



Royal Oak Public Library Gets Upgrade Following Record Breaking Attendance

North entrance to permanently reopen after being closed for more than a decade

ROYAL OAK, Mich. (Dec. 4, 2018) The [Royal Oak Public Library](#) is getting a makeover. The library stairs and brick walls at the north entrance have been removed and the City of Royal Oak is building a new ADA compliant ramp to create a more accessible entrance for attendees. This north entrance will permanently reopen after being closed to the public for more than a decade.

“We are looking forward to a new entrance from Eleven Mile Road so people have easier access to the library,” said Mary Karshner, Royal Oak Library Director. “After record breaking numbers of people participated in our summer reading program and our Halloween event this year, we have a more families regularly visiting the library. In fact, at our Halloween event this year, more than 600 people attended compared to roughly 210 people last year. The Eleven Mile entrance will allow easier access for people parking north and east of the library. We have a vibrant lineup of winter and spring programs for all ages and we hope to build on the popularity of our summer and fall successes.”

Other library restoration efforts include decorative streetscape with ornamental street lights, trees with grates and imprinted concrete. All the landscape design work is intended to match the appearance work recently completed on East Fourth Street. During construction, the turn lane on 11 Mile north of the library is closed.

In the spring, the Royal Oak Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will add landscaping to the new 11 Mile entrance.

Library hours and programs are not affected by the work to the 11 Mile side of the building. Demolition on the existing pavement, sidewalk and stairs at the north entrance of the library is scheduled to conclude in December.

“The library is one of our greatest family gathering places,” said Todd Fenton, Royal Oak Economic Development Manager. “We appreciate all the work our library team does to make programs that educate our community, and we are thankful to the community for its support.”

The former public parking lot to the west of the library began construction in May. The entire [Rethink Royal Oak](#) development began earlier this year with the groundbreaking of the parking garage and office building.

For more information about the Rethink Royal Oak development, specific project updates, parking information, including a guide that advises available parking options and more, please visit www.rethinkro.com. For more information about upcoming library programming please visit www.ropl.org.

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About Royal Oak

Royal Oak is a vibrant metro Detroit community home to nearly 60,000 residents located in Oakland County. Destinations within the 12-mile community include The Detroit Zoo, The Royal Oak Music Theatre, William Beaumont Hospital, Mark Ridley’s Comedy Castle and a successful Farmers Market among others. The city’s recreational services include more than 50 public parks and was recently named one of the Top 10 Most Exciting Small Cities in America by Movoto and the Best Place to Live in Michigan by AreaVibes. To learn more about Royal Oak, visit <https://www.romi.gov>.