Brower, seconded by Renee Busscher
   Discussion: Tanya from Williams and Works advised that all who were involved in the build would prefer grand opening during workday hours so they get paid for it. Renee Busscher mentioned a weekend would be better to gear it more towards community engagement. Ashley Brower will see if we can get vendors/goodies for the opening.
   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New Business:

1. Par Plan Grant Resolution:
   Moved by Dan Striegle to apply knowing there may a couple small changes, seconded by Don Sebright
   Discussion: Grant is through insurance for 2 cameras in the cemetery and 2 for pickleball area.
   Roll Call Vote: Striegle – Yes, Brower – Yes, Pitsch – Yes, Busscher – Yes, Sebright – Yes
   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comment:

Resident advised of Solar meeting in Zeeland-Jamestown, encouraging people to attend even though not in our township – worried that it could come to our township.

Question if our cameras are like flock ones – no the par plan ones are for security like the ones we currently have in the building and parking lot, just adding to the new area of pickleball and the cemetery.

Round Table:
Dan Striegle has question on drain review – 3 proposed drains and will they give us proposed costs? Will we have to figure it out into our budget?

Adjournment:

Moved by Don Sebright, seconded by Ashley Brower to adjourn meeting at 7:56 PM
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Medical Care Community (MCC) Building Renovation

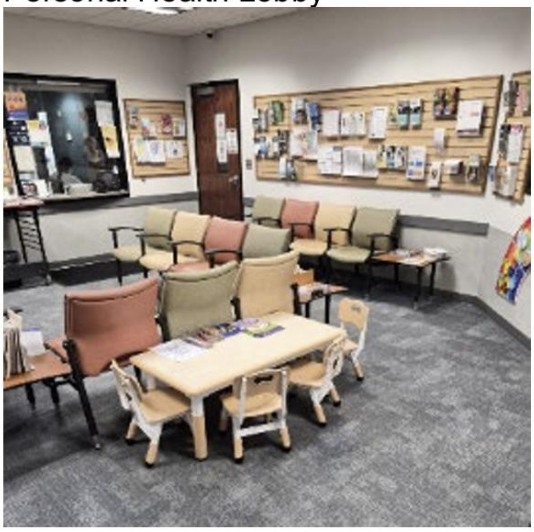
Demolition is nearly complete, reconstruction has started on the south and east sides, and a new canopy is in place. Interior wall framing is ongoing.



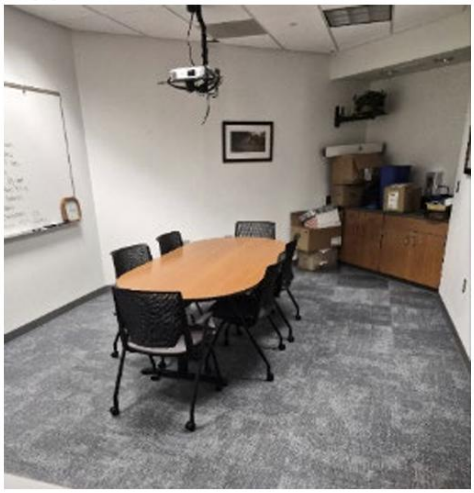
Human Services Building 1st Floor Renovations

New carpeting is finished in Senior/Veteran Services, MSU Extension, Health Administration, and Personal Health areas. Environmental Health and Zimmerman Conference Room carpeting are still in progress. Furniture installation in Personal Health and Environmental Health will be completed by September 3.

Personal Health Lobby



Senior / Veteran Services Conference Room



Veteran Services

With Administrative support and approval, Veteran Services successfully submitted the County Veteran Service Fund grant application to the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency for FY27 consideration on Friday, August 14, 2026. Veteran Services has participated in this grant since 2019, which includes a $50,000 base award with a per-capita increase for participating County Veteran Service Departments, for a total request of $77,860.

Public Health Newsletters

Public Health shares monthly e-newsletters with the community and specific audiences. These community newsletters include information from community partners, community spotlights, public health news/related topics, testing information, and other preventative education/tools. The most recent School & Childcare Newsletter was published on 8/5/2026. See below for the link. Link to the School and Childcare Newsletter:

https://mailchi.mp/allegancounty/achd-march-school-and-childcare-newsletter-10152253?e=%5bUNIQID

Mass Transit 40 Under 40 Recognition

Transportation Director Whitney Ehresman has been named to Mass Transit magazine's 2026 40 Under 40, recognizing emerging leaders who are making significant contributions to the public transportation industry. The annual 40 Under 40 program highlights professionals across the transit industry who demonstrate leadership, innovation, and a commitment to advancing mobility and improving the passenger experience. Mass Transit is a nationally recognized publication dedicated exclusively to the public transportation industry in the United States and Canada. The publication provides industry news, analysis, special reports, agency profiles, and coverage of emerging trends and challenges in public transportation, with a readership that extends across the North American transit industry. Ehresman was recognized for her forward-thinking leadership at Allegan County Transportation (ACT), including efforts to expand and modernize rural transit services, improve the customer experience, advance alternative-fuel initiatives, utilize technology to improve access to transportation, and strengthen operational efficiency. Mass Transit specifically highlighted ACT's service expansion, 37 percent ridership growth in 2025, investment in propane-powered buses, implementation of a mobile rider application, and continued efforts to improve service delivery throughout Allegan County. The recognition is a reflection not only of Ehresman's leadership, but of the work being accomplished by the entire Allegan County Transportation team. It provides national industry recognition for Allegan



County’s investment in public transportation and demonstrates that innovative and meaningful transit improvements are underway in a rural Michigan community.

4th Annual Expungement Fair

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) on Friday, August 14, 2026, conducted its 4th Annual Expungement Fair. OPD screened 271 people for expungement eligibility and assisted 124 people with document drafting and all other expungement-related processes. OPD Assistant Public Defender Tess Strasser and Holistic Defense Coordinator Whitney Gibson spearheaded OPD’s collaboration with Safe and Just Michigan, the Allegan Courts, and other community partners to provide people with an opportunity to reintegrate more fully into their communities. OPD would like to thank all of our partners, volunteers, service providers, and those who donated food and beverages for our participants.

Equestrian Trail System

Emergency Response and Safety Improvements – The Allegan County Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department has been working with local equestrian stakeholders and county partners to improve safety, emergency response, and location information throughout the Allegan County Equestrian Trail System. Earlier this year, an equestrian rider was injured after falling from her horse while riding on the trail system. While trail maps and identification markers were already in place, the incident highlighted an opportunity to further improve how riders, emergency responders, and dispatch personnel identify and communicate trail locations. Following the incident, Parks staff conducted a review of the trail system and worked with key equestrian stakeholder groups to identify opportunities to improve emergency location identification and communication.

This review resulted in a broader safety initiative rather than simply addressing the location of the individual incident. An identified improvement was the need for additional trail identification markers and updated maps. Parks staff worked with the County's Information Services (IS) Department to update the trail maps and incorporate additional location information into the system. Central Dispatch shared how emergency calls from the equestrian trail system are handled and what information would be most helpful to dispatchers and responding agencies. Through that discussion, it was identified that the equestrian trail system and its location markers were not fully incorporated into the mapping information available to Central Dispatch.



As a result, IS has been working with Parks and Central Dispatch to incorporate the equestrian trail system and its location markers into the dispatch mapping system. This will provide dispatchers with better trail and location information when receiving an emergency call from within the trail system and should help responders more efficiently identify where assistance is needed. In addition to improving mapping and trail identification, Parks staff explored other ways to help riders communicate their location during an emergency. Staff were trained in What3Words, a location-sharing tool that provides precise locations that can be communicated to emergency personnel. Parks staff can then help educate riders about the tool and how to use it when assistance is needed. What3Words is also being incorporated at park entrance signs and along trail markers to provide riders with information to help them identify and communicate their location. This effort has been a collaborative process involving Parks staff, equestrian trail users, stakeholder groups, Central Dispatch, and the County's IS Department. The goal is to make it easier for riders to identify their location and for emergency responders to find them. These improvements will continue to strengthen the Allegan County Equestrian Trail System's safety and emergency preparedness for its riders.

Economic Impact & Insights, Q2

The Lakeshore Advantage 2nd quarter update highlights Business Expansion, Entrepreneurship, Talent Development & Workforce Housing in Allegan and Ottawa Counties. For Allegan County, there were 3 expansion projects, 28 new and retained jobs, $2.1 million in private Investment, and 4 projects in the pipeline.

LAKESHORE ADVANTAGE

Q2 2026 Impact & Insights

January 1 - June 30, 2026

Business Support Activities

The Lakeshore Advantage team has worked to support business expansion projects, startup growth, and forward action on long-term strategic growth. Here's that work in numbers so far this year:

Business Expansions

10 expansions won

788 new and retained jobs

$667.7M private investment

Allegan County

- 3 expansions
- 28 new and retained jobs
- $2.1M private investment
- 4 projects in the pipeline

14 additional expansion projects in the pipeline, representing:



484 new jobs

745 retained jobs

$600K - $838M+ private investment projected per project

Expansion Spotlight:

RoTa Technologies is investing $1.8 million to build out its Holland operation, with eight new and retained jobs. The company specializes in proprietary and patented equipment and expert services for egg-producing facilities, including vision engineering technology, maintenance and consulting support. Located in the City of Holland in Allegan County, the project brings a growing technology-focused business into active use within the Lakeshore region's strong food production and agribusiness ecosystem. RoTa chose to expand its business in Holland and also has operations on the east side of the state.



Entrepreneurship

44 product and tech startups supported

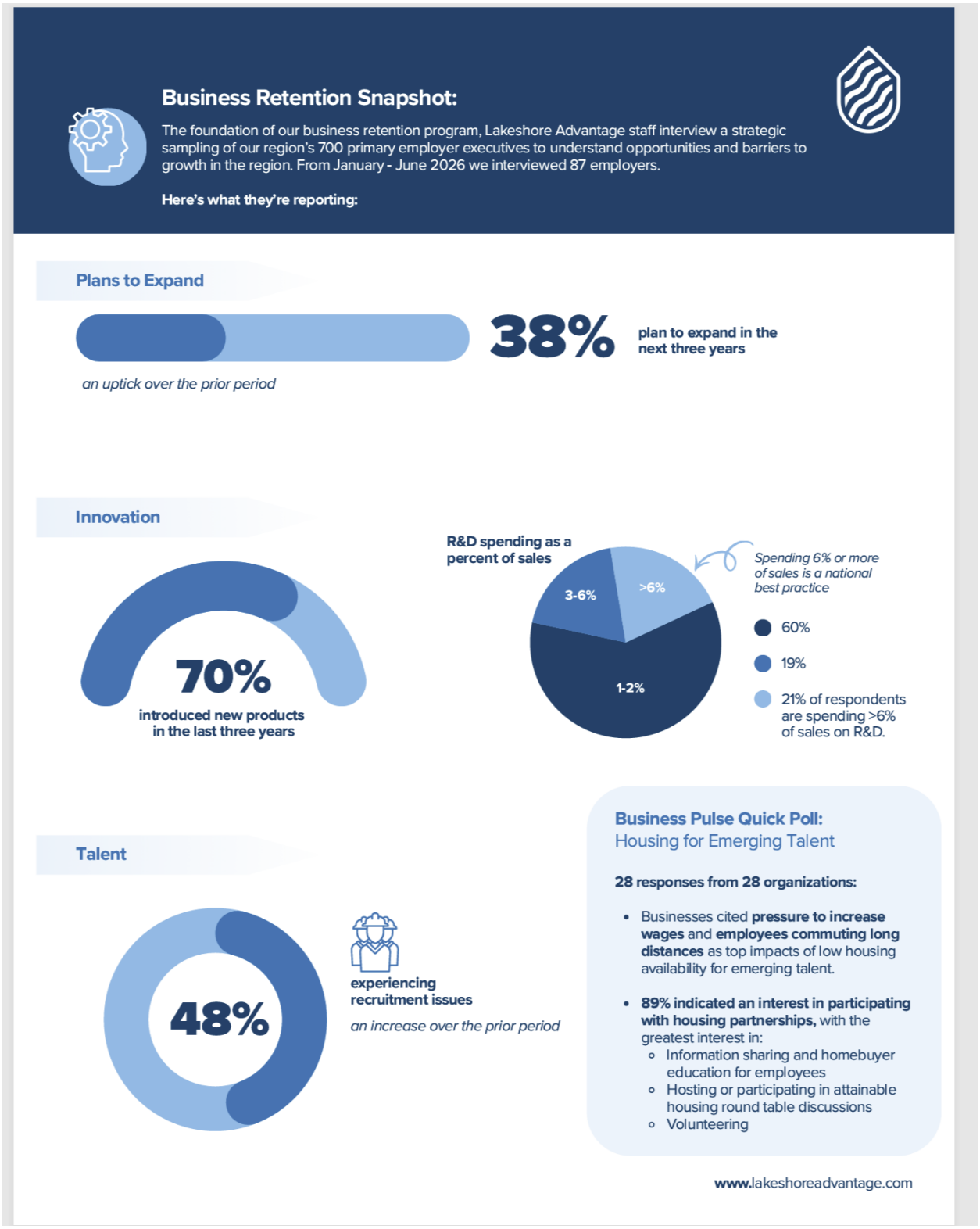
$1.5M startup capital raised

Talent Development & Workforce Housing

57 HR leaders engaged, sharing best practices

23 workforce housing projects

7 workforce housing education sessions



Modernization of Parks

The County's 2026 Capital Improvement Projects are moving from planning to completion, with several projects already finished and others scheduled to begin this fall. These investments focus on maintaining and improving park facilities, accessibility, safety, and the overall visitor experience throughout the county park system.

• Silver Creek Barn – Roof Repair/Replacement Completed. The barn roof work is finished, helping protect this facility from weather-related damage and extending its useful life.

• Littlejohn Pavilion – Side Wall/Wrap Replacement: Coming in September. Parks staff will complete this work in-house, improving the pavilion's durability and appearance while helping keep project costs down.

• West Side Park – South Building Repairs: Coming in September. Parks staff will also complete these repairs in-house to address maintenance needs and improve the facility for continued use.

• Littlejohn Accessible Boardwalk – Repair and Sealing: After two rounds of bidding, no contractors submitted proposals for the project. The department is evaluating options, including completing any necessary short-term repairs in house to maintain the boardwalk and pursuing a contractor again in early spring when construction schedules are established for the new season.

• Playground Bridge and Transfer Area Replacement: Moving forward. A contractor has been selected and the project is currently awaiting final contract execution. Work is expected to be completed by mid-fall, improving accessibility and safety for children and families using the playground.

• Parking Lot Repair and Resurfacing: Fall construction. Planned parking lot repairs and resurfacing will take place at select locations during September and October, improving access, safety, and the overall condition of park parking areas.

From completed projects to work beginning this fall, the 2026 CIP program represents continued investment in the facilities and amenities that make Allegan County parks safe, accessible, and enjoyable for residents and visitors.

West Side County Park North Stair Replacement

Following the review of the former south beach access and overall beach access at the park, MMRMA recommended replacement of the existing north stairway. The recommendation was based on the condition of the existing stairs, the steep terrain, and the need to provide a more consistent and appropriate means of public access to the beach. On August 13, 2026, the Board of Commissioners approved moving forward with a contractor. A fully executed agreement has now been completed for the replacement of the North Beach Access Stairs. The contractor has indicated that materials are expected to take approximately 4–5 weeks to manufacture and

deliver. Once materials are available, construction is expected to begin shortly thereafter. Based on the current timeline, the replacement stairs are anticipated to be completed by mid-October.

Commission on Aging Financials

The August Commission on Aging (COA) meeting took place at Christian Neighbors in Plainwell, the first offsite meeting of the year, on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, where financial information and service delivery metrics from May & June were shared

Allegan County Senior Services: May & June Service Delivery Report

ADULT DAY SERVICES (ADS) - Two Providers								
	CLIENTS	REFERRAL	INTAKE	DC	UNITS #1 Generations	UNITS #2 Evergreen	WAITLIST GEN | EGC	
2025 YE	63	87	40	21	10,656	3,417	10 | 0	
APRIL	49	3	10	0	1,253	699	0 | 0	
MAY	50	6	1	1	1,262	552	2 | 0	
JUNE	48	14	6	5	1,322	491	2 | 0	Current:
2026 YTD	71	45	31	16	6,693	3,192	4 | 0	8/1/2026

SENIOR SERVICE METRICS KEY
CLIENTS: # of clients being served
WAITLIST: # of clients waiting for service
REFERRAL: # of clients requesting service
INTAKE: # of clients being connected to service
DC: Discharged - # of clients being discharged from service
VT: Volunteer Driver
UNITS: Unit of measurement varies per service (see below
ADS - # of ADS hours provided to clients
PERS - # of PERS units in service
HDM - # of HDM meals delivered
IHS - # of IHS hours provided to clients
VT - # of VT miles driven

PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM (PERS) - One Provider						
	CLIENTS	REFERRAL	INTAKE	DC	UNITS	NO TEST*
2025 YE	1,108	415	458	377	1,108	-
APRIL	880	32	37	26	880	72
MAY	868	40	33	20	868	78
JUNE	866	32	37	23	866	105
2026 YTD	1,053	227	232	150	1,053	-

Monthly postcards are sent reminding clients to test units every month
Will begin testing reminder calls utilizing Senior Service staff recording

HOME DELIVERED MEALS (HDM) - One Provider						
	CLIENTS	REFERRAL	INTAKE	DC	UNITS	DONATIONS
2025 YE	554	287	238	248	87,308	$1,608.80
APRIL*	314	23	-	-	8,438	-
MAY*	312	21	-	-	8,127	-
JUNE	327	24	28	21	8,981	$2,538.50
2026 YTD	407	148	92	78	42,214	$2,858.50

*MOWWM data is being incorporated

IN HOME SUPPORTS (IHS) - Five Providers											
	CLIENTS	REFERRAL	INTAKE	DC	UNITS #1 HAH	UNITS #2 ATRIO	UNITS #3 HOMEJOY	UNITS #4 CHHC	UNITS #5 CKH	WAITLIST*	
2025 YE	494	395	174	138	22,185	4,504	9,963	112	384	0	
APRIL	324	29	11	8	1,773	385	854	258	672	18	
MAY	325	29	11	16	1,789	362	705	306	675	25	
JUNE	324	39	21	12	2,101	412	692	375	811	2	Current:
2026 YTD	417	220	92	72	10,871	2,294	4,644	1418	3,116	5	8/1/2026

SENIOR/VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION (VT) - One Provider										
	# RIDERS	# NEW	UNMET	BUS TRIPS	VT TRIPS	BUS COST	VT UNITS	VT COST	ADDL COSTS	DONATIONS
2025 YE	912	89	11	2,856	1,906	$177,802.00	94,387	$66,070.90	$2,401.63	$225.00
APRIL	76	8	1	212	193	$10,141.00	8,994	$6,520.65	$179.00	$0.00
MAY	80	3	0	288	216	$12,657.00	10,283	$7,455.18	$179.00	$20.00
JUNE	84	6	1	350	205	$15,434.00	9,921	$7,192.73	$179.00	$0.00
2026 YTD	449	44	5	1257	1149	$65,315.00	54,213	$39,304.45	$1,074.00	$65.00

Waitlist numbers reported end of every month
2026 YTD
Clients = January 2025 Starting # + Total 2026 Intake
Riders = Total Monthly 2026 Riders

Senior Services Fund Balance 12/31/2025:
$2,118,112.57

Salem Township Library
Monthly Report

August 2026

From the Director
by Lisa Vande Bunte

At the end of July, we wrapped up our Summer Reading Program with great community participation. Throughout the summer, 937 people attended our events, and we were thrilled to give away over 300 books to readers.

August gave us a brief opportunity to reflect on the past year as we prepare for the year ahead. Looking forward, we are gearing up for our upcoming library book sale and hiring for two open positions:

- Circulation & Adult Services Librarian
- Circulation, Social Media & Marketing Librarian

Also this month, we cleaned up our landscaping and had a leak repaired in our lawn irrigation system.

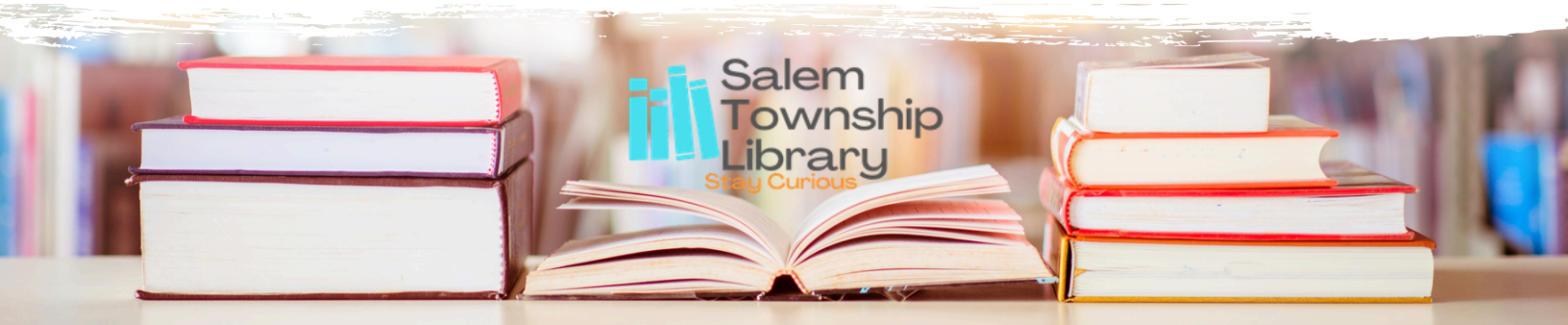
As we navigate these transitions and updates, we are extremely grateful to the wonderful volunteers who have stepped in to assist us. We have a great year ahead of us and look forward to continuing to serve our community.

Library Spotlights
by Lisa Vande Bunte

If there's one thing that's stood out to the staff recently, it's just how incredible our community is at showing up for the library and each other.

At the park, it's been fantastic seeing so many people out enjoying the pickleball courts! We've received a lot of great comments, alongside a fresh surge of interest in frisbee golf. For the library, watching what the community is enjoying outdoors actually helps us behind the scenes. It gives us great inspiration for future programming, new collection additions, and different resources to consider offering.

That same community spirit has meant the world to us inside the building, too. With our recent staffing transitions, several community members have stopped in to ask how they can help and show their support. Patrons have been inquiring about open positions, asking about volunteering, and even bringing in special treats. That kind of neighborly support is what makes working here so special, and all of us at the library thank you for it!



Activity

1,268 Patron Visits

34 Program Attendees*

15 New Patrons

268 Items Added to Collection

**We typically have very few programs right after summer reading, this number reflects two book clubs and one Play N' Learn gathering.*

Checkouts

6,578 Physical Items

1,618 Digital Items

24 Hotspots

59 STEAM Kits and LOT Items

Trending at the Library

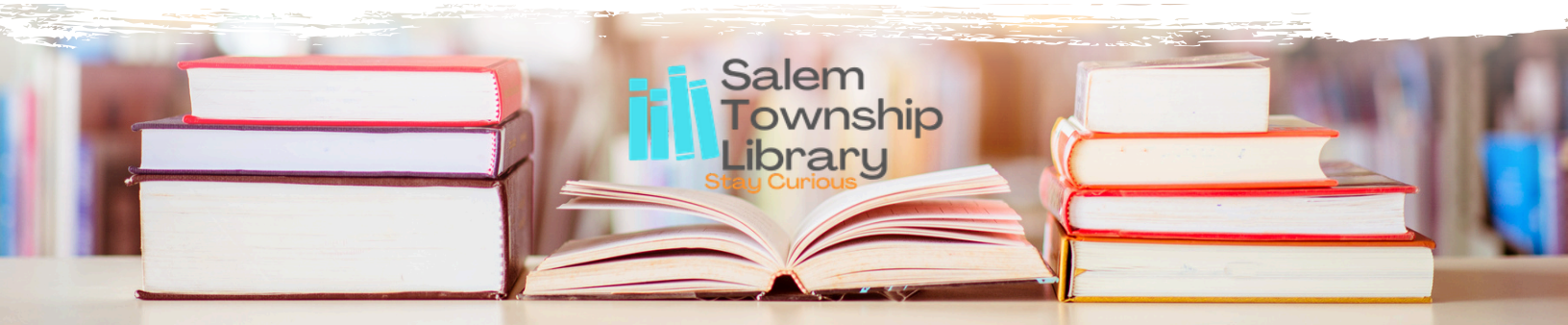
- World Travels TV Series: Bolivia
- The Calamity Club by Katheryn Stockett
- Harry Potter
- Pickleball

Mark your calendar

Check our Recurring Programs below for seasonal programs.

Recurring Programs

- **Story Time** @ 11am; Every Wednesday (September-May)
- **Lego Club** @ 11am; Second Saturday of each month (September-May)
- **Play n' Learn** @ 11am; Second Thursday of each month at the Township Hall
- **Board Game Afternoons** @ 1pm; Third Wednesday of each month (September-May)
- **Adult Book Clubs:**
  - AM Group meets @ 8:30am the last Monday of each month
  - PM Group meets @ 7pm the First Monday of each month



Salem Township Fire Department

Monthly Report
August 2026

Projects	
SOGs	Working on updating operational SOGs
Equipment ordered	All but 1 item has come in and the equipment has been placed on the trucks
PPE	Ordered 5 sets of Turnout gear and 15 sets of boots, All at the NFPA 10-year life span. Boots are backorder until end of August, Received the 5 sets of turnout gear.
State of Michigan Grant	Working on grant for equipment from the state of Michigan.
Grain Bin Rescue	Hosting grain bin rescue training 9/12. Received training and equipment from a grant

Total Fire and EMS Year To Date- 277			
Fire Incidents	Total -18	YTD-102	Incidents in Sandy Pines YTD- 6
Type	**Number of Incidents**	**District**	**Notes**
Fires	5	2-Salem 1-Monterey 1- Byron Center 1- Wayland	A deck fire, melted siding, and internet box in Sandy Pines, all contained or out upon arrival Assisted Byron on the Church fire Assisted Wayland at a fire in the pallet factory
Accidents	5	4-Salem 1-Dorr	4 minor injuries in Salem Requested to set up an LZ for Dorr
Gas Leak	2	2-Salem	1-gas line struck by homeowner digging 1-stove left on in Sandy Pines
No Incident found	3	2-Salem 1-Monterey	iPhone crash alert, no accident
Assist Agency	1	1-Overisel	Assisted on a cardiac arrest
Lift Assist	2	1- Salem 1-Monterey	EMS requested lift assist

Salem Township Fire Department has a dedicate group of personnel that respond from home and work to help keep the residents of Salem Township and the surrounding communities safe.

Salem Township Fire Department

Monthly Report
August 2026

EMS				
Total -21	YTD-134	Incidents in Sandy Pines-6		Incidents in Rehoboth- 2
District	**Number of Incidents**			
Salem-	17			
Monterey-	4			
Canceled Medical alarms-				
Disregarded Priority 3 medical	3	YTD Priority 3:	40	
Year to date Medical Incidents in Sandy Pines- 21		Year to Date in Rehoboth- 9		

Trainings/Meetings	
Topic	Number of Personnel
Truck to Truck Pumping	18
Drafting and master streams	8
Officers meeting	5
Equipment Checks	5
Pump Ops x 3	6
Allegan County Fire Chiefs Meeting	2
Allegan MABAS meeting	1



Truck to truck pumping and large diameter hose training

Salem Township Fire Department has a dedicate group of personnel that respond from home and work to help keep the residents of Salem Township and the surrounding communities safe.

SALEM TOWNSHIP
3003 142ND AVE.
P.O. BOX 49
BURNIPS, MI 49314

Phone: (616) 896-9857
Fax: (616) 896-7247

SUPERVISOR: Jim Pitsch
CLERK: Renee Busscher
TREASURER: Ashley Brower
ASSESSOR: Heather Mitchell
TRUSTEE: Dan Striegle
TRUSTEE: Don Sebright
FIRE CHIEF: Dan Kipen

www.salemtownship.org

Salem Township Resolution Number: 9-8-2026

Resolution for Additional Camera's for the Salem Township Park for the Pickleball Courts and Camera's in the Salem Township Cemetery.

Whereas, Salem Township, through this resolution, is proposing two additional cameras to cover the new Salem Township Pickleball Courts in providing safety for Salem Township Residents and Visitors in preventing violence, and to mitigate damage to the courts and parking area with the understanding that surveillance is present.

Whereas, through this Resolution, Salem Township is proposing new cameras in the Salem Township Cemetery to prevent damage to the cemetery and prevent theft of cemetery equipment through the understanding that surveillance is present. This is after a recent theft, taking over $10,000 in equipment from the cemetery storage building and the destruction of cemetery stones several years ago.

Whereas, Salem Township has conferred with their BHS Agent and our Par Plan Risk Control Representative regarding their request for funding of the Par Plan Grant and has received their recommendation.

Whereas, Signs indicating that surveillance cameras are present and that violators will be prosecuted.

Whereas, Salem Township is requesting $3,735.00 from the Par Plan Risk Reduction Grant Program to provide two additional cameras in the Salem Township Park and for two cameras to be placed in the Salem Township Cemetery.

So therefore be it Resolved, that Salem Township is requesting Par Plan grant Assistance in making our Salem Township Park safer for our residents and visitors.

This action was taken at the Salem Township Regular Board Meeting on September 8th, 2026

Motion by: Dan Striegle Supported by: Don Sebright

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Striegle _yes_ Brower _yes_ Pitsch _yes_ Busscher _yes_ Sebright _yes_

Attest by Renee Busscher: _____ Date: _____
Salem Township Clerk