Autumn leaves Orion awash in color

What’s Inside

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In-person and virtual events at the Orion Township Library and Parks & Recreation

What’s up Downtown?

Support Orion businesses during these times

Meet Ben Kirby, the new LOCS Superintendent
CHECK OUT THE NEW ORION TOWNSHIP WEBSITE AT oriontownship.org FOR COVID-RELATED INFORMATION, CALENDAR UPDATES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Useful Numbers

**EMERGENCIES**
911

**NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH POLICE/FIRE/EMS**
248-858-4911

**LAKE ORION POLICE DEPARTMENT (VILLAGE)**
248-693-8321

**ORION TOWNSHIP (INCLUDING FIRE DEPARTMENT)**
248-391-0304

**WATER OR SEWER EMERGENCIES AFTER-HOURS**
248-858-4911

**ORION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
248-693-6300

**ORION TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY**
248-693-3000

**LAKE ORION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**
248-693-5400

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)**
248-693-9742

**VILLAGE OF LAKE ORION**
248-693-8391

**ROAD COMMISSION FOR OAKLAND COUNTY**
877-858-4804

**LAKE ORION POST OFFICE**
248-693-3253

**ONTV**
248-693-3377

COVER: Hazel Proctor welcomes the crisp fall air and colorful leaves that will descend upon Orion in the coming months. Get out to the trails, parks, orchards and pumpkin patches to enjoy the beauty of the season.
A Time for Pumpkin Spice, Reflection and Gratitude

Fall isn’t just cooler weather, apples, cider, and all things pumpkin spice; it’s about family, community, and being thankful for all the good that is out there. Even with all that has happened this year, there is a lot that I am thankful for.

I am thankful for my family. This situation forced us to reevaluate our priorities and reinforced just how important family is, especially as we have been spending much more quality time together.

I am thankful for my work family. They are shining stars. No matter what challenges they’ve faced (and they’ve faced a lot this year), they still manage to go above and beyond to get the job done.

We wouldn’t be where we are today if it wasn’t for them. I know I wouldn’t be.

I am thankful for you, the Orion Community. Our residents know how to stick together and help one another out. When small businesses needed you, you were there supporting them. When volunteers were needed for the drive-up pantry, you were there. When food donations were needed, you stepped up and filled the Orion Center. No matter what was needed, you stepped up and that’s why I love this community so much.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Orion Living Magazine.

Chris Barnett
Orion Township Supervisor
Stay focused

Don’t endanger your friends, family and community by being a distracted driver

Technology has made society a safer place. At the same time, technology can create dangerous situations, leading to an increase in injuries and fatalities on our roadways.

Nearly 40,000 people are killed each year in the U.S. in traffic crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Nearly 30% percent of the reported traffic crashes are related to distracted driving, according to AAA. In 2018, fatalities due to distracted driving surpassed drunk driving fatalities. Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person’s attention away from the primary task of driving.

This Fall the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office Orion Substation asks that drivers set an example and encourage positive driving habits for children, friends and family. It is important to give your full attention to driving as soon as you get behind the wheel.

JUST Drive: do you?

While driving, do you text, use your cell phone, eat, drink, or read? All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. Whether your eyes are off the road or your hands off the wheel, any type of distraction increases your risk of a traffic crash involving major injuries and even death.

• Drivers who use hand–held devices are four times more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves.
• Text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted.

• Sending or receiving a text takes a driver’s eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent—at 55 mph—of driving the length of an entire football field blind.
• Parents who use cell phones while driving endanger their children and others and it teaches young people that this behavior is OK.
• 14% of drivers under 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crash. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted.
• 40% of all American teens say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger.

Helpful tips

Here are some tips from AAA to help you avoid distractions while driving:

• Fully focus on driving
• Store loose gear, possessions and other distractions that could roll around in the car so you are not tempted to reach for them.
• Finish dressing and personal grooming at home—before you get on the road.

• Snack smart. If possible, eat meals or snacks before or after your trip, not while driving. On the road, avoid messy foods that can be difficult to manage.
• Secure children and pets before getting underway. If they need your attention, pull off the road safely to care for them. Reaching into the backseat can cause you to lose control of the vehicle.
• Put aside your electronic distractions. Don’t use cell phones while driving—handheld or hands–free—except in absolute emergencies. Never use text messaging, email functions, video games, or the internet with a wireless device, including those built into the vehicle, while driving.
• If you have passengers, enlist their help so you can focus solely on driving.
• If another activity demands your attention, instead of trying to attempt it while driving, pull off the road and stop your vehicle in a safe place. To avoid temptation, power down or stow devices before heading out.
• As a general rule, if you cannot devote your full attention to driving because of some other activity, it’s a distraction. Take care of it before or after your trip, not while behind the wheel.

Start with YOU and be the example for all children and young people. Other than 911, cell phones can wait. JUST Drive!
Summer Housing Outlook: Lake Orion Community School District

A resilient market fends off COVID dip

On March 24, 2020 the entire state was officially ordered to shelter in place in an effort to combat the coronavirus pandemic. When the pandemic first started shutting down the economy, real estate began to take a drastic hit.

However, since then, metro Detroit and more specifically, Lake Orion, has seen something remarkable happen—the market has picked up at a rapid pace. The latest data demonstrates that real estate has fared relatively well despite broader economic turmoil.

While the spring market started strong in March, the number of new listings in Lake Orion dropped 67 percent in April. Fast forward to June and the number of new listings jumped up 330 percent.

Similar to many industries across the nation, the suffering of the real estate market in the early days of the pandemic is not a surprise. Yet the market’s resilience to weather the storm is more intriguing, especially as it relates to home values. In Lake Orion, they continued their upward trajectory and rose 13 percent from May to June.

Another driving factor impacting the housing industry are the historically low interest rates for mortgages. In July, the average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell to 2.98 percent, the lowest rate since Freddie Mac began tracking the statistic in 1971.

For now, real estate is bouncing back much quicker than other industries. Americans are starting to feel confident about the idea of buying or selling a home. Nearly two-thirds of consumers, 61 percent, said it was a good time to buy a home in June, in a Fannie Mae housing survey of 1,000 participants. That was a 9 percentage point increase in May.

In times of uncertainty, we can rely on data. And today’s data shows us the summer buying season is standing on a strong, solid footing and is moving in the right direction.

Tracy Woodrum, Real Estate Agent, Dobi Realty

Reminder! Have you taken the census?

Want better roads—complete your census!
Want more money for schools—complete your census!
Want more opportunities for our community—complete your census!

Over $675 billion is distributed each year by the federal government using census data—including funding for roads, schools, safety paths, seniors, grants, and so much more. In addition to funding, an accurate count means fair representation. Michigan has lost a representative in Congress each decade since the 1970 count.

The last day to respond is September 30, 2020. Make sure to count each person living in your household so our community gets its fair share of funding. It takes less than 10 minutes and benefits your community for the next 10 years! Visit my2020census.gov or call 1-844-330-2020 to complete yours today.
October is Fire Prevention Month
Good planning prevents disaster

Smoke alarms are key
Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement. Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.

It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.

Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.

Today’s smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.

A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove.

People who are hard of hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is aware of research indicating that sleeping children don’t always awake when a smoke alarm activates. While this research is worrisome, we shouldn’t allow them to obscure the fact that smoke alarms are highly effective at reducing fire deaths and injuries.

NFPA reaffirms the value of the smoke alarms already available to protect people from home fire deaths and voice its concern about the number of U.S. households without these early warning devices. While 96% of American homes have at least one smoke alarm, no smoke alarms were present or none operated in two out of five (41%) of the reported home fires between 2003–2006. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Plan your escape
NFPA emphasizes the need to continue planning and practicing home fire escape plans and to make sure everyone in a home can be awakened by the sound of the smoke alarm. NFPA suggests practicing the escape plan during which the smoke alarm is activated so all family members know its sound.

Every home fire escape plan is different, and every family should know who will—and who won’t—awaken at the sound of the smoke alarm. If someone doesn’t wake up when the alarm sounds during a drill, the family should design an escape plan that assigns a grown-up who is easily awakened by the alarm to wake the sleepers, perhaps by yelling “FIRE,” pounding on the wall or door, or blowing a whistle.

Your ability to get out of your house during a fire depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

Get everyone in your household together and make a home escape plan. Walk through your home and look for two ways out of every room.

Make sure escape routes are clear of debris and doors and windows open easily. Windows with security bars or grills should have an emergency release device.

Plan an outside meeting place where everyone will meet once they have escaped. A good meeting place is something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox a safe distance in front of the home.

If there are infants, older adults, family members with mobility limitations or children who do not wake to the sound of the smoke alarm, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the event of an emergency.

If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Respond quickly—get up and go, remember to know two ways out of every room, get yourself outside quickly, and go to your outside meeting place with your family.
A Fall fire safety checklist

- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors every fall and spring when changing the clocks for Daylight Savings Time. Make it common practice in your home to check that all fire extinguishers are fully charged and in working order.
- Get your heating system cleaned, inspected and serviced by a certified HVAC (heating, venting and air conditioning) contractor every year before using it.
- Make sure that you have a sufficient quantity of fully functioning carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home.
- Get your chimney inspected each year to make sure that it is safe.
- Hire a chimney sweep to clean out your chimney every fall.

- Use fireplace screens to keep sparks and fire debris inside the fireplace.
- Never use gasoline to start a fire in the fireplace.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Make sure that combustible materials are not stored within three feet of your fireplace.
- For natural gas fireplaces, get all connections and lines inspected before use each season.

Candle with care

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid using candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn.

Consider using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won’t tip over easily.

Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.

Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.

Don’t burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.

Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.

Have flashlights and battery–powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children’s reach, in a locked cabinet.

December is the peak month for home candle fires. More than one-third of home candle fires started in the bedroom. Three of every five candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.

Do you know Jack?

Jack-o-lanterns are the staple of Halloween décor and tradition. Part of their magic is the orange glow that comes from the candle placed inside it. However, candles are not recommended because they are a fire hazard. The best alternative is a flameless candle (battery operated). The best option for a jack-o-lantern is a flameless tea light candle—the kind that replicates the flickering movement of a burning wax candle. Glow sticks and flashlights can also be used, but neither mimic the flickering movement. Whatever you decide, have fun and be safe!
Property Taxes

By now property owners should have received their Summer and/or Village tax bills. Avoid interest and penalty by paying on or before September 14.

The Winter tax bills will be sent on December 1st and are payable through February 16, 2021. Beginning March 2, 2021, all unpaid taxes must be paid to the Oakland County Treasurer with additional fees.

Ways to pay

Although the Township offices are open, there are other ways to pay your tax bills to help you avoid crowds and keep person-to-person contact to a minimum. Submit a payment through your personal online banking site, pay at the local branches of Oxford Bank and Genisys Credit Union or use our drop boxes conveniently located outside of Township Hall. You may also pay via credit card or e-check online (with a small processing fee) at bsaonline.com. Receipts can be found on this website for any payment already posted. Please note that if you pay by mail, postmarks are not accepted; we must receive your payment by September 14 or late fees will apply. Please refer to your tax bill for complete tax paying information.

If you use your online banking site to pay your Tax Bill, set up a separate “payee” using the Township’s physical address. Do not use the Water/Sewer P.O. Box payee address or your payment will be posted to your utility bill and not your tax bill.

Property tax one-stop shop

BS&A online is your one stop shop for all things related to your property.

- Look up public records for your property regarding tax history, utility billing history and building permit history.
- Look up what you owe and make payments online.
- Find out what payments have been made and print receipts.
- Apply for a building permit and schedule inspections.

Bsaonline.com has all this information and more. Once on the site, click the big green button to select your municipality (Orion Charter Township or Village of Lake Orion) to get started. Homeowners and current residents can view their information free of charge. You must have a BS&A online account to access your information for free. You may also view other properties for a nominal fee.

Don’t flush!

There are safer ways to dispose of unused and expired medications

The majority of people across the country have old prescriptions in their homes. The most common way the people dispose of them is to flush them down a drain or toilet. In recent years, information has surfaced showing that the wastewater treatment plants can’t always remove the high concentrations of metals, chemicals and/or organic substances found in medications. Trace amounts of these medications can potentially end up in our water supply. Although research has shown that the amounts detected are too low to have any impact on human health, there are several alternatives to flushing medications down the toilet.

- Ask your pharmacy if they have a drug take back program.
- The Oakland County Sheriff’s Orion Township Substation is a drop off location for Operation Medicine Cabinet. They collect unused, unneeded or expired medication. More information is available online at oaklandsheriff.com or operationmedicinecabinetmi.com.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration offer guidelines on how to properly dispose of medication in other ways on their website at fda.gov/drugs.

By properly disposing of unwanted medications, we can do our part in keeping our community and environment safer.
Preparation is crucial to a smooth and accurate voting process

Did you know we have 29,000 registered voters in Orion?

Let’s take a look at the behind the scene preparations that help ensure we are ready for voters on Election Day.

**Work starts months before**

Two months before each election we receive draft ballots from Oakland County to proof. When final ballots are delivered, we run accuracy tests on each precinct tabulator and voter assist terminal to ensure election programming is correct.

The next step is to mail Michigan Absent Voter Ballot applications to voters who names are on the permanent absent voter list. We prepared almost 10 thousand ballots to mail to voters who submitted a completed application for the Primary Election in August. Applications are reviewed carefully to ensure signatures and vital information match the official Michigan Qualified Voter Files (QVF) system. Once AV ballots are returned, we receipt them into the QVF system and then file them by precinct and ballot number in a secure room until they are counted by the sequestered Absent Voter Counting Board on Election Day.

**It takes a village**

We engage the entire community to ensure elections run efficiently. We have 15 precincts located at various churches, schools and municipal buildings throughout the Township and Village. All election equipment is set up two days in advance to make sure we are ready for voters at 7 a.m. on Election Day. It’s a huge undertaking to make sure everything gets to its proper precinct and we are grateful for everyone’s organized efforts.

In compliance with the voting accessibility requirements of the Help America Vote Act, all Orion Township precincts are accessible to the handicapped. Voting instructions are available in an audio and/or Braille format at the polls on Election Day and can also be made accessible to voters prior to the election.

We train approximately 250 election inspectors to run the voting precincts each year. These inspectors work a 13-hour shift to ensure everything is completed properly and that each vote is counted. Each precinct is equipped with supplies including signs, ballots, secrecy sleeves, table top voting booths, forms, pens, help desks supplies, and of course ‘I voted’ stickers for each voter.

**The results are in**

Once the polls are closed, all results are automatically transmitted by cellular modem to Oakland County elections. Precinct Chairman and Co-Chairs, representing both major political parties, bring the sealed ballot containers, electronic poll books, and programming back to Township Hall to be reviewed by the Receiving Board.

Finally, all tabulation programming, flash drives, and reports are delivered to Oakland County Board of Canvassers to be inspected and audited.

We are looking forward to another outstanding election in Orion Township and seeing you at the polls on Election Day!

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Please feel free to contact the Clerk’s Office with questions or concerns at 248-391-0304 or pshults@oriontownship.org.

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**What’s going there?**

**Silver Spruce Plaza**

Located at the northeast corner of Silverbell Road and Lapeer Road, this redevelopment site will include demolishing the existing gas station and constructing a 7,870 square foot state of the art gas station/convenience store featuring a drive–thru. Also included on the site is a new 13,500 square foot retail building.

**NTBS**

The first building to be approved in a long stalled industrial park, Liberty Tech, located on the west side of Giddings Road, north of Brown Road is currently under construction. This light industrial building will be 49,239 square feet.
Protect your home from winter water damage

During the fall there are several things homeowners can do to protect your home from winter water damage. Consider these tips before the cold weather comes:

Make sure the water line to outside faucets is turned off and the line is drained. Drain each outdoor spigot after turning off the valve to prevent any remaining water from freezing and bursting the pipes. Some spigots have anti-siphon devices that must be opened to properly drain the line.

Locate and mark your main-line valve and check it for proper operation. This valve controls water flowing into your home and is usually found near where the water line that comes into your house. Marking the valve will allow you to quickly turn off the water if a pipe should burst or you have other water problems.

Consider insulating pipes to help eliminate drafts. Check around the home for areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas and take measures to prevent the flow of cold air in these areas. Look under the house, in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated. A hot water supply line can freeze just as a cold water supply line can freeze if water is not running through the pipe, and the water temperature becomes cold.

It’s good to be prepared, so even though you don’t want to think about winter, it’s coming. If you have had problems with lines freezing in the past, inspect them before winter. In addition to insulating pipes, make sure to seal any gaps that you find in walls with caulk. Check with your local hardware store for other effective ways of insulating and sealing gaps.

If your pipes do freeze, remember that

Where does Orion Township’s water come from?

The municipal water system in Orion Township is connected to the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and we all play a critical role in maintaining the quality of our drinking water.

The Great Lakes Water Authority, local municipalities, and customers are connected through a complex water infrastructure system that is designed to protect public health.

GLWA operates five water treatment plants that treat water drawn from Lake Huron and the Detroit River to meet Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements. Our commitment to deliver the best water quality possible is evident in the use of proven treatment techniques and a comprehensive monitoring program. GLWA sets a target for treatment standards that are stricter than state regulatory requirements and test more frequently during treatment.

There are 126 communities that receive drinking water from Great Lakes Water Authority. These communities operate a local distribution system that includes a network of water mains, fire hydrants, and sometimes booster stations and pressure reducing valves. These communities keep water flowing through local piping at the right pressure, maintain pipes and valves, flush and maintain fire hydrants, monitor the distribution system for specific contaminants, and address customer concerns.

The nearly four million customers that receive GLWA water rely on this service each day to drink, cook, clean, flush toilets, wash clothes, and water their lawns. Customers have a responsibility to maintain the plumbing in their homes and to follow steps to support good water quality. These steps include running water if it hasn’t been used for a while, cleaning faucet aerators and shower heads, and flushing hot water heaters. Working together we can keep our water quality at a level that surpasses federal and state standards.
Water leaks in your home

If your home is connected to the Orion Township water supply, your water line is “metered”. A water leak in your line can be costly because once the water has gone through the meter, you are charged for the usage.

If nothing is noticeable, add a couple of drops of food coloring in the tank (not the bowl). Wait several minutes and if you have coloring in the bowl, you have a leak in the flapper at the bottom of the tank that is allowing water to seep through. Assess if you want to do the repair yourself, or call a plumber.

Repeat the process with each toilet to ensure you don’t have more than one problem.

Hose Bibs: Hose-bibs are the pipes that you hook your outside hoses to. Locate them and look for any obvious dripping, as the seals to the faucets can wear out over time. Every fall, be sure to turn off the water inside your home to your hose bibs to prevent them from freezing and cracking.

Other Leaks: Check the outside irrigation system for leaks. You may notice an area of your lawn that is greener than the other areas.

Check the shower head for leaks. It should be a fairly straightforward home repair if this is a source of leaking.

If you have a swimming pool, it is important to check to see if it has any leaks.

Recognize that in many cases a leak can be very hard to locate. Not all of the leaks outlined in this article can be located and if you’re not used to plumbing positioning, it is easy to miss something. However, if you are able to find something, it will give your plumber a starting point, which will save them time and that translates into savings for you.

Moving?

If you are moving out of Orion Township, please call 248–391–0304 ext. 7005 to schedule a final water/sewer bill.

Please have the following information available:

- Property Address
- Date Of Closing
- New Owner’s Name
- Name and Address of Title Company

If a water or sewer emergency occurs:

Monday through Friday during Township hours, call 248–391–0304 ext. 7005. During non-business hours contact the Oakland County Emergency Dispatch at 248–858–4911.
Are you wishcycling?

**What is that?**

Have you ever put something in your recycling bin, but were not positive it was actually recyclable—maybe a coffee cup, take out container, toothpaste tube, or a clothes hanger? You had the best of intentions, thinking it might be recyclable. But if it wasn’t, it could just be taken out of the recycling stream at the sorting facility, right?

Unfortunately, this practice—known as wishcycling or aspirational recycling—does more harm than good, and can have costly and harmful ramifications further down the line. With too many costly issues in the recycling stream, recycling becomes more expensive and could result in communities stopping their recycling programs and sorting and recycling facilities shutting down.

**Why is it bad?**

First and foremost, wishcycling results in recycling contamination. Other truly recyclable items, maybe even a whole load of recyclable materials, become contaminated by the non-recyclable item, resulting in all of it having to be landfilled, and lost opportunity for an item to be properly recycled and reused. For instance, a dirty coffee cup or unfinished yogurt container coming in contact with paper will dirty that paper and make it non-recyclable.

If the item doesn’t contaminate recyclable materials, it could create damage and harmful working conditions at the material recovery facility (MRF), where the materials are sorted. Plastic bags, hangers, wires, and greasy pizza boxes are just a few items that can clog or tie-up the sorting machines, creating costly delays while workers try to remove the tangles. Further, adding flammable or other harmful materials, such as batteries or propane tanks, can create fires or explosions at the sorting facility, resulting in costly damage and repairs or even death.

**What should I do?**

How can you avoid wishcycling, especially when it seems like the list of acceptable materials is always changing? Instead of guessing, take the time to look up your common household waste items ahead of time, or take an extra moment to look up that one random item you have that’s ready to toss. Even better, keep the acceptable materials recycling card that was included in your recycling cart welcome packet on your refrigerator so you can quickly reference it.

Thanks to a grant from the Recycling Partnership, Orion Township has purchased an online tool used by our MRF (RRRASOC Materials Recovery Facility operated Republic Services in Southfield)
that will quickly tell you the best way to dispose of an item. Visit oriontownship.org/recycling and begin searching for those waste items. This electronic database is updated on a regular basis so it will always have the most accurate information on how to properly dispose of your waste items. Bookmark the page so you can get to it more quickly the next time you have disposal questions.

No longer have your acceptable materials card (they’re available at Township Hall), can’t access the online search tool, or just don’t have the time? Remember, when it doubt, throw it out!

**Can recycle**

- Empty, non-soiled, and dry items:
  - Newspaper, magazines, brochures and inserts
  - Corrugated cardboard (flattened) and paper bags
  - Paperboard boxes (cereal, pasta, tissue, etc.)
  - Pizza boxes (clean of food and grease)
  - Greeting cards, regular and junk mail
  - Office paper
  - Phone books
  - #1, #2, and #4 through #7 plastic containers (no foam/Styrofoam or bags)
  - Aluminum and metal cans (including aerosol cans)
  - Paperboard drink boxes and cartons (non-waxed)
  - Glass bottles and jars (all colors)
  - Bulky rigid plastics (buckets, baskets, chairs, toys)

**Can’t recycle**

- Plastic bags (return to the store to be recycled)
- Liquid waste
- Tanglers (such as wires, hangers, chains and hoses)
- Construction debris
- Car and truck parts/engines/tires
- Hazardous waste (including electronics and batteries)
- Yard waste
- Wood/dry wall
- Concrete/bricks
- Fencing/railroad ties
- Propane tanks
- Loose needles/sharps
Downtown businesses are the heart and hub of the Orion community, some of them new, some well established. If you’ve ever wondered which businesses have been around the longest, keep reading.

New to the block

We’ve got only sweet things to say about Bitter Tom’s. As the new kid in town they already have a great reputation. But when you have a legendary charcuterie plate and a drink worthy of the restaurant’s name it doesn’t matter if you’ve only been open since December.

Capocore Professional Advisors have been giving out good advice since September 2017 and we are so thankful to have someone trusted and knowledgeable on the block to handle your finances.

I scream, you scream, we all scream because of how insanely good Cookies & Cream is! Even though they’ve only been around since May of 2019 they have become a refreshing staple to summer in Downtown and for happy bellies.

With all that is going on, now is the time to treat yourself to something a little “extra”, Sarah’s Bath Boutique which opened in the fall of 2018 has been creating soaps, scrubs, and lotions including “aahh–mazing” bath bombs for everyone to enjoy.

What’s up Downtown?

There are plenty of things happening in Downtown Lake Orion this fall!

September 2nd is the final Wednesday evening during Lake Orion Live. Come to Children’s Park for live music performed by The Whiskey Charmers!

September 3rd will be the final Thursday Lake Orion Live. Stroll through Downtown while you listen to themed music once more before the Halloween tunes take over.

September 4th means it’s time for our second First Friday Performance! Meet us in Children’s Park for a great performance by Joe Robinson for Lake Orion Live!

October 2nd This is it, the Final First Friday. Join us once more in Children’s Park to enjoy the last notes of Lake Orion Live’s music series!

October 21st Watch out! Ghouls, Goblin, and Ghosts will be on the prowl as families come to Downtown Lake Orion for our annual trick–or–treating extravaganza and Halloween Parade! Appropriate safety measures will be taken.

November 28th Small business Saturday has a BIG impact in our community. Support local businesses by shopping in Downtown Lake Orion today to help kick off the holiday shopping season. Small Business Saturday Kicks off the 2nd annual Passport Contests, where every store you shop in within Downtown Lake Orion means you have the opportunity to win Downtown Dollars!

Whiskey Charmers, Small Business Saturday shoppers, Halloween Parade celebrities, Levi Bootcut.
5+ years in business
Shadrach, Meshach & ABeanToGo—or more simply known as ABeanToGo—has been selling delicious and often times caffeinated pick-me-up alongside some of the yummiest baked goods Downtown Lake Orion has to offer since 2013.

“Show me sand the floor. Now show me wax on wax off. Show me paint the fence. Show me paint the house ...” —Karate Kid. Pro Martial Arts has been preparing students to become the best and most disciplined versions of themselves since fall of 2013 with just as much love, attention, and patience as Mr. Miyagi did with Daniel-San.

10+ years
Everyone’s favorite boutique resale clothing store Twice Blessed has been gifting the public with beautiful clothes, accessories, and shoes since 2006 at a very reasonable price. After all, everyone deserves to look and feel wonderful.

15+ years
Clip Away is one of Downtown Lake Orion’s oldest salons, opening their doors in the summer of 2003 and with good reason! Each stylist has earned the reputation of being able to turn hair into a glorious masterpiece of shiny silky locks worthy of any red carpet.

Downtown Lake Orion has been blessed with the gift of delicious carbs from Mannie’s Bagels since October of 2004, which begs the question “Why does anybody in the world ever eat anything but breakfast food?” —Ron Swanson, Parks and Rec.

20+ years
When you do want to eat something other than breakfast food, CJ’s Lakeside Grill & Sandbar has you covered. CJ’s has been serving up fries and drinks since January of 1998. They have also been opening their door each Thanksgiving for those without somewhere to be or anyone to share the holiday with for several years.

When you’re the go to place for something you know you’re a part of the community, Ed’s Broadway Gift & Costume has been providing the best costumes since 1997. The pride they take in their work shows with each custom piece created and every Zombie Walk they host.

Heritage Spinning and Weaving opened their doors in November of 2000. Since then they have been offering an array of classes, equipment, yarn, and knowledge so that everyone—beginner to expert—has a place where they can learn and create.

30+ years
When you need to hang something beautiful in your home there is only one place to go in the whole entire world, luckily that place happens to be right here in Downtown Lake Orion! Accent On Art has been creating gorgeous custom frames since February of 1989, making them just slightly older than Events Coordinator NJani Payne.

Our slogan might be Where Living is a Vacation, but you still have to take care of yourself, and for that there is Lucky’s Natural Foods. Lucky’s has been around since 1974, making them the oldest store in Downtown! Whatever you need—essentials oils, vitamins, flour, or hand sanitizer—Lucky’s has you covered.

Photos courtesy of the Lake Orion Review, 20 Front Street and the Lake Orion DDA.
**Race At Your Own Pace—Virtual 5K**

Virtual  |  Sep 1-30  |  $33

Get healthy and fit in your own way, on your own schedule. Run, walk, hike, bike, paddle or even stroller your way through 3.1 miles or 5K in your neighborhood, local park or even in your home! Register at [mparksfoundation.org](http://mparksfoundation.org) to get started on your way to good health and prepare for the upcoming Dragon Dash 5K on Sunday, September 13 at Wildwood Amphitheater. Registration fee will get you a commemorative shirt, medal and a healthy new you. Let’s get started!

**Dragon Dash 5K**

Wildwood Amphitheater
Sun, Sep 13  |  9 am  |  $14R/$17NR

Whether you run or walk, join us for the Annual Dragon Dash! This new 5K certified course beginning and ending at Wildwood and following the Polly Ann Trail south toward the Orion Center will enhance your training season. Awards presented to the overall top male and female participant, masters division (50+) as well as the top three male and female runners in each age division. Participants must be present to accept the award. All levels of runners and walkers are invited, from beginner to competitive. Bring your bib number back to Wildwood on September 19 for LO Palooza and get free admission to the event! Student Discount (under 18) $9R/$11NR, Race Shirts $10.

**Toy, Comic & Antique Expo**

Orion Center  |  Sat, Sep 26  
9 am–3 pm  |  Free Admission

Buy, sell or trade comic books, collectibles, antiques and memorabilia at our annual Expo & Market! Vendor setup opens at 8 am. Spaces are limited. Vendor Space: $20R/$25NR. Discount for multiple tables.

**Closet Clean–out Indoor Community Garage Sale**

Orion Center  |  Fri, Sep 25  
9 am–3 pm  |  Free Admission

Stay warm and dry indoors, bring it in, use our space to sell, sell, sell. Don’t worry about the weather, making signs, putting them out or people parking on your grass. We do all the work for you! Household items only, no wholesalers please. Vendor Space: $10R/$13NR

**Coffee with Chris**

Orion Center  |  Fri, Sep 25, Oct 23, Nov 20  
9:30–10:30 am  
Stop in the Orion Center for an informal meeting with Supervisor Barnett. Feel free to come with questions or join in on the discussion. Reach Chris Barnett directly at [barnett@oriontownship.org](mailto:barnett@oriontownship.org) or by calling 248-391-0304 x1000.

**Italian Cooking Class**

Virtual  |  Mon, Oct 5  
5–6:30 pm  
$8R/$10NR

Join Valentina in the kitchen to learn the ritual of the “Aperitivo”. Participants will enjoy one of the favorite Italian times of the day before dinner. The class will consist of how to make an Italian cocktail like spritz, charcuterie board, and the perfect wine to accompany with it.

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**MADE IN THE MITTEN ART & CRAFT SHOW**

Orion Center  |  Sat, Oct 3  
10 am–5 pm  |  Free Admission

#BuyNearBy and Shop Local! Start your holiday shopping early with one of a kind, unique arts and craft show featuring distinctive and classic Made in Michigan products, made by Michiganders for Michiganders! Find an exclusive holiday, birthday or just because gifts for yourself and your friends & family! Vendors will be throughout the Orion Center with everything from one of a kind, hand-made jewelry, clothing and home décor.

**Made in the Mitten Art & Craft Show**

Orion Center  |  Sat, Oct 3  
10 am–5 pm  |  Free Admission

#BuyNearBy and Shop Local! Start your holiday shopping early with one of a kind, unique arts and craft show featuring distinctive and classic Made in Michigan products, made by Michiganders for Michiganders! Find an exclusive holiday, birthday or just because gifts for yourself and your friends & family! Vendors will be throughout the Orion Center with everything from one of a kind, hand-made jewelry, clothing and home décor.

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**Flu Shots**  
Orion Center  
Wed, Oct 7 | 2-4 pm  
Orion Center and Walgreens are teaming up together to offer flu shots by appointment only. Pre registration is required.

**Blood Drive with MI Blood**  
Orion Center  
TBD | Ages 17+  
You can register online, at miblood.org. Donors searching online for an appointment can schedule, enter “Orion” in the sponsor field on the search page and click GO.

**Pumpkin Carving Party**  
Orion Center | Mon, Oct 19  
5-7:30 pm | Ages 1-10 | $6R/$8NR  
Still need to carve your jack-o-lanterns? Save time and stress with our Pumpkin Carving Party! Come and make a mess at the Orion Center, while you carve away and we clean up the pumpkin goo! BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin). All tools needed for this activity will be provided.

**Pumpkin Party for Teens**  
Camp Agawam | Thu, Oct 22  
6-8:30 pm | Ages 9-15 | $10R/$12NR  
Come out to Camp Agawam for a fun fall evening! Bring a pumpkin to decorate, enjoy pizza and snacks around a bonfire and hangout with your friends. All of the tools to carve or decorate your pumpkin will be provided, you just need to bring the pumpkin.

**Veterans Day**  
Orion Center  
Wed, Nov 11 | 12 pm  
Free  
Veterans and one guest enjoy a free meal at the Orion Center!

**DIY Birdseed Ornament**  
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 3  
5:30-7:30 pm | Ages 8+ | $6R/$8NR  
Come out to the Orion Center and learn how to make your own Birdseed Ornaments to hang outside this winter. Registration includes all ingredients and materials needed. Pre-registration required.

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**BOO BASH ON THE TRAILS**  
Friendship Park | Sat, Oct 17 | 4-7 pm  
Ages 1-10 | $10R/$12NR  
Join us for an evening of Halloween fun with a trick-or-treat street on the Friendship Park walking trails. When you register, you will select a time slot for your family, time slots will be limited to 10 children. Each registered child will get to pick a pumpkin to take home, along with a take home craft project. Make sure to explore the bat exhibit sponsored by Waste Management! Pre-registration is required, spaces are limited.

Rain Date  
Sunday, October 18.

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Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at  
ORIONPARKS.COM  
or call 248–391–0304, ext. 3500
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Breakfast with the Grinch
Orion Center | Sat, Dec 12
10–11 am OR 11:30 am–12:30 pm
Ages 1-8 | $13R/$15NR
Come to the Orion Center to enjoy a delicious breakfast of green eggs and ham. The Grinch will be there for photo opportunities, along with crafts and other activities for the kids. Visit Santa at the ONTV Studio and be on TV!

Snow Dash 5K
Orion Center | Sun, Dec 20 | 9 am | $12R/$17NR
Dashing through the snow down the Polly Ann Trail for our 3rd Annual Snow Dash 5K in Orion Township. Certified loop course starts and finishes at the Orion Center. Finisher medals for all participants.

Painting Like the Masters Vincent Van Gogh
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 24
4:30–6:30 pm | Ages 7+ | $20R/$25NR
It’s time to paint on canvas with the vibrant colors of Vincent Van Gogh’s images of sunflowers and starry nights! Take a brush in hand and learn to emulate thick, impulsive brush strokes in the style of this famous post–impressionist painter. Preliminary paintings will be executed in chalk pastel. A gallery showing will be presented to families following class. A $15 material fee is due to the instructor at the beginning of class.

Art Extravaganza!
Orion Center | Mon, Sep 28–Oct 19
6:30–8 pm | Ages 7+ | $60R/$65NR
Does your kiddo love to get creative? Well let’s make that happen for them in this 4 class series that has everything to do with art! Kids will be working on tiles, particle boards, paper and canvas to create some of the most interesting works of art. It’s a fine feeling to work on a subject matter that inspires you; with this in mind students will have a direct input as to the ideas and outcome of their work. Can’t wait to see you at our “Viewing of Creations” which will be extended to families following class on the final day! A $20 material fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class.
Gain confidence as they see their skillsings. In this 4 week series students will hatching to add texture to their draw-working on value to add depth, stippling and growth in abilities. Students will be to concentrate, the making of mistakes, techniques, individual instruction, time feed that fi re with practice of various passion has already begun! It’s time to If your child is constantly sketching, the who is fantastic at drawing? PASSION! What does it take to become an artist /six.lnum/colon.lnum/three.lnum/zero.lnum/endash.lnum/eight.lnum pm /bar.lnum Ages /seven.lnum/plus.lnum /bar.lnum /dollar.lnum/six.lnum/zero.lnumR//dollar.lnum/six.lnum/five.lnumNR Orion Center /bar.lnum Mon/comma.lnum Nov /two.lnum/endash.lnum/two.lnum/three.lnum Drawing Day! Monday is My Drawing Day! Orion Center | Mon, Nov 2–23 6:30–8 pm | Ages 7+ | $60R/$65NR What does it take to become an artist who is fantastic at drawing? PASSION! If your child is constantly sketching, the passion has already begun! It’s time to feed that fire with practice of various techniques, individual instruction, time to concentrate, the making of mistakes, and growth in abilities. Students will be working on value to add depth, stippling to add interest with hatching and cross–hatching to add texture to their draw-ings. In this 4 week series students will gain confidence as they see their skills improve. Graphite, colored pencils, and light washes of watercolors will be imple-mented in our nature focused drawings. A Gallery Show of our students’ artwork will be extended to families following class on the final day. A $15 material fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class.

Painting Like the Masters Rembrandt
Orion Center | Thu, Oct 29 4:30–6:30 pm | Ages 7+ | $20R/$25NR
Let's learn a fun way to execute an interesting way of painting! Rembrandt Harmenszoon Van Rijn, the classical Dutch painter, draughtsman and printer will be our inspiration for this busy workshop. But here’s the twist, we will be using an Anime character as our subject! Preliminary paintings will be executed in charcoal. We will move from this point to an under–painting of raw umber and then apply a layer of varnish as we learn about the idea of ‘fat over lean’. A gallery showing will be presented to families following class. A $15 material fee is due to the instructor at the beginning of class.

Painting Like the Masters Raoul Dufy
Orion Center | Thu, Nov 19 4:30–6:30 pm | Ages 7+ | $20R/$25NR
Kids will delight in using pen and ink with watercolor tube paints to imitate the cubistic color planes of Dufy’s unique style. A child–like storybook atmosphere will be achieved when freely applied delicate washes of paint are used on watercolor paper in this fauvist style. We will be painting circus, zoo, and parade scenes. A gallery showing will be presented to families following class. A $15 material fee is due to the instructor at the beginning of class.

Painting Like the Masters Sulamith Wülfling
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 10 4:30–6:30 pm | Ages 7+ | $20R/$25NR
As a child, Sulamith had visions of angels, fairies, gnomes, and nature spirits. She first began drawing these creatures at the age of four. The vision continued through her life, and directly inspired her paintings. Students will be choosing a fairy tale to illustrate a favorite scene using watercolor paint to emulate the detailed pattern style of this German artist. A gallery showing will be presented to families following class. A $15 material fee is due to the instructor at the beginning of class.

Snapology offers interactive, hands–on learning activities using LEGO® bricks, K’Nex, and technology to introduce STEAM subjects. From beginner coding classes to robot competitions, there is something for every kid. Snapology helps your child grow up with a thirst for knowledge and they don’t even know they’re learning! For a listing of current Snapology programs, visit Orionparks.com.

Beginner Horseback Riding Lessons
Times Square Riding Academy Sat, Oct 31–Dec 5 | 1:30–2:30 pm Ages 7+ | $150R/$160NR
Each lesson consists of basic grooming, riding and horse care for beginner riders in the English Saddle style. Additional lesson times are available Mon–Fri even-ings, Sat and Sun afternoons, call Paula at 248-431-0940 to confirm availability.

Home Alone Training
Orion Center | Mon, Oct 5 6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 9–14 $16R/$19NR
Prepare yourself and your child for this new adventure with Home Alone Training. Instructor Merry Lowis presents the skills your child will need to be home alone safely. Training follows the American Red Cross Curriculum.
Babysitter Training
Orion Center  |  Thu, Oct 8
6–8:30 pm  |  Ages 11-14  |  $19R/$22NR
Instructor Merry Lowis presents the skills needed to start your own babysitting business. Program incorporates the American Red Cross guide and video into the curriculum. Suggested pre-requisite class: Home Alone Training.

Frozen with Ice Queen
Orion Center  |  Sat, Oct 24
12–2 pm  |  Ages 2–7  |  $50R/$52NR
Two sisters have traveled afar, to play and sing and celebrate who you are. Cookies and snowflakes await your day. Come out, dress up for some fall play!

The Magic of Gary Kantor
Magician Gary Kantor now teaches his popular magic class ONLINE. This 45-minute online class teaches children how to perform a number of mind-boggling tricks using everyday household items. Gary will start by explaining the secrets to the tricks, and then both Gary and the children will practice everything in great detail. The children will have a blast as they learn exactly what to say and do when performing in front of an audience. Since this class is online, it can be taken whenever it is convenient for your schedule, and the videos can be watched again and again. Your entire family can even take this class together! Additionally, be sure to sign up for this class again since new tricks are taught each session. Your registration receipt will include all the instructions and materials you will need for class: be sure to retain your receipt.

The Magic of Gary Kantor
Balloon Animal Session A
Virtual  |  Sep 1–30  |  Ages 5–12  |  $13
Professional balloon artist Gary Kantor introduces a 45 minute online class that teaches children the techniques needed to take plain balloons and transform them into incredible balloon animals (like dogs, butterflies, fish, etc.). By watching these online videos, children will create their own balloon animals, with Gary walking them through each step in the process. This class isn’t just for the kids; parents will have a blast if they join the experience. Additionally, you can sign up again since each session makes different animals. Note: you will need your own balloons and balloon pump. Your registration receipt will include complete instructions on what and where to purchase items: be sure to retain your registration receipt.

ADULTS 50+
Membership and Registration Required

Orion Center Membership
Interested in participating in one of our programs? Become a member at the Orion Center for 50+ Orion Township Residents and Non-Residents. Membership to the Orion Center is free. Stop by or call to register. Once registered you may sign up for any of the programs below. The Orion Center also has many different resources available to community members. Call us today if you are in need of help in topics including: Medical Equipment, Dental, Housing, Alzheimers, and many other support groups.

Fitness Partnership with Great Lakes Athletic Club
Great Lakes Athletic Club, 3800 S. Baldwin Rd, Lake Orion, is offering Aquatic Classes and Active Life Exercise Classes to our Orion Community Center Members, age 50 and over on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am–1 pm. Call Great Lakes Athletic Club and ask for Gabrielle (Gabby) at 248-393-3085.

FITNESS

Exercise Room
Orion Center  |  Mon–Fri
8:30 am–4 pm  |  Ages 54+
$6R/$12NR/Month
Members must be 54 or older to use the Exercise Room.

Java Joes
Orion Center  |  Tue
9:30–10:30 am
Free
Java Joes meets the 4th Tuesday of the month. Each month the Orion Center will have a special guest or the group discussion leader. Join us for a fresh cup of joe and great conversations with your neighbors.

ENRICHMENT

Ask the Financial Guru
Orion Center  |  Thu
11:30 am–2 pm
Free
Appointments are 30 minutes and on the first Thursday of the month.
Coffee Hour
Virtual
Every Wed | 9 am | Free
While sitting in your home enjoy nice conversation with your friends at the Orion Center.

Garden Chats
Virtual | Every Thu | 2 pm | Free
Having troubles with your garden or need guidance on your flower beds or lawn? Join us for a virtual chat where we will have an expert present to answer all your questions.

Toolbox for Stress
Orion Center or Virtual | Thu, Sep 17 | 2 pm | Free
Meet us outside in our tent or virtually from your home for a lecture that will equip you with some exciting tools you can use as you deal with the stress that the past few months have brought. Kathy, with Clarity of Cognition, will explain how stress affects the body and the brain and will lead you through four different techniques that you can practice wherever you are. There are also some fun additional tools given to pull out on a daily basis.

Thanksgiving Lunch
Orion Center | Fri, Nov 20 | 12 pm | $4R/$6NR
Independence Village of Oxford will be cooking up a yummy boxed lunch to pick up at the Orion Center to enjoy in the comfort of your home. Once you are back home, enjoying your lunch, tune into ONTV for live music. Thank you Independence Village of Oxford for sponsoring this event.

End of Summer Luau
Camp Agawam
Tue, Sep 22 | 12 pm | $6R/$8NR
Come say goodbye to summer and hello to fall at Camp Agawam! Box lunches and entertainment will be provided in the Morrison Pavilion.

Ask the Attorney
Orion Center | Mon, Sep 14 | 1-2:30 pm | Free
Attorney Dana Wilson provides private consultations at the center. If you need assistance with legal problems or if you have legal questions, call the center for a 15-20-minute appointment.

See Counselor Virtually
By Appointment
To set up a time to meet with a counselor over the phone please call (800) 703–7174.

Virtual
You must register prior to the event. Once registered each participant receipt will include the instructions and materials you will need to get into Zoom.

Lunch Bunch
Virtual | Every Fri | 12 pm | Free
Join us for lunch from a computer or smartphone in the comfort of your home.

Special Events

CLUBS

Membership and Registration Required

Spanish Club
Virtual | Every Tue and Thu | Time varies
Eager to learn something new? Join the Orion Center Spanish Club and Ms. Melissa Dalton, the Spanish teacher at Scripps Middle School, as they learn and socialize while learning a new language together.

Walking Club
Meet at the Orion Center
Every Wed and Fri | 10 am | Free
Come stretch out and socialize with us as we walk the Polly Ann Trail. Pre-registration is required, but can be done day of. All paces welcome!

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Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at ORIONPARKS.COM or call 248–391–0304, ext. 3500
Blood Pressure
Need your blood pressure taken? Cindy and Landon, Beaumont’s Wellness Liaisons, are here to help you with that. Stop by and they will be glad to help. Don’t forget to ask about upcoming classes.

Stay Strong Exercise Class
Orion Center | Every Thu 10:15–11:15 am | Free
Come and join the seniors for some gentle chair and standing exercises. Registration preferred.

Advanced Stay Strong Exercise Class
Orion Center | Every Tue 1–2 pm | Free
This program is designed to provide baby boomers and older adults with exercises to improve muscular strength and endurance, posture and flexibility with the help of resistance bands. Registration preferred.

Hatha Yoga Gentle Class
Orion Center | Mon, Sep 14–Oct 19 | 4:45–5:45 pm | Ages 18+ | $60R/$63NR
Orion Center | Mon, Nov 9–30 | 4:45–5:45 pm | Ages 18+ | $40R/$43NR
Learn the foundational poses of yoga and begin to experience all the wonderful benefits. Gentle stretches to increase flexibility and strength in the body. Breathing and relaxation techniques to calm the mind. Please bring a yoga mat, strap and firm blanket. Instructor Suzanne Albert (RYT) of Heartfelt Yoga. Drop-in rate: $12R/$13NR.

Hatha Yoga Continuing Class
Orion Center | Mon, Sep 14–Oct 19 | 6–7:10 pm | Ages 18+ | $60R/$63NR
Orion Center | Mon, Nov 9–30 | 6–7 pm | Ages 18+ | $40R/$43NR
In this yoga class we will review the foundational yoga poses learned in the gentle class and continue to explore some new postures and practices that include the movement of Sun Salutations and the quietness of yin yoga where we will hold poses, close to the earth for a couple of minutes. Come enjoy this practice to strengthen your body and also calm your mind. Each class will include meditation and relaxation. Instructor Suzanne Albert (RYT) of Heartfelt Yoga. Drop-in rate: $12R/$13NR.

Hatha Yoga Open Class
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 17–Oct 22 | 10–11:15 am | Ages 18+ | $60R/$63NR
Orion Center | Thu, Nov 5–19 | 10–11:15 am | Ages 18+ | $30R/$33NR
Open to beginning or returning students. Exploring yoga asanas, breathing and relaxation techniques. Instructor Suzanne Albert (RYT) of Heartfelt Yoga. Drop-in rate: $12R/$13NR.

Hatha Yoga with Ease
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 17–Oct 15 | 1–2 pm | Ages 40+ | $30R/$33NR
This class is geared for the young at heart for those over 40. Come join us as we continue to explore gentle stretches to bring flexibility into your body, strengthen your muscles and relax your mind. Through the support of chairs and props you will explore yoga with ease. Instructor Suzanne Albert (RYT) of Heartfelt Yoga. Drop-in rate: $7R/$8NR.

Intro to the MELT Method
Orion Center | Wed, Sep 16 or Wed, Oct 21 | 10:45–11:45 am | Ages 18+ | $15R/$18NR
An introduction on how to use the soft Melt body roller for the upper and lower body along with learning how to use the small balls for the hands and feet. MELT is a simple compression technique that addresses the connective tissue to help you get out of and stay out of pain. Instructor Cyndy DuVal.
MELT Method
4 Week Class
Orion Center | Wed, Sep 23–Oct 14 or Oct 28–Nov 18 | 10:45–11:45 am
Ages 18+ | $45R/$48NR
MELT is a simple compression technique that addresses the connective tissue to help you get out of and stay out of pain. It helps with back & neck pain, arthritis, headaches, tension and stress, and alignment and posture. MELT improves all over body movement, and makes you feel more vibrant and youthful! Instructor Cyndy Duval.

Zumba Gold
Orion Center | Mon, Sep 14–Nov 2 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 40+
$64R/$68NR
Orion Center | Mon, Nov 9–Dec 14 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 40+
$48R/$52NR
A Latin inspired cardio workout, incorporating dances such as the merengue, salsa, cumbia, belly dancing and with more verbal instruction to better learn the moves and is done at a slower pace. Instructor Cyndy DuVal. Drop-in rate:$10R/$11NR.

Zumba Gold Toning
Orion Center | Wed, Sep 16–Nov 4 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 40+
$64R/$68NR
Orion Center | Wed, Nov 11–Dec 16 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 40+
$48R/$52NR
Blend the Zumba party you love at a slower pace with a redefining total body workout using Toning Sticks to shake up those muscles! (1–3 lbs. optional hand weights recommended) Instructor Cyndy DuVal. Drop-in rate:$10R/$11NR.

Heartfulness Meditation Program—Learn to Meditate
Virtual | Thu, Oct 1–22 | 7–8:30 pm
Ages 13+ | Free
A simple set of relaxation and meditation exercises, which when practiced daily, help restore balance in life, manage stress, better your health, and most of all will lead you to inner calm and peace. Each class covers both the conceptual framework as well as practical meditation and relaxation sessions. As classes progress, we add other techniques to help you go into a deep meditative state, faster. The entire program will be conducted by certified Heartfulness trainers, who have been meditating and training for several years. Class is free, but registration is required.

HEF X–Training
Clear Lake Elementary | Tue and/or Thu | Sep 1–Dec 17 | 7–8 pm
Ages 18+ | $135 (1x per week)/$215 (2x per week)
We will hit every muscle group and burn tons of calories using a variety of workouts like HIIT, Bootcamp, and Kickboxing. This class is good for your health, body and mind! All fitness levels welcome. Bring a mat and weights to each class. Virtual classes available, visit facebook.com/HEF08 for details

TaikoFit Cardio Drumming
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 3 6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 16+ | Free
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 10–Nov 19 6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 16+
$110R/$114 NR
Combine the Taiko drumming style with high energy music and cardio and you have a really fun workout that reduces stress and is good for your mind, body and soul. Instructor Cindi Carter, Drop-in rate: $14 R/$15NR.

Perfect Posture
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 3 7:45–8:30 pm | Ages 16+ | Free
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 10–Nov 19 7:45–8:30 pm | Ages 16+
$110R/$114NR
So many aches, pains and injuries are related to poor posture. We look so much younger and healthier when our posture is good. This class will show you what perfect posture is, and will focus on strengthening and stretching the postural muscles. Please bring a yoga mat and a full size round foam roller. A full size foam roller is about 36 inches long and the diameter is usually standard and around 6 inches. A smooth foam roller is preferable to one with texture. Instructor Cindi Carter, Drop-in rate: $14 R/$15NR.

Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at ORIONPARKS.COM or call 248–391–0304, ext. 3500

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**Pickleball Lessons—Beginner**
Jesse Decker Park | Tue & Thu
Sep 8 & 10 | 10 am–12 pm  
$40R/$42NR
Jesse Decker Park | Tue & Thu
Sep 15 & 17 | 5–7 pm  
$40R/$42NR
These beginner lessons will introduce you to the basic rules, proper grip, shots, scoring, and play of pickleball. Paddles and balls will be provided. Bring your own if you have one.

**Pickleball Lessons—Intermediate**
Jesse Decker Park | Tue & Thu
Sep 8 & 10 | 5–7 pm  
$40R/$42NR
Jesse Decker Park | Tue & Thu
Sep 15 & 17 | 10 am–12 pm  
$40R/$42NR
Develop/improve your pickleball skills through drills and game situations. Learn advanced playing strategies to give you the edge over your opponents. Previous experience necessary.

**American Heart Association**

**HeartSaver CPR/AED**
Fire Station #2 | TBD | 5–9 pm
Ages 12+ | $40R/NR
Fire Station #2 | TBD | 10 am–2 pm
Ages 12+ | $40R/NR
Class will cover CPR/AED/Choking for all age groups.

**American Heart Association**

**HeartSaver CPR/AED/First Aid**
Fire Station #2 | TBD | 10 am–5 pm
Ages 12+ | $50R/NR
Class is held the third Saturday of every other month. Class will cover CPR/AED/First Aid/Choking for all age groups.

**FIT4MOM**

**Stroller Strides®**
Friendship Park | Tue, Thu, Fri | 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 18+
Stroller Strides® is a total fitness program that moms can do with their babies. It includes power walking/jogging and intervals of strength and body toning exercises using resistance bands, the stroller and the environment. Taught by certified and specially trained fitness instructors, it is a great workout for any level of exerciser.

**Stroller Barre®**
Friendship Park | Mon & Wed | 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 18+
Stroller Barre® is a unique blend of ballet, Pilates, barre, yoga and stroller-based exercises designed to help moms build strength and muscle tone and improve posture. Stroller Barre® focuses on strengthening and creating an ideal length/tension relationship in all the postural muscles.

**Body Back Transformation®**
Friendship Park | Mon & Wed | 7:30–8:30 pm | Ages 18+
Body Back Transformation® this is a results-based program designed for moms who want their body back, whether they just had a baby or their last child was born twenty years ago! Body Back clients experience targeted HIIT workouts, inspiration and motivation in every class.

**FIT4BABY®**
Friendship Park | Mon & Wed | 6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 18+
FIT4BABY® is designed specifically for moms-to-be. All exercises are carefully selected to prepare your body for the many changes you will experience during pregnancy. The 60-minute workout includes cardio, strength, balance, and flexibility training and ends with a relaxing meditation; everything you need during this precious time!

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We are following all executive orders outlined for Covid-19, modifications/changes may take place in order to stay compliant.
Park Highlight: Camp Agawam

From Boy Scout Camp to hidden treasure

Camp Agawam is the Township’s largest property at 140 acres. It is nestled along the east side of Tommy’s Lake with a small beach and a catch and release fishing dock. The Township purchased the camp from the Boy Scouts of America in 2014 to preserve the 140 acres for future generations. The camp features rustic campsites, pavilions, lodges, 18 hole disc golf course, Oakland Paintball LLC., a playground, hiking trails and a beautiful outdoor amphitheater called the “Firebowl”.

Visit all our Orion Township Parks!

FRIENDSHIP PARK
3380 W. Clarkston Road

CAMP AGAWAM
1301 W. Clarkston Road

CIVIC CENTER PARK
2525 Joslyn Road

WILDWOOD AMPHITHEATER
2700 Joslyn Court

ORION COMMUNITY CENTER & PARKS OFFICE
1335 Joslyn Road

JESSE DECKER PARK
4100 N. Squirrel Road

GINGELL NATURE CENTER
2689 Maybee Road

Visit OrionParks.com to see the full list of recreational amenities.
SEPTEMBER

1 Virtual Race At Your Own Pace 5K
2 Lake Orion Live! Concert in the Park, 6:30 pm, Children’s Park
3 Lake Orion Live! Music in the Streets, 6:30 pm, Downtown Lake Orion
4 Lake Orion Live! First Friday Concert, 6:30 pm, Downtown Lake Orion
7 Labor Day
7 Township Hall Closed
8 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm
8 First Day of School
13 Dragon Dash 5K, 9 am, Wildwood Pavilion
13 Outdoor Nature Family Concert with Joe Reilly, 2 pm, Orion Library
14 Property taxes due
15 High School Curriculum Night
16 Elementary School Curriculum Night
17 Middle School Curriculum Night
19 Trek or Ride the Trail with the OTPL, 10 am or 12 pm, Orion Township Public Library
19 LO Palooza with the Daisy Project, Wildwood Pavilion
22 Blood Drive, 12-6 pm, Orion Township Public Library
25 Coffee with Chris, 9:30 am, Orion Center
25 Community Garage Sale, 9 am, Orion Center
26 Toy, Comic & Antique Expo, 9 am, Orion Center

OCTOBER

2 Lake Orion Live! First Friday Concert, 6:30 pm, Children’s Park
3 Made in the Mitten Art & Craft Show, 10 am, Orion Center
5 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm
8 High School Parent/Teacher Conferences
17 Boo Bash on the Trails, registration required, 4-7 pm, Friendship Park
19 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm
21 Halloween Parade, 6 pm, Downtown Lake Orion
23 Coffee With Chris, 9:30 am, Orion Center
27 Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences
29 Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences
31 Halloween
NOVEMBER

3 Election Day
3 No School, Election Day
6 Virtual Family Game Night 6 pm, Orion Library
10 Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences
11 Veterans Day
12 Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences
16 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm
20 Coffee With Chris, 9:30 am, Orion Center
25-27 No School, Thanksgiving Break
26 Thanksgiving Day
26-27 Township Hall Closed
28 Small Business Saturday, 9 am to 2 pm, Downtown Lake Orion

Photo by Lee Smith

Photo by Matt Pfeiffer

Photo by Leah Sands
Support the non-profits who support our community in difficult times

A lot has changed in our world this year. There has been a lot of uncertainty and a lot of fear, but we want to remind you that there has been a lot of good as well, especially in our community. The Orion area hosts so many non-profit organizations that have stepped up in a big way when our community was in need, and these organizations that support our community could use our support more than ever right now.

Providing resources for those in need or at risk

These organizations offer varied resources to anybody in need. They have played a huge part in keeping “Orion Strong” throughout this difficult time providing food, shelter, transportation and other needed supplies.

Freedom Road Transportation. A non-profit organization seeking to empower people living with a low income with safe and affordable transportation

Love INC. A non-profit cooperative effort that links churches, volunteers, and service agencies and helps them to organize their efforts by reaching out to the poor and disadvantaged.

Grace Centers of Hope. One of the largest faith-based, long term life skills programs for those afflicted by homelessness, addiction, and abuse in southeast Michigan.

Holy Spokes. Provides used bicycles, maintenance, education, and much more to Michigan’s Greater Detroit area

Nature and outdoor organizations

With recreational activities this year being mostly limited to trails and parks, we are so incredibly lucky to have these great organizations working hard to keep them as nice as possible. These organizations have gone above and beyond to provide our community with as much opportunity as possible to get out in nature in a safe way.

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail. Promotes the usage, maintenance, improvement and enjoyment of the Paint Creek Trail.

Polly Ann Trail/PATMC. Establishes and operates a non-motorized green way accessible to all and positively impacting the lives of all within its sphere of influence.

Friends of Tommy’s Lake and Camp Agawam. Supports Camp Agawam which offers a wide variety of opportunities for all ages. With roughly 140 acres, numerous campsites, rental facilities, walking trails, a chapel, and beautiful Tommy’s Lake.

Orion Veterans Memorial. Brings awareness to veterans living in our community, and to raise them up as a whole. Their efforts bring financial and emotional aid to veterans—while thanking them for their service.

Community resources

These organizations help make sure that our community has all of the resources, amenities and general niceties that make this such a great place to live. Make sure to check them out and send them some love for all that they do!

Friends of the Orion Township Library. Promotes public support of the Orion Township Public Library and the library in the community, to promote reading, literacy and lifelong learning, and to maintain an association of persons interested in the library.

Orion Township Firefighters Association. Made up of Orion Firefighters whose mission is to give back to the community through charity and outreach.

Orion Neighborhood Television. Your community media outlet. Their mission is to empower community members and groups to create, communicate and connect through television and video production.

Oakland Mediation Center. Provides conflict resolution and education services that are quite affordable and quickly empower community members, families, businesses, courts and schools to resolve conflict.

Lake Orion Fireworks Association. Since 1990 they have produced the Dueling Fireworks show on Lake Orion to celebrate the 4th of July.

Lake Orion Lions Club. Coordinates fundraising activities to enable community members to support their charity efforts. One hundred percent of their charity funds are redistributed to meet the needs of the local community.

Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary. Provides service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill,
and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

**Orion Area Parade Group.** Sponsors, plans and coordinates the largest lighted Christmas Parade in Michigan.

**North Oakland Community Coalition.** Promotes a healthy environment, free of alcohol and substance misuse, through education, collaboration and endless faith in community spirit.

**Art and education organizations**

Our community also has organizations devoted to art, education and history. These organizations do so much to inspire our local culture and keeping that culture going strong is especially important right now.

**Lake Orion Education Foundation.** Created by friends and supporters of the Lake Orion Community School District to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities offered to children.

**Orion Art Center.** Their mission is to make fine arts experiences available to Southeast Michigan residents and artists by nurturing the artistic expression and creativity of individuals of all ages and artistic levels through art classes, outreach programs, exhibitions and community events.

**Orion Historical Society.** A community organization dedicated to the preservation of Orion’s legacy with the goal to involve people to actively participate in the growth and vitality of the Orion community through preservation activities and education about Orion’s legacy.

We’re so proud to have all of these organizations working in our community. Many of them can always use assistance in the form of donations or volunteering. If that’s something that you’re able to do and interested in, we urge you to reach out! Let’s keep these amazing organizations doing amazing things in our community!

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**For more information about these organizations, visit the Member Directory at orionareachamber.com.**

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**Status of upcoming Chamber events**

Due to the uncertain state of the Coronavirus pandemic, large-scale events have an uncertain future in 2020.

Our traditional Shop Local Expo which is held in October each year has been postponed for the time being. We are saddened that this popular event can’t be held in its traditional format but we look forward to providing new and creative ways to promote our local businesses to the community.

We plan to resume our in-person ribbon cuttings in September to celebrate the new businesses that have joined our community and businesses that have opened in new locations. We continue to provide virtual networking events for our members.

We also host our Wednesday Webinar series which is free and open to the public. The webinars cover a wide variety of topics like podcasting, social media, creating an e-commerce website, auto-insurance reform and much more. We invite you to join us online.

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**For more information email info@orionareachamber.com**
New and renewing members

**New Members**
mid-April to mid-July

**JUNIOR MEMBER**
Kote Media Group, LLC

**BUSINESS BASIC MEMBERS**
The Hoffman Agency
Gardening by Sindy
Gardening Girls and Design
Lucinda P. Burke D.C., P.C.
Great Lakes Crossing UPS Store

**BUSINESS BASIC MEMBERS**
Canoe Circle Graphics
CGC Water Treatment Kinetico
CJ’s Lakeside Grill & Sandbar
Coldwell Banker Professionals
Curtis Insurance Agency
Custom Threads & Sports
Cyrowski Real Estate
DeHaan Orthodontics
Environmental Wood Solutions
Firehouse Subs
Genisys Credit Union
Greens Master Lawn and Pest Service
HomeGrown Brewing Co
Hope Senior Apt
Indian Lake Village Apartments
Italia Gardens
James Komendera, DDS
Kemp Automotive Graphic
Kemp Building & Development
Lake Orion Family Dentistry
Lake Orion Nursing & Rehab
Lake Orion Roofing
Lake Orion Window Treatments
Lakes Community Credit Union
Lakes Village Stop & Mediterranean Station
Lucy’s Natural Foods LLC
M & B Graphics, Inc
McLaren Oakland
Mills Real Estate Ventures
Milosch’s Palace Chrysler Dodge Jeep
Michael J Gingell County Commissioner
Modetz Funeral Home & Cremation Service
Oakland Sports Chiropractic
Orion Stone Depot
PNC Bank
Porritt, James—Attorney at Law
Powers Distributing Co
Premier Self Storage
Pulte Homes
Rainforest Café
Restoration Tile and Grout
Skalnek Ford
Sparks-Griffin Funeral Home
SureGuard Roofing & Maintenance
The Complete Companies
The Marketing Shop
The UPS Store (Lake Orion)
Turner Sanitation
Tuson Electric Inc.
Treeside Psychological
VTC Insurance Group—Oxford
Yates Cider Mill at Canterbury Village

**PREMIER MEMBERS**
Closets by Design of Southeast MI

Take care of yourself

During the “Stay Home, Stay Safe Order” routine medical, vision and dental treatments were unavailable to most residents of Orion. Now that businesses have re-opened, the greater Orion area medical community is ready to welcome you back and attend to all your health and wellness needs. Check out the excellent providers in our Chamber here to help you live a happy and healthy life!

Chamber Member Health Providers

**PEDIATRICIANS**

**Country Creek Pediatrics—Auburn Hills**
2240 N. Opdyke Road
248-298-7400

**Gateway Pediatric Therapy**
1236 S. Lapeer Road
248-712-4266

**Kidz1st Pediatrics—Rochester Hills**
2370 Walton Blvd, Suite 3
248-651-8197

**MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

**Training & Treatment Innovations, Inc—Oxford**
1450 S. Lapeer Road
248-969-9932

**Treeside Psychological**
45 N. Lapeer Street
248-693-9614

**HOSPITALS**

**Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital—Rochester**
1101 W. University Drive
248-652-5000

**Beaumont—Troy**
44201 Dequindre Road
248-964-1807
McLaren
Oakland—Pontiac
50 N. Perry Street
248-338-5891
St. Joseph Mercy
Oakland—Pontiac
44405 Woodward Avenue
800-372-6094

VISION
Baldwin Eye Care
3757 S. Baldwin Road
248-393-1275
Henry Ford OptimEyes
1376 S. Lapeer Road
248-693-3380
Lake Orion Vision
81 Indianwood Road
248-693-2321
Michigan Eye Institute
1240 S. Lapeer Road
248-236-9379
Pearle Vision
620 N. Lapeer Road
248-814-7011

HEARING
May Audiology
& Hearing Aid Center—Rochester
4976 N. Adams Road
248-694-9922
DeHaan Orthodontics
3027 S. Baldwin Road
248-391-4477
James Komendera, DDS
1135 S. Lapeer Road
248-693-2194
Jaime A. Abbott, DDS, PLLC
3385 Waldon Road
248-391-2244

John P. Blake, DDS
1251 S. Lapeer Rd, Suite 201
248-693-5800
Lake Orion Family Dentistry
1320 S. Lapeer Road
248-693-6213
Orion Oaks Dental
400 W. Clarkston Road
248-693-4422
Rocco Ciccone, DDS &
Joe Mastromatteo, DDS
792 S. Lapeer
248-693-8366

SPINAL HEALTH
Center for Advanced Orthopedic & Sports Medicine—Auburn Hills
3100 Cross Creek Parkway #200
248-377-8000
Lucinda P. Burke
D.C, P.C.—Oxford
142 S. Washington Street
248-628-2891
Oakland Sports Chiropractic
106 W. Shadbolt
248-783-7169
Optimum Chiropractic Wellness & Massage
197 N. Park Blvd
248-590-0253

SENIOR CARE
American House
Oakland—Pontiac
1915 Baldwin Avenue
248-335-7020
Grace Senior Living
985 N. Lapeer Road
248-977-6200

Hope Senior Apartments—Oxford
210 W. Drahner
248-628-7676
Independence Village of Waterstone—Oxford
701 Market Street
248-236-8300
Lake Orion Assisted Living
1814 S. Lapeer Road
248-814-6714
Lake Orion Nursing & Rehab
585 E. Flint Street
248-693-0505
Pomeroy Living Orion
101 E. Scripps Road
248-621-3100
Seniors Helping Seniors
1180 S. Lapeer Road
248-969-4000

PRIMARY CARE
Glennan Medical Group—Oxford
72 S. Washington #204
248-628-2233
Neighborhood Primary Care—Lapeer
1261 S. Lapeer Rd, Suite 202
248-690-9181

PHARMACY
Apothecary & Co—Oxford
51 S. Washington
248-572-6404

PHYSICAL THERAPY
HealthQuest
Physical Therapy
3009 S. Baldwin Road
248-393-7707
From the Director

Providing new services in new ways

As is often said, the only constant is change. This is increasingly true as we navigate through the COVID–19 pandemic, even at the Orion Library. We appreciate your flexibility and patience with us as we work through all the necessary details to keep everyone safe.

When we were cleared to bring staff back to the building on June 8, we started the process of getting new services going for our community. We are pleased to be offering Curbside Pickup of library materials, Take & Make programs, Book Bundles, Bright by Text, Ring Me a Story, computers by appointment, and even No Contact Home Delivery. For more information on any of these services, visit orionlibrary.org or give us a call at 248–693–3000.

As of this printing, we are planning to reopen the library building in phases and with necessary safety precautions in place. However, we will continue to monitor the governor’s orders regarding requirements as we continue to manage the coronavirus in our community. The latest information will be posted on our website or available when you call, email, or check us out on social media. Library staff are working hard to answer questions and provide as much service as possible.

As we look to fall, with still so many unanswered questions, we plan to continue to provide library services in new ways and as safely as possible. We love hearing from you, so feel free to reach out and stay in touch. As always, stay safe!

Karen

Library Blood Drive

Tues, Sept 22 | 12–6 pm

Since September of 2000, the library has had 57 blood drives and collected 2,201 pints of blood! Remember, there is always an urgent need for blood so please give—Be A Lifesaver! Make an appointment at redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: orionlibrary, or call 1–800–733–2767.

General Federation of Women’s Clubs—Lake Orion (GFWC)

Do you like to have fun? Do you like to volunteer in your community? Come join the GFWC! For more info, contact Renee at 248–701–8821.

Curbside Pickup Continues

Hold requests can be placed online or by phone and when the items are available, you will be notified by email, phone call, or text message. When you arrive at the library, you will pull into one of our three numbered parking spots located in the side parking lot and send a text message to the number posted on our curbside pickup signage. Items will be checked out by library staff and be delivered to you in a paper bag with a receipt by library staff. Staff will deliver the bag to your trunk or through an open car window. Staff will not accept return items during this transaction. Items must be returned to one of our drop boxes.

For curbside pickup hours please visit orionlibrary.org or call 248-693-3000.

General Info

Online Notary Services
Notary services by appointment only. Contact Joyce at 248–693–3000 x431 or jbecker@orionlibrary.org.

OTPL Post–COVID
OTPL will look different after we reopen. Please check our website for updates on services and access to library resources in the building, and please contact us with any questions.

Upcoming Library Closings
Labor Day: Sat, Sept 5, Sun, Sept 6, Mon, Sept 7
Staff In–Service: Mon, Oct 12

For a calendar of all library events please visit the Events tab at orionlibrary.org or stop in the library for a printed copy.

Department Numbers

Adult 248–693–3001
Outreach 248–693–3000 x411
Teen 248–693–3000 x414
Youth 248–693–3002
Have you been a victim of fake news?

Fake news is, “fabricated information that mimics news media content in form but not in organizational process or intent. Fake news outlets, in turn, lack the news media’s editorial normal and process for ensuring the accuracy and credibility of information. Fake news overlaps with other information disorders, such as misinformation (false or misleading information) and disinformation (false information that is purposely spread to deceive people)” (Lazer, 2018, para. 2). In recent years, fake news has attracted growing interest from the general public and even researchers as misinformation online increases, particularly from social media feeds. According to an article published by the University of Michigan and the University of Amsterdam, 62% of adults are getting their news on social media. With that number being so high, the library wanted to share some quick tips and tricks you can use to determine if your news is coming from a reliable source or if it’s fake news.

1. **Consider the source.** Who or what organization is publishing the article?
2. **Read beyond the headline.** Provocative headlines are used to grab your attention. Even in legitimate news stories, the headline doesn’t always tell the full story and specifically in the case of fake news, headlines are often sensationalized.
3. **Consider the author.** Many fake news articles won’t have an author’s name. When something is published by an individual ask yourself some of these questions: who is this individual, are they a doctor, are they an expert in a specific field, or are they a casual blogger publishing an opinion piece?
4. **Fact check.** There are many forms of fact checking available in the form of library databases, articles, and websites that evaluate factual claims like [PolitiFact.com](http://www.politifact.com).
5. **Is it a joke?** Satire articles do exist and normally they are clearly labeled.

If you aren’t sure if an article is legitimate or fake, use some of the checks above before sharing it with your followers and remember that the Orion Township Public Library has many databases and staff members available to help you research topics and find authoritative articles on any subject.


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**We are now offering automatic renewals!**

Materials that are eligible for a renewal will be automatically renewed at the time that they are due, if there are no holds on the items. Renewal limit will still be 2 per eligible item. Please add your current email to your library account ([online at orionlibrary.org](http://orionlibrary.org)) to receive all the auto-renewal info.

**Orion Library Trustees**

The interests of the Orion Community are represented by an elected six-member Library Board of Trustees. The Board governs the library and is responsible for its annual operations and upkeep. Current trustees are pictured here and named below.

Mary Anne Thorndycraft, President
Mary Pergeau, Vice President
Bert Quinn, Secretary
James Phillips, Treasurer
James J. Abramczyk, Trustee
Mike Luna, Trustee

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Sign up for Library Programs at [orionlibrary.org/calendar](http://orionlibrary.org/calendar) or call 248-693-3000
ADULT SERVICES

As of this printing, we are planning the following programs this fall, however attendance numbers and other details are subject to change.

Virtual: Writer’s Workshop
Wednesdays | Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11 | 7 pm
Meet the second Wednesday of each month and connect with a group of like-minded writers to learn from each other, share ideas, and practice your writing skills. For the fall quarter this group will be meeting online.

Take and Make: Seed Bombs
Sat, Sept 12 | 2 pm
No registration (while supplies last)
Save your seeds for the spring or use them for an indoor winter garden by making them into seed bombs.

Virtual: Michigan Works
2nd Mondays | Sept 14, Nov 9
9:30 am–12 pm (No meeting Oct 12)
Oakland County Michigan Works will assist you with upcoming workshops, youth and adult programs, resume ideas, job searches, interview skills and much more. They can point you in the right direction for inquiries about local resources. Contact Beth Sheridan, esheridan@orionlibrary.org or 248–693–3000 x411 to set up your half hour Zoom appointment with a staff member from Michigan Works.

Virtual: Orion Historical Society (OHS)
Mondays | Sept 14, Oct 5, Nov 9
7 pm
Come to an OHS meeting to learn about our township’s history and work on projects to preserve the past. Newcomers are always welcome! For the fall quarter this group will meet online.

Virtual: Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group
Mon, Sept 14, Tues, Oct 13, Mon, Nov 9 | 10:30 am
This monthly support group for individuals who care for those with Alzheimer’s disease and other related dementia is led by a trained facilitator and sponsored by the Michigan Alzheimer’s Association.

Outdoors: Trek or Ride the Trail with the OTPL
Sat, Sept 19 | Start between 10 am and 12 pm at the library
Bike or walk south on the Polly Ann Trail to the Yates Cider Mill for FREE donuts and cider, then return to the library for a total of 5 miles. Bring the whole family to this fun event, or come on your own!

Virtual: North Oakland Genealogical Society (NOGS)
Thursdays | Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19 | 7 pm
Anyone with an interest in genealogy and family history research is encouraged to attend. For the fall quarter this group will meet online.

Virtual: Dine, Drink & Discuss
Mon, Sept 28: Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult
Mon, Oct 26: My Lovely Wife by Samantha Downing
Mon, Nov 23: American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

Book Bunch Book Club | 1 pm
Wed, Sept 9: The Printed Letter Bookshop by Katherine Reay —Outdoors
Wed, Oct 14: Big Lies in a Small Town by Diane Chamberlain — Virtual
Wed, Nov 11: We Hope for Better Things by Erin Bartels—Virtual

Virtual: Thursday Afternoon Book Club | 1:30 pm
Thu, Sept 17: What the Eyes Don’t See by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha
Thu, Oct 15: The Bird King by G. Willow Wilson
Thu, Nov 19: The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
**Take and Make: Family Maker Night**  
Thu, Sept 24 | 6 pm | No registration (while supplies last)  
Pick up a maker kit with a variety of makerspace projects for all ages.

**Take and Make: DIY Pallet Signs**  
Sat, Sept 26 | 2 pm  
No registration (while supplies last)  
Pick up a take and make kit to create a beautiful custom painted pallet sign for your home. All supplies like wood, paint, and stencils will be provided.

**Virtual: Adult Dungeons and Dragons**  
Mondays | Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 23 | 6:30 pm  
Beginner and veteran adult players can join us to create a character and play the world’s most popular tabletop role playing game.

**Virtual: Community Conversation**  
Physician Aid in Dying: Ethical Considerations  
Wed, Sept 30 | 7 pm  
Dr. Jason Wasserman, Associate Professor at OU William Beaumont School of Medicine, will discuss how Physician Aid in Dying laws work, as well as the real concerns that go along with deploying these laws. Actual cases will be discussed to illustrate the debate.

**Virtual: Cook the Book**  
Mon, Oct 5 | 7 pm  
For this virtual meeting, download the cookbook *Easy Soups from Scratch with Quick Breads to Match* by Ivy Manning via hoopla. You select and prepare a recipe, and meet via Zoom to discuss and show off your finished recipe from the comfort and safety of your home.

**Outdoors: Decoupage Pumpkin Decorating**  
Sat, Oct 10 | 11 am | Fogler’s Greenhouse | Register online  
Join us outside for this free class which includes the pumpkin, assistance, and supplies to create a great fall decor decoration. Fogler’s Greenhouse is located at 559 S. Lapeer Rd in Lake Orion.

**Virtual: Paranormal Michigan**  
Sun, Oct 11 | 2 pm  
The library is excited to welcome Detroit Paranormal Expeditions for a virtual presentation about haunts in Michigan. They will discuss the type of equipment they use as well as talk about some of Michigan’s most haunted locations.

**Virtual: Family Game Night**  
Fri, Nov 6 | 6 pm  
Celebrate International Games Week by joining us on Zoom for a night of virtual gaming.

**Take and Make: Halloween Wreaths**  
Sat, Oct 17 | 2 pm | Register online  
Pick up a take and make kit to create a seasonal Halloween ribbon wreath.

**Take and Make: Fall Leaf Candle Holder**  
Sat, Nov 7 | 2 pm | No registration (while supplies last)  
Pick up a take and make kit to create a festive DIY fall leaf candle holder.

**Take and Make: Thanksgiving Centerpieces**  
Sat, Nov 21 | 2 pm | Register online  
Pick up a take and make kit with supplies and instructions to create a Thanksgiving centerpiece.

**Virtual: Tech Help**  
Our “IT Guy” is available to help you with any of your technology needs via phone, email or video chat. Eric can troubleshoot issues with your devices, make product and service recommendations, and teach you how to do specific tasks. Please contact him at 248-287-8019 or ehayes@orionlibrary.org to schedule a 20-minute virtual meeting.

Sign up for Library Programs at orionlibrary.org/calendar or call 248-693-3000
Just For Teens

As of this printing, we are planning the following programs this fall, however attendance numbers and other details are subject to change.

Geek Club
Tuesdays | Outdoors: Sept 1, Sept 15 | 6:30–8 pm
Virtual: Oct 6, Oct 20, Nov 3, Nov 17
6:30–7:30 pm
Geek Club is a casual hang-out for teens who enjoy anything from anime, comics, video games, board and card games, D and D, crazy YouTube clips and more! Even if you're curious, stop by and meet some new friends. Snacks always provided and new faces always welcome.

Outdoors: Teen Rock Painting
Fri, Sept 4 | 2 pm | Register online
Join the OTPL kindness challenge as we paint peace rocks. Come with ideas and inspiration as we have fun painting pictures, messages and quotes on rocks, and then setting them out for others to find, and send it forward.

Take and Make: Paracord Bracelets
Tue, Sept 22 | No registration (while supplies last)
This friendship bracelet uses a Solomon square and Lark’s Head knots to create this fun design. We supply all the supplies, and you have fun creating at home. Don’t forget to share your creation on social media, #otplteens or #teenprogramming. Teens 6-12 grades only.

Virtual: Gals and Ghouls Halloween Make-up
Sat, Oct 3 | 2–4 pm | Register online
Halloween is coming and Gals and Ghouls Makeup will bring their secret makeup tips, recipes for making blood and wax to create cuts and wounds, along with a face paint tutorial to OTPL teens. Creepy and cool to pretty and scary, what will you be for Halloween? Supplies provided by Gals and Ghouls to first 10 registered patrons.

Outreach Services

Little Libraries
Our little libraries are stocked with books for you to take and read; bring them back when you’re done or donate some great books to share with others! Please look for all of our little libraries in parks and trails throughout the community. For a list of locations visit orionlibrary.org/locations.

No Contact Home Delivery
No Contact Home Delivery is a temporary service available to anyone uncomfortable leaving their home due to the COVID–19 pandemic. Register by filling out an online registration at orionlibrary.org/home–delivery/registration, or call 248–693–3001. Once registered you place holds on items, or call us and we can assist you. We will do our best to have deliveries take place within a week’s time. On delivery day, we will safely place a bag containing the items outside your door. We quarantine all returned materials for 72 hours before making them available again for checkout.

Virtual: English Language Learning Conversation Group (ELL)
Wednesdays | 10:30–11:30 am | No meeting Wed, Nov 25
The group is open to all who wish to practice their English language skills in a relaxed and informal setting. The topics vary widely, and it is a great learning experience as well as an opportunity to meet people.

Sign up for Library Programs at orionlibrary.org/calendar or call 248–693–3000
Virtual: SAT/ACT Test Preparation
Tues, Oct 13 | 6:30–8 pm
Parents and students, get ready for test day! If it’s your turn to take the SAT’s or ACT’s, let the Orion Library guide you in preparation with tips and techniques from Carson Academic Consultants. Karen Carson will provide strategies for improving test-taking skills, reviewing required knowledge and increasing reading speed.

Take and Make: Candy Corn Catapults
Sat, Nov 14 | 2 pm
No registration (while supplies last)
How good is your aim? How many times can you catch candy in your mouth? Build this catapult and test yourself and build a contest with friends to see who wins! We supply the supplies and you have fun creating at home.

Take and Make: Book Letters
Wed, Nov 24 | 6 pm | Register online
Looking for something to do over break? Memorialize your favorite books on letters! Tell us some of your favorite books or book covers, and we will supply you with a 6 in. letter and pages to cover the letter in, and you have fun creating at home. Don’t forget to post on social media the finished result, #otplteens or #teenprogramming.

New Book Bundles!
Do you pick your library books by browsing your favorite author? Do you go to your favorite genre location, perusing the shelves hoping to find something new? Does someone in your family request books only on a specific topic? When your family visits the library do you often send your children to the shelves to grab a few books themselves? If you answered yes to any (or all) of the questions above, our new Book Bundle service is just for you! Book Bundles are librarian curated collections of library material on any topic or genre of your choosing, available for all ages in bundles of up to 10 items. Materials available for bundling include books, audiobooks, DVDs, and music CDs. Please fill out the application for at orionlibrary.org/book-bundles and a librarian will begin working on your bundle. You will be notified once your material is available for pickup.

Personalize a Stepping Stone in the Orion Library’s Reading Garden
Stepping stones in the Reading Garden at the Orion Township Public Library can now be engraved with a personalized name or thoughtful message. Proceeds will benefit the library. There is a limited number of engraveable stones in the Reading Garden, and orders will be filled in a first come, first served basis. The library director will approve all requests before orders are placed. After an order is placed, a proof will be sent for final approval before the stone is engraved. A 50% deposit is due when order is placed, and balance due with final approval. You can submit an order by completing the form online at orionlibrary.org/donations.
#WeNeedDiverseBooks
The Orion Township Library is proud to have a wide and diverse collection of books for all ages. Books can take readers to different places, and can act as different vehicles. Children, especially, need to see themselves in the books they read. Books can be seen as mirrors in this way, reflecting the reader’s life experiences. Books can also introduce readers to what it is like for people who may not look like them, or may live different experiences as them. In these ways, books are the window into new worlds and ideas, prompting the creation of understanding, compassion, tolerance, and respect. Kids need books that act like mirrors as well as books that act as windows throughout their whole literacy journey. Interested in more on this subject and metaphor created by Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, along with well-rounded booklists? Visit diversebooks.org for more!

Library Programming Shifts Gears
During Michigan’s Stay Home Stay Safe order, the library needed to figure out ways to reach our community without being open to the public. Once it was safe to explore our local parks, the library partnered with Orion Township Parks and Recreation to bring some fun! Not only did the parks department include the library as a location for their book cover scavenger hunt, but the library also created Lit Adventure Walks, which were fun reading based activities that community members could do highlighting the features at Friendship Park and Camp Agawam. The library also brought back our fun park storytime series this summer in a socially distanced way. Although COVID–19 closed the library for in person programming, the library continued to offer top notch activities to keep the community engaged in new and exciting ways.

Ring Me a Story
Do you want to hear a good joke or story? If so, call Youth Services at 248–693–3002 and we will read you a recorded story, tell you a joke, recite a rhyme, or regale you with a fairy/folk tale. This is a great way to put down the screens and engage your imagination as our youth staff share some of great stories, folktales, rhymes, and jokes. Listening without the pictures give you the chance to create the setting and characters in your mind. After you listen, you can compare as a family what you imagined and what you saw. Later you can check out the book and see how the illustrator imagined the story. You can call any time of day! New stories, jokes, and fairy tales every week.
FAMILY PROGRAMS

Outdoors: Nature Family Concert with Joe Reilly
Sun, Sept 13 | 2 pm | All Ages
Drop in
Celebrate the beginning of fall with a fun nature–themed family concert that will get you up and moving! Joe Reilly loves nature so much that he writes songs and sings about it, and he hopes that you and your family will sing along too. If inclement weather, the program will be a LIVE virtual concert.

Outdoors: Chalk it Up!
Tue, Nov 3 | 2 pm | All Ages
Drop In
Decorate your own square of the library trail. Chalk will be provided!

Virtual: Family Game Night
Fri, Nov 6 | 6 pm | All ages
Celebrate International Games Week by joining us on Zoom for a night of virtual gaming.

Take and Make: Community Turkey Art Installation
Sun, Nov 15 | 10 am | All Ages
No registration (while supplies last)
Be a part of a one-of-a-kind piece of art! Stop by the library starting November 2 to pick up your turkey feather supplies. Decorate your feathers at home and stop back by the library on November 15 to attach your feathers to our community turkey. Watch the turkey gain more feathers all week with a grand reveal on Saturday, November 21.

Early Literacy Programs

Virtual: Bounce and Boogie
Saturdays | Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14 | 11 am | Ages 0–5 | Register online
A music and movement–based program just for ages 0–5! Join us as we dance, groove, jump, and move to our favorite songs and rhymes!

Virtual: Sleepy Storytime
Mondays | Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16 | 6:30 pm | All Ages | Register online
A virtual bedtime story brought to your house! All you need is your jammies, blankie, and favorite stuffed animal for some evening storytime fun!

Virtual: SENSEsational Storytime
Fridays | Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20 | 12 pm | All Ages | Register online
A welcoming, interactive environment designed for children with special needs and sensory seeking kids.

Take and Make: Autumn Artists
Sat, Oct 24 | 11 am | Ages 3-5 | Register online, limit 50
Explore the colors of autumn in this take and make kit.

Sign up for Library Programs at orionlibrary.org/calendar or call 248–693–3000
School Age Programs

**Fall Weekly Storytimes**

Join us for Live virtual storytimes with age-appropriate stories, songs, finger plays, puppets, and activities the weeks of September 14–November 16. Siblings are welcome. Storytimes will be held outdoors and/or online via Zoom. Register to receive a link to each program. Check our online calendar for outdoor in person dates.

**Itsy Bitsy Babies**
Tuesdays | 10 am | Birth–12 months
Babies experience the sounds and structure of language through rhythm, rhyme, and repetition. First time baby attendees will receive a welcome bag!

**Toddler Time**
Mondays and Thursdays | 10 am | Ages 1 & 2
Ones and twos develop social, emotional, and language skills through movement, stories, songs, and rhymes.

**Preschool Pals**
Wednesdays | 10 am | Ages 3–5
Preschoolers build vocabulary, language development, and listening comprehension with stories, rhymes, songs, movement, and creative expression.

**Friday Family**
Fridays | 10 am | All ages
Storytime fun for all ages promoting early literacy with books, songs, activities, and dancing!

**Take and Make: STEAM**
**Academy—Bubbles**
Thu, Sept 3 | 11 am | Grades K–5
No registration (while supplies last)
Pop! Learn all about the science of bubbles.

**Spongebob Spectacular**
Sat, Sept 19 | 11 am | Grades K–5
No registration (while supplies last)
Celebrate this pineapple under the sea dweller and all his friends.

**Take and Make: Forest Friends**
Sat, Sept 26 | 11 am | Grades K–5
No registration (while supplies last)
Create some fun crafts featuring cute forest critters!

**Virtual: Doggone Reader Pen Pals**
Thursdays | Oct 1, 8 | 6:30 pm
Grades K–5 | Register online, limit 30
This season we will practice our writing along with reading! Sign up for a take and make kit available October 1 to write a letter to a dog pen pal, then attend our live Zoom meeting on October 8 to read to our lovable therapy dogs!

**Take and Make: Spooky Crafts**
Sat, Oct 31 | 2 pm | Grades K–5
No registration (while supplies last)
Let’s get crafty this Halloween with some projects that are sure to put you in a spooky mood!

**Virtual: LEGO® @ the Library Showcase**
Sat, Nov 7–Sat, Nov 14
Register online, limit 30
Submit your best build for our virtual LEGO showcase. Register for more information on how to participate.

Sign up for Library Programs at orionlibrary.org/calendar or call 248-693-3000
Take and Make:

**Gobble, Gobble!**
Sat, Nov 14 | 2 pm | Grades K–5
No registration *(while supplies last)*

Get inspired with these Thanksgiving-themed crafts.

**Virtual: Junior Chef—Leftovers Edition**
Sat, Nov 28 | 11 am | Grades 3–6
Register online, limit 50

Do you want to surprise your family today with a great lunch? Pull out those Thanksgiving leftovers and let’s work together to make a great meal. This will be a virtual Zoom so you can even join in from Grandma’s house.

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**National Friends of Libraries Week**
This year marks the 15th annual National Friends of Libraries Week, which is slated for October 18-24. Watch for more information coming soon!

**Become a Friend for Free in 2020!**
As we announced previously, the Friends of the Orion Township Library are offering free membership in the Friends for the current membership period that runs through April 30, 2021. Current memberships have automatically been renewed for this year. Those new prospective members who are interested in joining the Friends of the Orion Township Library can go to orionlibrary.org/friends/membership/join.

**Helping the Library with Amazon Smile & Kroger Rewards**
Did you know your daily shopping can help the Friends? You can designate the Friends of the Orion Township Library as your charity of choice with your Amazon Smile & Kroger Rewards accounts.

**About the Friends**
The Friends are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that was started in 1985 “to promote public support of the Orion Township Public Library and the library in the community, to promote reading, literacy and lifelong learning, and to maintain an association of persons interested in the library.” Friends act in cooperation with the library board and staff, serving as a liaison between the community and library. All money raised by the Friends, except for minimal administrative costs such as postage and printing, is donated directly to the library in the way of program funding, material purchases and monetary contributions.

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Friends of the Orion Township Library Board. Back: Michelle Jerome, membership chair; Carla Tousley, treasurer; Shae Smith, secretary; Jan Thomas, president. Front: Mary Duenow, fundraising chair; Bob Bambach, deputy treasurer; Dale Bell, book sale chair; Don Walker, vice president.

No donations are being accepted at this time.
Patience and prudence

New LOCS Superintendent Ben Kirby brings passion, experience and vision to his new role.

For nearly a decade, principal Darin Magley embraced his school’s preschool program, launched during his more than 25-year tenure at Rather Elementary School in Ionia, Michigan.

So when the preschool was under threat this spring due to budget cuts, Magley felt personal pain. The debate gained steam in the community with social media and the local newspaper as the nine-year-old program appeared a likely casualty.

One day, Magley’s phone rang from a familiar number but for a surprising reason.

Benjamin Kirby, then South Lyon Community Schools Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, was more than two years removed from a similar job in Ionia. His involvement in creating the Bulldog Beginnings preschool was countless initiatives earlier and pushed well down on his resume.

So why pick up on a news report about a school board decision?
“I would end up getting a lot of those types of requests,” Kirby said. “It was one of those things where if a student was thought they might struggle in school, he or she ended up in my classroom and, not to say that it was always perfect, but I had a level of patience and understanding with students and that really helped.”

Rising through the academic ranks, Kirby’s hallmark became his patience and prudence.

An asset in the classroom, as an administrator it became even more valuable, seeing the big picture to process each scenario.

Much of the work was clinical and deliberate. But as he implemented new programs, brought along other educators in his wake, pushed for collaboration instead of isolation, he made an impact.

From September 1994 through January 2018, he filled nearly every job in Ionia Public Schools, including a few that weren’t under his umbrella.

Kirby wrapped himself in the community intensely, living his new dream passionately, and yet he had the foresight to understand that to grow, he had to leave.

So when he shifted from Ionia to South Lyon, 1½ hours east, he stepped into a new world.

The South Lyon experience

In South Lyon Community Schools, the job he sought was Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services. A large part of that role involved Human Resources and hiring staff.

So there was a natural line of questioning when he was in the hot seat: What do you ask others on this side of the table?

Melissa Baker, South Lyon’s Superintendent at the time, was struck by one specific question Kirby asked of other candidates during their interviews.

“If you had a refrigerator in your room/office what would be on the front of it?”

Kirby’s goal: to elicit responses that shows what is important to a candidate.

The moment gave Baker insight into an administrator who followed a more human path. He wanted to know about people. Not just what they do, but who they are. What is their free-time decision? Their weekend plans? What motivates them, inspires them to do this job?

In education, buzzwords and programs flood the zone. But with Kirby, it kept coming back to the people.

The administrative meetings with the principals and other administrators always began the same way.

He asked everyone to share something positive.

About their school. About their students. About their family. About anything that got them going.

A small gesture with a large impact. No matter the rest of the meeting’s focus, he set a tone.

“It was just positivity,” Baker said.

As Kirby settled into the job, the SLCS staff adapted to his style.

Instead of aggressive, he was deliberate. Instead of talking, he listened. And when he offered input, it was thoughtful.

“Even with me as his supervisor/partner/team member, he said, ‘Let me think about that and get back to you,’” Baker said. “He always came with solutions. He would do his research, talk to colleagues, contact legal, whatever he needed.”

When it came time to act, he trusted his heart.
That emerged this spring, after Baker departed for a job outside the school district.  

An interim superintendent entered, but Kirby was familiar so he ran many of the operations from his seat, taking a major role when the COVID–19 school closure began.

The first task of many districts was how to feed students in their community who rely on the school breakfasts and lunches. Kirby took over, and helped create a distribution plan in one weekend and SLCS fed those students for months.

A father of two sons and a daughter, all around college age, Kirby can relate to the challenges.

“You see that with younger staff, once they have children, you see a different level of empathy you see a different level of understanding,” he said. “We deal with that sometimes in the classroom. You think everything’s cut and dry? It’s not cut and dry if the student didn’t get their homework done but they’re taking care of their younger sister, younger brother and their parents are fighting. There’s just a lot that goes into life.

“Having a senior this year, it was a really helpful perspective.”

Entering LOCS at this critical moment with a fall unlike any in memory, Kirby will be able to embrace the challenges from all angles.

From the roots

As Kirby pursued the LOCS position, vacated by the retiring 10–year superintendent Marion Ginopolis, he took his methodical, deliberate approach.

He picked through LakeOrionSchools.org to try to get a feel. He asked others in the profession about the district’s impressive reputation.  

But when he was one of six applicants who reached the interview stage, he took initiative and drove to Lake Orion, more than a two-hour trek from his home.

He cruised by the COVID–closed schools and observed the marquees, noting that they congratulated the high school graduates.

The small detail told him there was a community connection to the district, from start to finish. He observed the common Dragon thread between the schools. And when he visited, he found a place to stop and get an ice cream, soaking in the surroundings.

The visit was an investment, a vision of what could be his future.

His message resonated with the LOCS Board of Education, advancing him to the finalist stage and then selecting him with a 7–0 vote.

When Kirby was chosen and offered a standard appreciation quote, he paused and then asked to add two words: “Go Dragons!”

The former coach quickly understood what that meant to the community, a common thread through the nearly 130–year–old school district.

And he arrives with an open heart, learned from his last transition, from Ionia to South Lyon in early 2018.

“The biggest lesson is you have no equity with people and you also have no baggage with people, it’s a brand–new start.”

Lake Orion Community Schools received a facelift in the summer of 2020 as the Bond projects began showing noticeable changes.

After almost 20 years without major construction at LOCS buildings, four schools received dramatic, visible alterations as part of Phase 1.

Despite a hiccup when the state of Michigan shut down construction for a few weeks due to COVID-19, the work resumed in early May, allowing some parts of the work to progress rapidly without students in the buildings.

Early Childhood Center  
(Fall 2021)

At the corner of Clarkston and Joslyn Roads, the ECC took shape. The 18–classroom ECC will feature two wings, with a playground between them and front entrance facing Orion Oaks Elementary on the same site. A digital sign on Joslyn will mark the entrance to the schools and feature important messages. Scheduled to open in the fall of 2021, construction kicked off in the late spring, marked by a district groundbreaking ceremony. By the end of summer, the building's
frame was in place. The district’s first new school building in decades, the ECC will be available to the community as a state-of-the-art facility, educating the youngest students.

**Orion Oaks Elementary**
*(Fall 2020)*

Orion Oaks is receiving improvements in and around the facility. The school office, previously set between the school’s two primary wings, will be moved forward in front of the previous structure, to create a secure entrance and new office space. The vacated space will now be reconstructed as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) room. In the northeast corner of the building, an additional classroom is added to allow for more student capacity. The parking lot and student drop-off area is being reconstructed as well.

**Carpenter Elementary**
*(Fall 2020)*

The Carpenter school site, which has experienced more major renovations than any other LOCS school in its 65 years, is receiving another significant structural change. The front office was gutted and rebuilt to provide a secure arrival experience. While it will remain in the same place, the exterior will feature a new canopy façade. Three additional classrooms, plus a STEM room and a renovated media center are part of the construction, with most of that work occurring on the building’s west side. Carpenter will also receive additional safety enhancements with a new bus loop installed behind the school, while the family/staff traffic area in front was modernized for safety.

**Webber Elementary**
*(Fall 2021)*

As the district’s third-oldest school, Webber needed significant updates and is receiving them over an extended period of time. Ground broke in the spring behind the school to dig and lay the foundation for a new school wing. The additional classrooms and new learning spaces will be built over the next year as the students remain in the current wing, before shifting in the fall of 2021. This fall, Webber will experience a renovated secure office space, still at the front of the building, a rebuilt media center and a new STEM space for students.

Other smaller projects have continued around the district, including an updated soccer stadium at Lake Orion High School. Planning for the 2021 office renovations at Stadium Drive Elementary and Paint Creek Elementary continue.

The community’s support of the 2018 bond is modernizing LOCS for the next generation.
2nd Quarter Lake Orion Statistics

# of homes sold: 107
Average days on market: 38

When it comes to buying and selling homes safely we’re here to help with safety protocols and virtual programs.

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Although the real estate market was “closed” for the month of April, that did not stop home values from continuing to rise.

During the month of May, pent up buyer demand brought down the average days on market significantly, with buyers securing homes quickly. In June, the data shows a strong market recovery and is targeted to stay on this path in the coming months. If you’re interested in buying or selling a home, the time is now. Contact me today to see how I can help you with your real estate needs.
A view of fall from the lake

As the days begin to shorten, the once rich green foliage takes on new hues like red, yellow, orange, and even purple. What better place than one of our lakes to view this ever changing fall landscape.

Photo by Bonnie Blais, Bstreet Design