What’s Inside

Important updates for Orion Township’s garbage and recycling program

Keep active this winter with Orion Township Library and Orion Parks & Recreation activities

Shopping and date night options from the Township, Chamber and DDA

STEM program ignites elementary student imaginations
Despite the rainy conditions, the lights shone from branches, and winter weather has slowly begun to sneak up on us. It seems like it’s just dark outside all the time now, and it would be so easy to pull the blankets back up over your head and go back to sleep. But there is so much beauty to see throughout the Township, even on those uninviting days. From the parks, trails, and sledding hills, to getting out for events including the Orion Lighted Christmas Parade, Snow Dash 5K, Friends of the Orion Library Winter Used Book Sale, band concerts at the schools, and so much more!

In this issue you’ll read about the Recycling Rewards Program and the transition to single-hauler, Valentine’s Day date ideas, youth sports leagues, the 2020 Census, and so much more! Speaking of the Census I want you to know how important this is. Not only is it required in the U.S. Constitution, the Census helps determine how much funding our community receives, and how we plan for the future. Our community receives approximately $18,000 per person living in Orion Township, that is counted in the Census. Not only that, but agencies and businesses rely on census statistics to plan for a variety of needs including new roads, schools, emergency services, and where to open new businesses. This is the first year that you will be able to respond online, so when you receive your invitation, make sure you respond and count everyone living at your home.

I hope to see you this winter at one of the many events or out on the trails! In case you needed a little extra incentive to get outside this winter, here are some things to keep in mind—you won’t have to deal with heat and humidity and it’s a great way to get in some sunlight (there isn’t much this time of year, so take advantage of it)!
We’re on a roll!

Your new recycling and garbage carts arrive in December!

Your new curbside recycling and garbage carts will have two wheels for easy maneuvering and a lid to keep your recyclables and garbage from becoming litter. Cart distribution begins December 10, and should be completed before the Christmas holiday.

Worry waste no more

Green for Life Environmental’s service as the single-hauler for Orion Township begins January 2. You should have received your newsletter with details about the transition, which you can also access, along with our FAQ document, at oriontownship.org. Your Carts are Coming postcard will arrive by December 1 as a reminder that your new Orion Township recycling and garbage carts will be delivered between December 10 and 20 (weather permitting). Please do not use these branded carts until the new service starts January 2, 2020.

What do you do with your existing carts? Your current provider will pick up their carts within 30 days of the transition (so you will experience an overlap with carts—THANK YOU in advance for your patience during this transition period!). If you purchased your carts, you may use them for yard waste; just pick up a yard waste sticker at Township Hall or the Orion Center. You may also request one from GFL, or use them for another purpose around your home or yard. If you no longer have use for them, place them at your curb on your regularly scheduled pick-up day to be recycled.

As a reminder, do NOT cancel your current service! Your current provider will automatically remove you from service, and you will automatically be added to the new Township program. If you’ve paid into 2020 with your current provider, you can expect your refund within 6-8 weeks after your last day of service (GFL customers will see their overpaid amount applied as a credit to their new account).

Lastly, service days will be Tuesday through Friday. Route information was included in the November newsletter, and it is available on our website, along with all other information on the new program, including the recycling incentive program through Recyclebank.
Composting and recycling happen in different ways. Food waste and compostableware CANNOT be recycled. Please place all of your composting and yard waste in the compostable brown bags, or a separate container with a compost sticker affixed to the outside; not in your recycling or garbage cart.

**MYTH: Bag your recyclables.** Leave your recyclables loose and free!

Never place bagged recyclables inside your cart. If you collect your recyclables in a plastic bag, remove them from the bag before placing them in your cart. Return plastic bags to grocery stores, and other select stores only. If you select to keep your recyclables bagged, use a brown paper bag, which can be recycled.

**MYTH: I thought I saw a garbage truck pick up my recycling.** Not exactly.

Sometimes the hauling companies use divided trucks which separate the garbage from the recyclables. GFL may also empty all of the garbage from a truck, and use the truck to finish recycling collection. If that is the case, a recycling sticker will be affixed to the truck. If you see garbage, recycling, and/or yard waste being mixed together in the same truck, please contact Orion Township.

**MYTH: Compostable items can be recycled.** Not!

The Recycling Partnership is a national nonprofit organization that leverages corporate partner funding to transform recycling for good across America, working hand in hand with communities, cities, and states to provide the tools and resources to make necessary improvements to their recycling programs.

Orion Township was awarded a grant from the Recycling Partnership to help offset the cost of purchasing recycling carts for every Township residents, as well as assisting with developing a recycling education and outreach campaign. For more information on the recycling partnership, visit recyclingpartnership.org.
Blessings in a Backpack

Solving food insecurity one backpack at a time

A sharp ache in your stomach, a pain so intense that it can drive out most other thoughts, this is a very real feeling for some kids who don’t have enough food to eat on the weekends. Sometimes the only food they eat is when they are at school.

Did you know that there are currently around 1,300 school-age children in the Lake Orion community on the free/ reduced lunch program and therefore at risk of weekend food insecurity? This is a real issue, yes, even in our community. The majority of people are surprised to hear that, but it happens in all communities.

Teachers are noticing children coming to school on Monday mornings hungry and definitely not ready to learn due to not having their nutritional needs met when they did not have access to the meals they typically would have received at school.

Blessings in a Backpack is a national organization, currently in 42 states.

Back in late 2012, when Blessings in a Backpack—Lake Orion first formed, their first objective was to raise $24,000—the cost to give the program sustainability in the initial two schools—Blanche Sims Elementary and Pine Tree Elementary.

After raising the funds, the first backpacks were delivered in early 2013. Since that time, they have raised sufficient funds to add all Lake Orion schools.

Blessings in a Backpack—Lake Orion is a committee of parents, local business owners, community members, and educators operating in partnership with the national organization, and Meijer to provide at risk students with a bag in their backpack each Friday containing six nutritious meals to feed them over the weekend.

If your child needs assistance, each school reaches out to families to see if they are interested in participating. Not to worry, it is all done discreetly.

One hundred dollars will provide food to one child each weekend for an entire school year!

Visit blessingsinbackpacklakeorion.org to find out how you can donate or volunteer. If you’re interested in volunteering, they could use help with packing the food for each child, fundraising, transporting the bags to a school (or multiple schools), food ordering, and more.

Learn more at ORIONTOWNSHIP.ORG or call 248-391-0304

Fire Department

Help us help you!

The Orion Township Fire Department responds to thousands of calls every year and 2019 is shaping up to be a record-setting year for call volume. Every day the Fire Department responds to a host of different types of emergencies from seizures and car crashes to heart attacks and strokes. The men and women of the Fire Department see our citizens on the worst days of their life and it’s their responsibility to help make it better.

There are some VERY important things you can do to help the Fire Department and yourself in the event you ever have an emergency.

1. Have a reflective address sign to help the Fire Department locate a home or business easier. Google Maps can only get them so far, particularly when many homes or address markers are blocked by landscaping or set further back from the roadway. Minutes and seconds count for someone having a stroke or a heart attack, and the quicker they can locate you, the quicker they can begin rendering aid.

2. Have a File of Life. This card, tucked in a little red envelope, provides first responders with all pertinent medical information needed if 911 is ever called. It has a magnetic back, ideally placed on the refrigerator so it’s easy to spot. The card is filled out listing all of the medical information and can then be presented to firefighters upon their arrival. These are perfect for everyone but especially seniors, children often cared for by someone who may not know their medical history, and those that live alone. The Orion Township Fire Department have these cards available for residents.

3. Clear snow away from fire hydrants. This is one of the most helpful acts that a homeowner and business owner can do to help the Fire Department in the event of an emergency. Homes are not built like they used to be, nowadays, a fire can double in size in as little as 15 seconds. The quicker the Fire Department can locate the emergency site, the greater the chance of survival and less damage to the property. Taking those extra couple of minutes to shovel a three-foot circle around the hydrant can assist the Fire Department and help them make a bigger impact on the fire.

4. Remove trip hazards around the home that may cause someone to fall. The Fire Department responds to many incidents involving seniors and those whose mobility is diminished, often from surgery or injury. Also, a fall pendant monitoring system can be extremely helpful and make a significant impact on the health and well-being of someone who has fallen. It can take waiting time down from days and hours to minutes. This can be especially crucial to survival in some cases.

The Orion Township Fire Department is dedicated to increasing the health and safety of the community.

The Fire Department has File of Life cards and reflective addresses markers available. For more information, please contact the Fire Department at 248-391-0304 ext. 2000.

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I wonder what's going there?

The Laurels of Lake Orion Assisted Living (Clarkston Road)

Soon to be located on Clarkston Road, across from Friendship Park, is the Laurels of Lake Orion assisted living. Currently under construction, this single-story housing community has been approved for 60 assisted living and memory care apartment units. Operated by the Laurel Health Care Company, the Laurels of Lake Orion will provide the highest level of independence and quality of life for residents, by providing a comfortable living environment and comprehensive health care services.

Breckenridge Townhomes (Brown Road)

Located next to Menards and Aldi, on approximately 19 acres in the Township’s Corridor Improvement Authority district, is what will become Breckenridge Townhomes. Currently under construction, Breckenridge Townhomes will be a multi-family condominium community, with 112 three-bedroom ‘for-sale’ units, in 20 buildings. Through the sale of 333 Brown Road, which was the last remaining parcel acquired by the Township as part of the Brown Road redevelopment project, the developer, Pulte Homes, agreed to provide in-kind support to the development of the Playful Dragon pocket park, coming to the corner of Baldwin and Jordan Roads in 2020.

Public Services

I tried to catch some fog the other day...

But I must! Ba-dun-tss.

What is FOG? FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) occurs when cooking fats are poured down the drain and coat the inside of the pipes, eventually forming a blockage. What does that mean for your home? Well, let’s back it up and start with the sanitary sewer system. Orion Township’s Sanitary Sewer System flows into two waste water treatment plants. One plant is maintained by the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and the other is maintained by the Water Resource Commission of Oakland County.

Sewer costs to Orion Township are determined by the flow (amount) it sends to the treatment plant. There are three different types of flow that the sewer charges to the municipality are based on:

- Inflow and Infiltration: water that seeps into the sewer, and also the least expensive.
- Storm Water: rain water that runs into the sewers and is moderately expensive to treat, and
- Sanitary: water that comes from households and businesses and contains everything that people flush down the toilets and their drains.

Orion Township’s sanitary sewer system is separate from the storm sewer system. This separation in our systems is efficient because storm water is not being sent to the treatment facility, and therefore, Orion Township is only charged for Inflow & Infiltration and Sanitary flows.

One of the biggest issues for sanitary sewer maintenance is FOG, which enters the sanitary sewer lines through the drains in a residential home or business. Once it enters the sewer system it sticks to the pipes and lines, and can eventually block the sewer line completely, causing sewage backups and overflows. Sewage backups as a result of FOG can have an impact on not only the residents and everyone connected to the sewer system, but also to the environment. If a backup occurs within a resident’s sewer line on their property, then they are responsible for the cleanup. For example, if a homeowner consistently pours grease or oil from cooking down their sink drain, it will eventually cool and harden. When the sewage backs up in their home, they will need to hire a licensed plumber to clean their lines and make any necessary repairs. Sewage backs up that overflow into the streets, lakes, and rivers cause a negative impact on the environment.

FOG in the sewer mains creates additional costs for every municipality.

Sources of FOG include:

- Cooking Oil
- Butter, Margarine, or Shortening
- Meat Fats
- Lard
- Food Scraps
- Dairy Products

To keep your drains clear follow these easy tips:

- Pour or scrape oily or greasy foods into a container and allow it to cool before disposing of it in your garbage. Mix any liquid oils with an absorbent material such as kitty litter or coffee grounds before throwing it in the trash.
- DO NOT pour fat, oil, or grease down your sink. Hot water does not dilute the FOG when rinsing off cookware, utensils, or dishes.
- Keep your drain clean by pouring ½ cup baking soda down the drain followed by ½ cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.
All about water

Winter water safety

If a severe winter storm or other natural disaster hits our community, access to food and water could be severely limited. Having good information about water safety could help your family get through a difficult time.

At least one gallon of water per person, per day, should be stored for emergency purposes, and the supply should be able to last for two weeks. Store water in clean plastic, glass, fiberglass, or enamel-lined metal containers. Don’t use containers that previously held a toxic substance. Seal containers tightly and store in a cool, dark place. Rotate your water supply every six months.

If you are connected to the Detroit Water System or through Great Lakes Water Authority and electricity is lost, you will still have safe, potable water to use from your faucets. The water supply to your home is not connected with your electrical supply; it will only be compromised in the event of a water main break. When this happens, you may lose your water service completely for a period of time, or a “Boil Water Alert” may be issued.

When water is still available, but the purity in the lines is questionable, a “Boil Water Alert” will be issued. This means you should bring the water to a rolling boil for five minutes. Let the water cool, then pour it back and forth between two sanitary containers to add air for improved taste. The water will be safe for cooking and drinking purposes.

If water service is completely lost, there are sources of water within your home that are safe for consumption. Access the water stored in the pipes of your home by turning the faucet on at the highest place in your home, and draining it from the faucet at the lowest place in your home. The water in your hot water tank can be accessed if the electricity and gas are shut off. Open the drain in the bottom of the tank, then turn off the cold water intake at the top of the tank. If there is a hot water faucet, turn it on, and the water should begin draining. Remember: do not turn the electricity or gas on when the tank is empty. Rain water or snow could also be used in an emergency, but should be brought to a rolling boil for five minutes before consuming.

If you are on a private well, your water supply is only compromised when electricity is lost. Your well needs electricity to pump water from the ground to the holding tank. The holding tank provides an additional source of water you can access in the event of a prolonged electrical outage. Be sure to store extra water that can be used to flush your toilet, in the event of electrical outages.

Monthly billing: Why the switch?

In August 2019, Orion Township transitioned to monthly billing of water and/or sewer. One of the biggest questions we have received is “why the switch?”

Orion Township gets billed monthly from the Great Lakes Water Authority for water usage and from the Water Resource Commission of Oakland County for sewer treatment. When the Township was billing quarterly, it took five months to recoup what was paid.

We also had residents request the change to monthly billing to coincide with all other monthly household bills, citing the quarterly billing was hard to keep track of. Monthly billing also allows the Township to read water meters every month, enabling high or abnormal usage to come to light sooner.

What to do if you suspect a water leak

If you suspect you have a leak due to a higher than usual water bill, there are a few locations you can check before calling a plumber.

Write down your water meter reading before you go to bed, when you know there will be no water usage. In the morning, before water is used, check the meter again, and write down the number. If the reading has changed, you have a water leak somewhere in your home. Once you determine you have a water leak, check your hot water tank, toilets, hose-hubs, outside irrigation system, shower heads, and swimming pool. In many cases, a leak can be hard to locate and complicated to fix, so it’s best to contact a plumbing expert for assistance.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during the transition.

Learn more at orionliving.org or call 248-391-0304

Orion Living | Winter 2020

Winter 2020 | Orion Living
The holiday shopping season is in full swing, with Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday starting us off. Behind the scenes, shippers and importers are hard at work ensuring that consumers’ favorite products make it to store shelves on time at brick and mortar stores, and to distribution centers for online orders.

### Holiday shopping season

Did you know that international trade data from the U.S. Census Bureau helps provide a clearer picture of economic activity during the holiday shopping season? Historical data shows that imports of consumer goods tend to surge each year between August and October, which in 2017 good imports increased by approximately 9 percent (see chart right).

Here’s an interesting fact for you: In 2017, approximately 82% of U.S. imports of ornaments and 85% of U.S. imports of Christmas tree lights came from China.

In addition to the decennial census (the one conducted every 10 years), the census sends out the American Community Survey every year to collect some percentage of the population, on a rotating basis throughout the decade. This survey helps provide three-year estimates of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics, including holiday statistics.

### New year, new numbers

That leads us to New Year’s Day and more interesting statistics. As we are making plans, the U.S. Census Bureau is making projections about the population. The Census Bureau projected that the U.S. population would be

328,231,337 on January 1, 2019, which represents an increase of 2,013,241 (or 0.62 percent) from the year prior. Since our last Census Day (April 1) 2010, the population has grown by more than 6.31%.

In January 2019, the United States was expected to experience one birth every eight seconds and one death every 11 seconds. Meanwhile, net international migration was expected to add one person to the U.S. population every 9.4 seconds. The combination of births, deaths, and net international migration was ultimately expected to increase the U.S. population by one person every 19 seconds. Think about that for a second; maybe 19. It’s incredible when you think about it, 19 seconds isn’t very long. If you want to think about something even more mind-blowing, the world population was expected to be 7,543,334,085 on New Year’s Day 2019.

### Candy and flowers

Lastly, we round out this quarter with Valentine’s Day. The U.S. Census Bureau sends out an annual Survey of Manufactures from which they are able to produce an estimated value of popular Valentine’s Day products shipped by manufacturers in the United States.

Chocolate confectionery products were estimated at $61.1 billion, non-chocolate confectionery products were at $10.7 billion, and jewelry was at $16.5 billion. In February 2018, the value of imports of all bouquet cut flowers was at $158.5 million and the value of fresh cut roses and buds was at $92.7 million. That’s a lot of candy and flowers for one day!

Let’s take a look at the beginning. The Valentine’s Day tradition of giving a box of candy started back in the 19th century by Richard Cadbury, a scion of a British chocolate manufacturing family. The company had recently established a new technique that would allow them to create more varieties of chocolate, Cadbury pounced on the opportunity to sell chocolates as part of the holiday.

Did you know that the original “sweet-hearts” candies started out as lozenges? Pharmacist and inventor Oliver Chase created a machine that would quickly create the lozenges. It was in 1866 that Chase’s brother came up with the idea to print messages directly on the candy, but it wasn’t until 1901 when the candies first got their heart shape, appealing specifically to Valentine’s Day sweethearts.

### Why census data helps business

With the help of Census data, companies can better plan their production and shipping quantities each year to be ready for the holiday surge. In addition to the annual American Community Survey and Survey of Manufactures, 2020 brings with it the Decennial Census. This survey takes place every 10 years and counts every resident in the United States. The data collected from the decennial census not only determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, but also is used to distribute over $675 billion dollars in federal funding to state and local communities. It is important to complete the census, all responses are kept confidential, and the money received from federal funding stays in our community.

###浪漫的日子，奥顿风格

一个浪漫的日子并不一定要去一家高档的餐厅，这里有很多可以去的地方和事情。下面，我们就来一起看看吧！

#### 巧克力覆盖的草莓

**Ingredients**
- 6 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 pound strawberries with stems (about 20)
- Washed and dried very well

**Directions**

1. Put the semisweet chocolate into a heatproof medium bowl. Fill a medium saucepan with a couple inches of water and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Turn off the heat; set the bowl of chocolate over the water to melt. Stir until smooth. (Alternatively, melt the chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl, for 1 minute, stir and then heat for another minute or until melted.)
2. Once the chocolate is melted and smooth, remove from the heat. Line a sheet pan with parchment or waxed paper. Holding the strawberry by the stem, dip the fruit into the chocolate, lift and twist slightly, letting any excess chocolate fall back into the bowl. Set strawberries on the parchment paper.

#### 为什么 census 数据有助于业务

通过利用 census 数据，公司可以更好地规划他们的生产量和航运量，确保每年的圣诞季节做好准备。此外，每年的美国社区调查和制造业调查，2020 年带来了第十年的 census。这项调查每 10 年进行一次，并且对每个国家的居民进行人口统计。 census 数据从十年一度的普查中采集，不仅决定了每个州在国会中的代表席位，而且还用于分配超过 6750 亿美元的联邦资金给州和地方政府。完成 census 对于报告普查数据的所有响应者都是保密的，并且收到的联邦资金将留在我们社区。

#### 雪滑雪

滑雪季从杰西·德克尔公园开始，然后去雪山上滑雪。这个活动会把我们带回你的童年，你不会忘记从微笑到你巡航的滑雪坡时的快乐。

#### 可爱的松饼

在冬季探索，点燃柴火，坐在壁炉旁，然后喝一些热巧克力和覆盖着草莓的巧克力。来源：Food Network.
When looking for the perfect gift this holiday season, the phrase that should come to mind is

**Let’s go to LO!**

You’ve come to the right place!

Downtown Lake Orion is packed with businesses eager to help you complete your holiday shopping list. From quaint gift shops to restaurants to boutiques, discover your own Hometown when you are shopping for that unique and very “Lake Orion” gift for those on your holiday list.

For the men in your life

Browse the great selection of running shoes, or, have his favorite beer on tap framed. Go get that yarn and knit him some warmth and love. Know a car lover? How about auto washes for the year? Or that “interesting” part needed to complete their ride.

For someone you love

Find the perfect flower arrangement. Or, unique home and garden decor. What about a stunning necklace, purse or one of the newest trends?

For music lovers and foodies

A “must have” is taking your fun-loving friend out for live entertainment. Enjoy dinner before or after the show at one of our restaurants. Top off the night with cocktails, wine, or a stroll through the park.

For teachers and caregivers

How about a personalized item from one of our local shops? A special coffee blend will be a welcome treat on a cold winter day. How about a branded mug?

Michigan-themed gifts are special and can easily find a place in anybody’s home. Start a crafter or knitting journey.

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**DDA Business Spotlight: Lucky’s Natural Foods**

**Ahead of their time**

Lucky’s was in the health food business before the health food business was a thing

Lucky’s Natural Foods owner Tanya Sallade grew up in her store. Her parents, John and Judy Luchkovitz, opened Lucky’s in Downtown Lake Orion in 1974. Tanya bought the business from her parents in 1993. Lucky’s is the oldest Natural Foods Store in Northern Oakland County.

Lucky’s is one-of-a-kind in many ways. They have established relationships and know many of their customers by name. They offer the highest quality products available and the largest selection of organic non-GMO groceries, supplements and essential oils, CBD, bulk teas, groceries, pet, chemical free cleaning, jewelry, gift items, books and more.

Tanya is a certified Natural Health Practitioner and Nutritional Herbalist. She raised five children, nurturing them with natural foods, herbs, homeopathy and natural ways versus modern medicine.

Visit Lucky’s Natural Foods at 101 S. Broadway.

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**Giving a little has a big impact!**

Are you looking for a way you can share your time or talents?

Be the person to inspire the change you would like to see!

Be the difference in your community!

Help us make Lake Orion a better place!

We have several volunteer opportunities for you!

Contact the DDA today at 248-693-9742.

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**Is it ever too early for golf?**

“Nope,” says the Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary Club as they host their 6th annual Ice Cup Golf Challenge in February.

What compels golfers to pull out their clubs on a frigid Saturday in February to knock a few balls around the ice? Okay, they must love golf and are eager for spring, but really?

The Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary’s annual Ice Cup Golf Challenge lures over 70 golfers to Downtown Lake Orion for the thrill of golfing on the frozen lake and around town, plus the chance to win the giant Lake Orion Sunrise flaska.

This year’s event is Saturday, February 1st. Golfers will compete in a 9-hole scramble over frozen fairways, icy greens and powdery roughs (or sidewalks). The course begins on Lake Orion, meanders through the village streets and finishes with an Afterglow Party.

The annual event started over cocktails, organizer Steve Auger explains, while trying to brainstorm an event that could be unique to Lake Orion at a time when they would not be competing with the many other events held throughout the year. “That’s why we decided to golf on the lake on the Saturday before the Super Bowl.”

The Ice Cup Challenge, including a raffle and Afterglow, typically raises over $15,000 for the Rotary Club’s service projects, including Beds for Kids, Orion Schools, Orion/Oxford FISH Food Pantry and international water projects. It’s their biggest fundraising event.

“Comments we often hear is ‘why didn’t we think of this?’”, Steve says. “Super Bowl weekend kind of has a good party vibe, and we just try to get it started.”

Tickets for the Ice Cup are $80 per person or $300 for a foursome and include the Afterglow Party. $35 for Afterglow Party tickets only. For tickets and sponsorship information, contact Steve Auger at sauger@aka-architects.net.
Lake Orion Life
Experience Downtown L.O. Winters

Treat your Sweet to a Delectable Treat
You met them first here
Line Paint Creek Trail with snowmen
Blow snow kisses

Take a bite out of downtown
Hallmark Holiday in your hometown
Gaze at the moon in Greens Park
Score! Local sports fans

How would you describe downtown Lake Orion? This word cloud represents the most frequent terms from a recent poll.

Sing & Stroll
LAKE ORION
We’ll be singing in the streets
Don’t miss the DDA’s Sing & Stroll Tree Lighting Ceremony in Children’s Park on Thursday, December 12th. The sounds of carolers will fill the air at 5:30 pm as you shop and stroll through Downtown Lake Orion. All carolers welcome to lead us in a holiday classic before the official tree lighting begins.

Downtown Lake Orion
Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority

Orion Living
Winter 2020
SPECIAL EVENTS

Breakfast with the Grinch
Orion Center | Sat, Dec 7 | 10–11:30 am or 12–1:30 pm
Ages 1–8 | $11R/$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!

ONTV Santa Live
ONTV Studio | Sat, Dec 7
11 am–1 pm
Visit Santa, tell him what you would like for Christmas, and be on TV! For more information call 248-695-3377. Everyone is welcome.

DIY Birdseed Ornament
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 12 | 6:30–7:30 pm
Age 8+ | $6R/$8NR
Come 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.

ONTV 10th Annual Fish Food Drive
ONTV Studio | Sat, Feb 8 | 10–4 pm
Benefiting the Oxford/Orion Fish Food Pantry. Live bands and family entertainment. Drop off 5 cans or $5 and enter our raffle drawings. For more information call ONTV at 248-693-3377 or visit orionontv.org.

Community Indoor Garage Sale
Orion Center | Fri, Mar 6 | 9 am–3 pm
$10R/$13NR
Stay warm and dry indoors, bring it in and 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. FREE Parking & Admission.

Bunny Bop
Orion Center | Sat, Mar 28
9:30–10:30 am or 11 am–12 pm or 12:30–1:30 pm
Ages 1–8
$9R/$12NR
Spring is in the air! Hop on over for a photo visit with a special bunny, refreshments, craft projects and egg hunt with toys and candy stuffed eggs and a few other surprises. Bring your own basket for filling with candy and prizes. Youth will be broken down by age for equal opportunity hunting for all. Pre-registration required, spaces are limited!

Snow Dash 5K
Orion Center | Sun, Dec 15 | 9 am
$12R/$17NR
Dashing through the snow down the Polly Ann Trail for our 3rd Annual Snow Dash 5K. Certified loop course follows the beautiful and scenic PAT south to Civic Center Park. Finisher medals for all participants. Love to run? Mark your Spring training calendar for the Dragon Dash 5K on Sunday, May 17.

Antique, Toy & Comic Expo
Orion Center | Sat, Mar 7 | 9 am–3 pm
$20R/$25NR
Buy, sell or trade comic books, collectibles, antiques and memorabilia at our annual Expo! Vendor set up opens at 8 am. Spaces are limited. FREE Parking & Admission.

Flashlight Egg Hunt
Camp Agawam | Thu, Apr 9
7:45–9:45 pm
Ages 9–15
$9R/$12NR
Don’t let those older kids miss out on all the fun! Egg hunt will be held outdoors at Camp Agawam, Fort Pontiac. Dress for the weather, event is held rain or shine. Pre-registration required, spaces are limited! Pizza and pop included.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT

TR Adaptive Dance
Orion Center | Mon, Feb 10
6–8 pm | Age 14+
$6R/$8NR
Celebrate Valentine’s Day with an evening of music, dancing, and light refreshments. Dance is designed for those with special needs and disabilities. Pre-registration preferred, walk-ins are welcome. Chaperones are free.

SAT Prep Class
Orion Center | Mon & Thu, Mar 2–Apr 9 | 5:30–6:30 pm
Ages 15–19
$109R/$112.5NR
If your SAT scores are not where they should be, you do not perform well on tests, or you simply want to impress college admissions teams, sign up for our proven SAT prep program and get results! Class size is limited for greater one-on-one time with the instructor. Instructors are SAT-certified by Sylvan and the State of Michigan.

Home Alone Training
Orion Center | Mon, Feb 3
6:30–7:30 pm | Age 9+ | $16R/$19NR
Is your young teen staying home alone after school? Instructor Merry Lowis presents the skills your child will need to be home alone safely. Includes walking home, key responsibility, securing the house, answering the phone, safe choices, and emergency procedures. Training follows the American Red Cross Curriculum. Certificate is presented upon completion of the workshop.

Little Dancers Paint!
Orion Center | Mon, Feb 10–Mar 16 | 5–6:30 pm
$62R/$67.5NR
What do dancers do when they are not dancing? They paint! Young artists will work in chalk pastels using techniques made popular by Edgar Degas, including ‘snapshot’ cropping, while using dance and ballet as the primary theme. We will work with acrylic as we paint turks and tiaras with touches of sparkle paint! Students of any age may join. (Adults must be accompanied by a child!) $25 material fee payable to instructor on 1st day of class.

Kid’s Wood Burning & Drawing
Orion Center | Mon, Feb 24–Mar 16 | 5–6:30 pm
Ages 10+ | $62R/$67.5NR
What can be more compelling than to blaze our mark in an art form everyone wants to try? Students will learn basic skills of wood burning as we gain creativity in this ancient craft. Our subject matter will be Celtic and Inuit animal designs inspired by visual references and your child's creativity! $25 material fee payable to instructor on 1st day of class. (Note: We will be working with a hot wood burning tool, so please consider your child's level of maturity.)

Babysitter Training
Orion Center | Mon, Feb 10
6–8:30 pm | Ages 11–14
$19R/$22NR
Instructor Merry Lowis presents the skills needed to start your own babysitting business—meeting the family, setting appointments, age appropriate activities and safety instruction. Certificate presented upon completion of the workshop. Program incorporates the American Red Cross guide and video into the curriculum. Suggested pre-requisite class: Home Alone Training.

Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at ORIONPARKS.COM or call 248-391-0304, ext. 3500
Play ball!

The Lake Orion Youth Baseball League (LOYBL) and Orion Girls Softball League (OGSSL) offer great opportunities for kids ages 4 through 18 to get out and play! Leagues begin in April and conclude with a tournament and family picnic in June. Players learn the fundamentals of the game and build upon their skills while creating lasting relationships with teammates and coaches. An emphasis is placed on having fun, teaching good sportsmanship, developing each player, and encouraging an active lifestyle. All of this would not be possible without the help of volunteer coaches who are trained to foster a positive environment where players can learn and develop.

Within the last five years, both LOYBL and OGSSL have fallen under the supervision of the Parks & Recreation Department. In 2018, the Township passed a Parks Millage which allowed for the resurfacing of four baseball fields at Friendship Park and three baseball fields at Civic Center Park. Our mission is to provide the best experience for anyone who participates in our programs, so we are always looking for ways to improve.

Registration for both leagues runs from January to mid-March. Register at orionparks.com, call 248-391-0304, x3500 or come into the Orion Center. Walk-in registration days are Saturday, February 8, 10 am to 2 pm, and Thursday, March 5, 3 to 8 pm at the Orion Center. League coordinators will be on hand to answer questions. Uniforms will be available for sizing at walk-in registration and upon request at the Orion Center during normal business hours.

For questions about OSSL, contact Jesse Hayes, 248-391-0304x3500, jhayes@oriontownship.org.
For questions about LOYBL, contact Daniel Dobrosielski, 248-391-0304x3505, ddobrosielski@oriontownship.org.
Thank you to all the volunteers who have had an impact on these leagues over the years! We hope to see you out on our newly resurfaced ballfields this Spring!

Snowmobile Safety
Friendship Park | Tue, Dec 3 & Thu, Dec 5 | 5:30-9 pm | Age 12+ $18R/$20NR

Lessons consist of basic grooming, riding and horse care for beginners in the English Saddle style with Times Square Riding Academy, 4835 Oakwood Road, Ortonville. Looking for that special time with your child? Take lessons together. Register early for a rewarding and unforgettable experience. Additional lesson times are available Mon–Fri evenings and Sat and Sun afternoons.

Holiday Workshop—Escape Games
Friendship Park Meeting Room Sat, Dec 14 | 9:30-11:30 am Ages 5-14 $25R/$30NR

Discover clues, solve puzzles, answer riddles, and manipulate contraptions in order to complete assigned tasks and ultimately unlock the door to escape Snapology! Be the fastest and earn bragging rights. Students will play various escape games using S.T.E.A.M. skills.

How to Train Your Dragon™ Workshop
Friendship Park Meeting Room Sat, Jan 25 | 9:30 am-12:30 pm Age 5-12 $25R/$30NR

Enter the world of Vikings and dragons in Snapology’s How to Train Your Dragon™ workshop! Throughout this workshop, students will explore the Isle of Berk and the dragons the small Viking village has come to love. Helping Toothless fly, creating a map, and becoming certified dragon riders await your student in this dragon-run fantasy land!

Planes, Trains, & Automobiles Jr.
Orion Center | Ages 3-5 $35R/$40NR
Session 1: Automobiles, Planes, & Trains | Mon, Jan 27-Feb 10 | 6-7 pm Session 2: Boats, Utility Vehicles, & Safety Vehicles | Mon, Mar 2-Mar 16 | 6-7 pm

Transportation is all around! Cars, buses, trains, and airplanes are all important for communities and the world to stay connected. In Snapology’s Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, your little learners will explore the importance of transportation, build models of cars, trains, boats, and more. Most importantly, they will experience important social interactions while working with a partner and learning with the group.

ONTV Video Production Classes
ONTV Studio | Mon, Jan 6-Mar 16 7-9 pm | Age 13+ $20R/$50NR

Learn how to make a studio show. ONTV will teach you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. You will also learn about green screen and be taught basic editing. Call 248-693-3377 for additional information and to register.

ONTV Podcast Class
ONTV Studio | Wed & Thu | Dec 11 & 12 | Jan 15 & 16 & Feb 12 & 13 | March 11 & 13 | 7-9 pm | Age 18+ $25

If you are interested in radio broadcasting or recording a podcast show, ONTV will teach you how to run all of the audio equipment so you can record your very own show that can run on our station. Call 248-693-3377 to register.

The Stairs to Success—Improving College Study
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 13-Mar 9 6:30–7:30 pm | Age 16+ $19R/$20NR

College can be tough! Improve your student skills and increase your confidence, and your grades will show it. This series is intended for those currently in college, as well as those planning to attend college in the near future. Winter/Spring semester topics include Enhancing Self-Management and Self-Discipline; Reading to Collect Knowledge; Strategic Note Taking; Retaining and Sharing Pertinent Information; Thinking Critically; Resources for All Learners; and Decisions Made Easy.

Community Garden Plots
Friendship Park | May–October $25R/$30NR
Community gardens create awareness, sense of ownership, sustainable living principles, environmental stewardship and much more. Get your ‘x’s x ‘y’ Garden Plot at Friendship Park today! Registration will open to returning gardeners on March 2. Registration will be open to everyone beginning April 1. Any returning gardener who does not reserve their plot by March 31 may not be guaranteed the same plot as the previous year. Call 248-391-0304 x3500 or come in to the Orion Center for more information. Wheelchair accessible plots are available. $5 discount per plot when reserving 2 or more plots.
PARKS & RECREATION

TAIKOFIT CARDIO DRUMMING
Free Trial Class Thu, Jan 9
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 16–Mar 19
7:45–8:30 pm | Age 16+ | $40R/$42NR
Drop in fee: $12R/$13NR
Combines strength training for all areas of the body using closed loop resistance bands as well as full body stretching and without closed loop resistance bands (limited number of mats available during class). Bands available for purchase for $8 through the instructor. Instructor: Cindi Carter.

HEF HIIT
Clear Lake Elementary School
Tue and/or Thu, Jan 7–Mar 26
7–8 pm | Age 18+ | $95R/$83ES
Fitness is a team sport with High Energy Fitness! Push yourself to reach new levels with new friends in this high energy interval training class. We’ll hit every muscle group and burn tons of calories using a variety of equipment and exercises for one great workout. Get HIIT done with HEF Register for one or two nights. All fitness levels welcome. Bring a mat and weights to class.

HATHA YOGA GENTLE
Free Trial Class Mon, Jan 13
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 27–Mar 23
7:45–8:45 pm | Age 16+ | $80R/$84NR
Drop in fee: $12R/$13NR
In this yoga class we will review the foundational yoga poses learned in the gentle class and continue to explore new postures and practices. Each class will include meditation and relaxation. Please bring a yoga mat to class. No class Jan 20 and Feb 17. Instructor: Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

HATHA YOGA CONTINUING
Free Trial Class Mon, Jan 13
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 27–Mar 23
7:45–8:45 pm | Age 18+ | $80R/$84NR
Drop in fee: $12R/$13NR
In this yoga class we will review the foundational yoga poses learned in the gentle class and continue to explore new postures and practices. Each class will include meditation and relaxation. Please bring a yoga mat to class. No class Jan 20 and Feb 17. Instructor: Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

HATHA YOGA OPEN
Free Trial Class Thu, Jan 16
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 23–Feb 20 and Feb 27–Mar 26 | 11-12:20 am | Age 18+ | $80R/$82NR
Drop in fee: $12R/$13NR
Exploring yoga asanas, breathing and relaxation techniques. Open to beginning or returning students. Please bring a yoga mat and strap to class. Instructor: Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

YOGA WITH EASE
Free Trial Class Thu, Jan 16
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 23–Feb 20 and Feb 27–Mar 26 | 1–2 pm | Age 40+ | $33R/$35NR
Drop in fee: $9R/$10NR
Come join us for adaptive yoga as we explore gentle stretches to bring flexibility into your body, strengthen your muscles and relax your mind. With the support of chairs and the wall, you will explore Yoga with Ease. Please bring a yoga mat to class. Instructor: Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT: SUZANNE ALBERT
Suzanne Albert has taught Hatha Yoga since 1993. She was introduced to yoga as a child, as her mother was a practitioner who found it helpful for scoliosis. She also would share with her relaxation techniques. Through observation and practice, she saw firsthand how yoga could be helpful on many levels.

Suzanne has taught at various schools, corporations, and community centers. She has been teaching for Orion Township Parks and Recreation since 2005. Suzanne enjoys working with students of all ages and levels and believes yoga can help people with flexibility, strength and calmness of mind. In her classes, she uses props such as the wall, chairs and bolsters to help with alignment and balance making yoga accessible for everyone.

One benefit of yoga is that it allows people to slow down and relax. Yoga is a wonderful ancient practice which allows people to get in touch with their breathing and awareness of how they are moving. As the breath slows down the parasympathetic system becomes dominant, allowing the heart rate to slow down and the blood vessels to relax, putting your body into the sense of calmness. This wonderful ancient practice of yoga allows us to reconnect, slow down and become centered. Yoga nourishes your body and calms your mind helping to integrate your mind, body and spirit. Every class includes a gentle warm up, yoga asanas to strengthen, stretch to nourish your body and relax to integrate the whole experience.

Suzanne is the owner of Heartfelt Yoga which encompasses Yoga, Massage Therapy (LMT) and Healing Touch (CHTP). She has practices in Lake Orion, Rochester and Farmington Hills.

MELT METHOD WORKSHOP
Orion Center | Wed, Jan 15–Feb 19 and Mar 25 | 10:45 am–12 pm | Age 18+ | $22R/$25NR
An introduction class on how to use the soft Melt body roller for the upper and lower body along with using 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. 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! (must be able to independently get on and off the floor).
Instructor: Cyndy DuVal.

MELT METHOD CLASS
Orion Center | Wed, Jan 22–Feb 12 and Feb 26–Mar 18 and Apr 1–22
10:45 am–12 pm | Age 18+ | $57R/$60NR
We will cover all of the level 1 moves to do on the soft body roller for your upper and lower body, SI joint and pelvic area, and the neck & head area as well as hands and feet compression techniques. 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! (must be able to independently get on and off the floor).

Instructor: Cyndy DuVal.
**Strength & Balance Studio: Training for Life**
Orion Center | 424KR/441NR
Drop-in Fee: $10/$12NR
Wed, Jan 15-Feb 19 | 12:30-1:30 pm
Thu, Jan 16-Feb 20 | 4-5 pm
Fri, Jan 17-Feb 21 | 11:30 am-12:30 pm
We will work on building up strength, endurance, and becoming aware of what our bodies can do. Classes will consist of many different formats including HIIT, Body weight, Step, Weight training, Cardio, Yoga Flow, and Pilates. Coach: Isabel Turman.

**Fitness Partnerships with Great Lakes Athletic Club**
Great Lakes Athletic Club of Lake Orion offers a special rate on aquatic classes and active life exercise classes to our Orion Center members age 50+ on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 1 pm. Call Great Lakes Athletic Club and ask for Gabrielle (Gashy) at 248-393-3085.

**Stroller Strides®**
Great Lakes Crossing | Fri | 9-10 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®**
Great Lakes Crossing | Mon & Wed | 9-10 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 | Tue & Thu (starting Jan) | 7:30-8:30 pm
Ages 18+
Body Back Transformation® 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.

**Senior Dental Health Program**
The Michigan Donated Dental Service provides free comprehensive dental care to eligible seniors 65 and over. All care is provided by licensed Michigan dentists. For more information and qualifications call 517-346-9455.

**TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly**
Orion Center | Every Thu | 5:45-8 pm
Ages 18+
A weight loss support group. Members receive encouragement while making changes slowly and steadily in their life. Call Sue Shubert for more information at 248-931-1881.

**Alzheimer’s Association**
If you need support please call 800-272-3900. This is the Helpline; Alzheimer’s Associates are there to help and guide you to the services available.

**Orion Center Membership**
Become a Member at the Orion Center for 50+ Orion Township Residents and Non-Residents. Membership to the Orion Center is free. All you need to do is to stop by at 1335 Joslyn Road and fill out an application.

**Java Joes**
Orion Center | 9:30-10:30 am
Registration preferred, drop-ins welcome
Java Joes meets the 4th Tuesday of the month. Each month the Orion Center will have a special guest be the group discussion leader. Join us for a fresh cup of joe, tasty treat, and great conversation with your neighbors.

**Coffee With Chris**
Orion Center | Fri, Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar 27 | 9:30-10:30 am
Stop in the Orion Center for an informal meeting with Supervisor Chris Barnett. Feel free to come with questions or join in on the discussion. Topics will include current events in the Township and other matters of interest. If you have a request that may take some research please submit it in advance to cbarnett@oriontownship.org or schedule an appointment. No registration is necessary.

**Ask the Financial Guru**
Orion Center | Thu | 11:30 am-2 pm
Age 50+
Appointments are 30 minutes and are held the first Thursday of the month.

**Ask the Attorney**
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 13, Mar 9
1-2:30 pm | Ages 50+
Attorney Dana Wilson provides private consultations at the Orion Center. If you need assistance with legal problems or if you have legal questions, call the center for a 15-minute appointment.

**AARP Income Tax Preparation Service**
Starting Monday, February 3, 2020 through Monday, April 6, 2020, AARP will be doing Income Tax prepara-
tions. AARP-trained volunteers will prepare your federal and state returns. Appointments will be scheduled beginning Monday, December 2, 2019 for Orion Center Members Only. Calls from other individuals will be received beginning Monday, January 13, 2020. For a list of required documents when making your appointment. There is no charge for this service; however, a donation to the Orion Center is appreciated. No appointments February 17, 2020.
**SPECIAL EVENTS 50+**

**Holly Holiday Luncheon**
Orion Center | Wed, Dec 11
12-1:30 pm | $7R/$9NR

A wonderful tradition at the Orion Center, ring in the Holidays with the Belles and a Beau Hand Bell Choir. Membership and registration required.

**Valentines Day Tea and Luncheon**
Orion Center | Thu, Feb 13
12-1:30 pm | $7R/$9NR

Come celebrate Valentine’s Day with us at a fun Tea and Luncheon. Bring your mom, grandmother, aunt, sister or your BFF and enjoy this fun filled luncheon. Membership and registration required.

**Make a Mardi Gras Mask**
Orion Center | Thu, Feb 20 | 1 pm
$4R/$6NR

Celebrate Mardi Gras with the Orion Center with a special mask making program. This fun craft includes crafting your own mask to wear to the Mardi Gras Luncheon on Tue, Feb 25. Membership and registration required.

**Mardi Gras Luncheon**
Orion Center | Wed, Feb 26
12-1:30 pm | $10R/$12NR

“Laissez les bons temps rouler!” Enjoy an authentic New Orleans lunch, music from the North Oakland Dixieland Band, and lots of fun! Costumes are welcome. Don’t have a mask? Be sure to register for the Make a Mardi Gras Mask event the Thursday before. Membership and registration required.

**FIELD TRIPS (50+)**

**Greektown Casino Trip**
Thu, Jan 16 | Leaving Orion Center at 9 am | $10R/$20NR

Have the winter blues? Take a trip with us to Detroit to the Greektown Casino! You will spend 5 hours in the Casino and get $25 to spend.

**Ford Piquette Avenue Plant**
Wed, Feb 19 | 11:30 am | $10R/$20NR

The Model-T Automotive Heritage Complex, Inc., the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, was organized in 2000 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization for the purpose of preserving the Plant and keeping it from being demolished. Open year round as a Museum and education center, the plant now attracts visitors from around the world.

**EUCHRE TOURNAMENT**

**Celebrate Elvis’s Birthday at the Orion Center**
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 9
12-1:30 pm | $7R/$9NR

Elvis will be turning 85 on January 8 and we want to celebrate. The King of Rock n Roll! Entertainment will be provided by “the King” himself and some of Elvis’s favorite foods will be provided for lunch. Membership and registration required.

**National Pizza & Bagel Day**
Orion Center | Fri, Feb 7
12:30–3:30 pm | FREE

Did you know that National Pizza and Bagel day is celebrated on the same day? Enjoy some of the best yummy carbs America has to offer. You won’t want to miss a yummy “pagel”.

**CLUBS 50+ AT THE ORION CENTER**

**K4 Knit/Crochet**
Mon | 12:30-3:30 pm

No partner needed and all levels welcome! Beverage and light snacks will be provided. Prizes will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place! Membership and registration required.

**Chinese Mahjong**
Mon | Jan 6–Mar 23
12:30–3:30 pm | $4R/$5NR

**Ham Radio**
Mon & Thu | 6–8:45 pm

**Bingo**
Tue | 10:00–11:45 am and 12:45–2:45 pm

**Painting**
Tue | Jan 7–Mar 31 | 10 am-2 pm
$4R/$5NR

**Spanish**
Tue | Time Varies

**Pinochle/Euchre**
Wed | 12:30-3:30 pm

**Library Book Club**
Wed | 1-2 pm | Ages 30+

**Orion Center Band**
Thu | 10–11:30 am

**Game Day**
Fri | 12:30–3:30 pm

**Movies**
Fri | 1-3 pm

**Quilting**
Fri | 9 am-12 pm

**American Mahjong**
Fri | Jan 10–Mar 27 | 11–3:30 pm
$4R/$5NR

*You must bring your own 2020 Official Standard Hands and Rules card.

**CPR CLASSES**

**American Heart Association**

**HeartSaver CPR/AED**
Fire Station #2 | Wed, Jan 15 or Feb 19 or Mar 18 | 2–3 pm
Age 12+ | $40

Fire Station #2 | Sat, Dec 21 or Apr 18 | 10 am-2 pm | Age 12+ $40

Class will cover CPR/AED/Choking for all age groups.

**HeartSaver CPR/AED/First Aid**
Fire Station #2 | Sat, Jan 18 or Mar 21 | 10 am-5 pm
Age 12+ | $50

Class is held the third Saturday of every other month. Class will cover CPR/AED/First Aid/Choking for all age groups.

**A VENUE FOR ANY OCCASION**

Orion Township Parks & Recreation has a variety of indoor and outdoor venues that may be rented year-round for special events (graduation parties, weddings, showers, and corporate meetings), including park pavilions, meeting rooms, lodges and banquet facilities. Please contact the Orion Parks Department at 248-391-0304, ext. 3500 for more information.

**REGISTER FOR PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS AT ORIONPARKS.COM OR CALL 248–391–0304, EXT. 3500**
DECEMBER

1-24 Hometown Holidays, Downtown Lake Orion
2 Township Board of Trustees meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
4 Planning Commission meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
5 LOHS Winter Choir Concert, LOHS Performing Arts Center, 7 pm
7 Orion Lighted Christmas Parade, Downtown Lake Orion, 6 pm
7 Breakfast with the Grinch, Orion Center, 10 am or 12 pm
9 ONTV’s Santa Live, Orion Center, 11 am
9 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
10 LOHS Winter Band Concert, LOHS Performing Arts Center, 7 pm
11 LOHS Winter Choir Concert, LOHS Performing Arts Center, 7 pm
12 Sing & Stroll Tree Lighting, Downtown Lake Orion, 6 pm
12 Blood Drive, Orion Township Public Library
12 Walden 6 & 7 Band Concert, Walden Middle School
12 7th & Cadet Band Concert, Scripps Middle School, 7 pm
14 Winter Workshop, Orion Township Public Library
15 Snow Dash 5K, Orion Center, 9 am
16 Township Board of Trustees meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
17 Scripps Choir Concert, Scripps Middle School
17 Walden Choir Concert, Walden Middle School
17 Oakview 7th Grade Band & Jazz Concert, Oakview Middle School, 7 pm
18 Oakview Holiday Choir Concert, Oakview Middle School, 7 pm
18 Planning Commission meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
19 Winter Wonderland Concert, LOHS Performing Arts Center, 10 am
23 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
23 LOCS Winter Break begins
24-25 Christmas Eve & Day—Township & Village Offices closed
27 Orion Gladiators, Orion Township Public Library
29 Magic and Comedy with Cameran Zvara, Orion Township Public Library
31 New Years Eve—Township & Village Offices closed

FEBRUARY

1 Exotic Zoo, Orion Township Public Library
1-29 Lake Orion Love-Shop to Win, Downtown Lake Orion
2 Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary Ice Cup Golf Challenge, Downtown Lake Orion
3 Township Board of Trustees meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
4 Orion Township Library Chocolate Valentine Event at Alnott About Chocolate, Downtown Lake Orion
6 LOHS 8th Grade Parent Night & Activities Fair, Lake Orion High School, 6:30 pm
7 Middle School Battle of the Books, Scripps Middle School
8 OGSL & LOYBL Middle School Challenge, Downtown Lake Orion
9 Township Board of Trustees meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
11 LOHS Band Pre-Festival Concert, 7 pm
13 Pre-Festival 7th Grade Band Concert for all Middle Schools, LOHS Performing Arts Center, 6:30 pm
14 Last day to pay Winter Taxes
16 Jigsaw Jamboree, Orion Township Public Library
17 Presidents’ Day—Township & Village Offices closed
18 Township Board of Trustees meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
19 Planning Commission meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
6-9 Time Travelers, LOHS Performing Arts Center, 6:30 pm
17-18 Mid-Winter Break—All Schools closed

JANUARY

1 New Years Day—Township and Village Offices closed
1-31 Lake Orion Lens photo contest
1 New Years Resolution Run, Downtown Lake Orion
3 LOCS final day of Winter Break
6 Township Board of Trustees meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
7 LOHS Vocal Choir Pre Solo & Ensemble Recital, LOHS Performing Arts Center, 7 pm
8 Joint Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
8 They Shall Not Grow Old Documentary, Orion Township Public Library
12 Martin Luther King Day—Township & Village Offices closed
13 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
15 Planning Commission meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
16 LOHS Band Pre-Solo & Ensemble Recital, LOHS Performing Arts Center, 7 pm
20 Community-wide MLK Jr. Day event, LOHS Performing Arts Center, evening
21 Township Board of Trustees meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
21-25 Friends of the Orion Library Winter Used Book Sale, Orion Township Public Library
20 Martin Luther King Day—Township & Village Offices closed
24 Coffee with Chris, Orion Center, 9:30 am
27 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm
28 2020 Academy Awards, Orion Township Public Library
29 Middle School & High School Symphonic Band Celebrations Concert, LOHS Performing Arts Center, 7 pm
31 New Years Eve— Townhsip & Village Offices closed

Background Photo by Leah Sands
YOUTH LEAGUES

April 6–June 21 | $20 Multi–Child Discount (excluding T-Ball)
$50 Late Fee after Mar 15 | League schedules finalized in March

Tee Ball | Ages 4–6 | $90R/$100NR

Orion Girls Softball League (OGSL)
$120R/$140NR | Civic Center Park
8U Clinic Division | Coach Pitch
10U Intermediate Division | Player Pitch
14U Junior Division | Player Pitch

Lake Orion Youth Baseball League (LOYBL)
$130R/$140NR per player
Clinic | Machine Pitch | Ages 6–8
Junior | Player Pitch | Ages 9–10
Intermediate | Player Pitch | Ages 11–12
Senior | Player Pitch | Ages 13–15*
Majors | Player Pitch | Ages 15–18 | Jun 8–Jul 25
*15 year olds may register for Senior & Majors for $100/division

Walk-in Registration for OGSL & LOYBL
Sat, Feb 8 | 10 am–2 pm
Thur, Mar 5 | 3–8 pm | Orion Center
Uniforms will be available to try on during walk-in and upon request during Orion Center business hours.

LOYBL Umpire Program
April–June | 14+ | $10
Are you interested in becoming a paid baseball umpire? LOYBL is seeking new and returning umpires for the 2020 season. This great opportunity to earn real money while gaining valuable experience is open to anyone over the age of 14 as of April 1, 2019.
A $10 Umpire Registration fee will get you access to our scheduling system, an umpire shirt, hat, indicator, use of umpiring equipment, on field training, and online certification. We provide everything you need to get on the field and start making calls and money! Training sessions are TBD, check orionparks.com for information.
Volunteer Coaches Needed!
Visit orionparks.com for more information about our Youth Leagues.

ADULT LEAGUES

2020 Adult Summer Softball League

Men’s Rec League
Friendship Park | Tue, May 12–Jul 7 | 6:20–9:50 pm | Age 18+

Coed Rec League
Friendship Park | Wed, May 13–Jul 8 | 6:20–9:50 pm | Age 18+
$305/Team | $20/Non-Resident Player | Refundable Forfeit Deposit: $100
Umpire Fees: $20/Team/Game

Open Registration begins Apr 6 | Manager’s Meeting May 4 | 7 pm

SUPPORT ORION RECREATION!

Sponsor a Youth Athletics Team

Orion Girls Softball League and/or Lake Orion Youth Baseball League

$400 per team or $350 for 2 or more teams in either league

Contact Jesse Hayes at 248-391-0304 x3506 or jhayes@oriontownship.org for more information.

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

For field closures and other cancellations, check cancellations.com or Orion Township Parks & Recreation
The Orion Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Impact Awards. The Impact Awards celebrate those in our community who have given above and beyond to improve the quality of life in Orion Township and make an impact on the well-being of our community.

Business Person of the Year

The Business Person of the Year is Anthony Reighard - co-owner of M & B Graphics in Downtown Lake Orion.

Anthony is co-founder of M & B Graphics, along with his father, Robert Reighard. Over the last decade they have firmly planted M & B as a valued business in our community. Anthony is very generous with his time, talent and resources to help area businesses and organizations promote themselves through printed materials, banners, t-shirts, etc. He is helpful and takes time to work with customers to give them the best results for their money. He is an active member of the Chamber, as well as a Board Member of the Lake Orion DDA. He is a presenting sponsor of the Orion Lighted Christmas Parade as well as a sponsor of many other local events. Anthony Reighard exemplifies what it means to be an active member of a community and we are proud to name him the 2019 Business Person of the Year. This year’s Business Person of the Year Award is sponsored by Golling Buick GMC.

Community Beautification Award

The Community Beautification award goes to Waste Management. Waste Management has made a commitment to enhancing the appearance of Lake Orion by developing the Eagle Valley Landfill into a natural and eco-friendly facility that attracts local wildlife and employs a state-of-the-art landfill gas collection and delivery system. Currently, the General Motors Orion Assembly plant uses Eagle Valley’s landfill gas to power a portion of the plant’s operations. Landfill gas from Eagle Valley, and another local landfill, helped General Motors virtually eliminate the burning of coal at the plant improving the air quality of Lake Orion and planning for a cleaner and greener future. Eagle Valley is a certified Wildlife Habitat Council Wildlife at Work site and a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. This year’s Community Beautification Award is sponsored by Chris Barnett, Orion Township Supervisor.

Economic Impact Award

The Economic Impact Award goes to Rainforest Cafe. Rainforest Cafe has been a stalwart supporter of Lake Orion and has gone above and beyond to support community events and raise funds for Lake Orion organizations and non-profits. They routinely host fundraising events to benefit local groups and actively take part in promoting environmental awareness and education. In addition, the majority of their staff comes directly from Lake Orion providing valuable jobs to local residents. Since 1998 Rainforest Cafe has invested in the strength and wellbeing of our community. This year’s Economic Impact Award is sponsored by The Zale Group.

Entrepreneurs of the Year

The Entrepreneur of the Year award goes to the mother & daughter team of Carissa & Alaina Campbell of Cookies & Cream by Sprout Bake. Carissa and her mother Alaina started making gluten-free, nutritionally dense muffins in their home about three years ago. With savvy marketing and a delicious product, the muffins caught on so they researched how to commercially produce and market their product. This effort ultimately led them to open the Cookies & Cream ice cream shop in the lower level of 20 Front Street this spring. Despite the time and energy needed to pursue this business, they willingly educated themselves on all that was required to market a food product. They overcame obstacles and turned their vision into a reality. The unexpected opportunity came up this year to take over operation of the Creamery at 20 Front Street so they took a leap of faith and plunged into the ice cream business. Sprout Bake melds the business and baking acumen of Alaina and Carissa. Cookies & Cream is a warm, friendly venue that promotes a sense of community. Alaina and Carissa are avid cheerleaders for Lake Orion and our community and sponsor many events. They are always willing to accommodate any request for their products or for support. They exemplify what a hometown business is all about. This year’s Entrepreneur of the Year Award is sponsored by Canoe Circle Graphics.

Youth Impact Award

The Youth Impact Awards goes to Dawn Ames. Dawn Ames is the Family Ministry Director at Lake Orion United Methodist Church and the driving force behind the Blessings in a Brown Bag program. Blessings in a Brown Bag was started in 2018 and provides lunches to feed insecure youth in our community over the summer months. Food is delivered Monday through Friday to youth who are in need of assistance and helps support those who might go hungry over the summer without school assistance programs. In addition, Dawn is President of the Orion Area Youth Assistance where she has helped create new programs and worked to have more scholarships available for needy children to attend Lake Orion Community School Camps. This year’s Youth Impact Award is sponsored by the Counelis Agency—Farm Bureau Insurance. The Impact Award Winners will be honored at a luncheon in December at Paint Creek Country Club. This year’s Impact Award Luncheon sponsors are Capacore Professional Advisors and Consumers Energy.

Impact Awards are sponsored by Professional Advisors and Consumers Energy.

ORION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CONFERENCE

Annual Breakfast Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2020, from 8:10 to 10 am.

This meeting is open to members and non-members, but registration is required. The cost for members is $25 and for non-members is $35.

Save the Date: Women in Business Conference

Tuesday, March 24

COFFEE CONNECT

Please check our online events calendar at orionareachamber.org for upcoming dates in 2020!

Coffee Connect

Start your work day with coffee and conversation! Open to members and non-members. No cost to attend and no need to register. Typically held the last Tuesday of each month from 8 to 9 am.

Thirsty Thursday

End your workday with a beverage and camaraderie. Held the third Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 pm. Open to anyone in the business community who wants to network! No cost to attend (buy your own drinks) and no need to register.

Oakland Paintball

Located inside of Camp Agawam, Oakland Paintball is the area’s premier spot for outdoor paintball competition, boasting 3 forest fields with natural covers and bunkers that generate lots of fun-filled action without impacting the natural environment. From open play for single players to private group events and even family-friendly “Splatmaster” play, Oakland Paintball is perfect for getting outdoors, breathing in some fresh air and having some fun.

We had a blast celebrating the Grand Opening with owners Mats and Doug and the whole team!
ORION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Hometown businesses take center stage at 15th Annual Shop Local Expo

Amidst balloons and popcorn and a “greatest show in Oakland County” theme, the Chamber’s 15th annual Shop Local Expo enlivened the Lake Orion High School Fieldhouse in October. The Chamber’s signature event presents an annual opportunity for members to showcase their services and products to the local community. Over 1,000 visitors learned more about the 80+ unique exhibitors who were on hand with information, food samples, merchandise and free swag. With the help of the Lake Orion High School DECA program, a festive carnival theme made it fun for the whole family, complete with a bounce house and carnival games.

Pizza War attendees sampled several local pizzas and voted for their favorite. Alibi Express took home the coveted pizza trophy for the second year!

The Chamber thanks the community for their ongoing support of our Shop Local Expo and for making Lake Orion a place “where living is a vacation!”

2020 is approaching fast and a New Year means New Year’s Resolutions! Your Orion Area Chamber of Commerce has a variety of business members that offer healthy and holistic options to help you stick to your resolutions and implement those goals.

If you have made the commitment to get or stay in shape, look no further than the excellent gym facilities offered at Planet Fitness Lake Orion, GB Training Center, Great Lakes Athletic Club or POWERHOUSE & NXT. Looking to kick your fitness routine up a notch? Oakland County CrossFit has you covered!

Interested in a holistic approach to eating and wellness? Consider Holistic Health by Valerie. Valerie prides herself on educating her clients about how the body was designed to function and how to eat your way to better health. If you looking for a place to grab a healthy bite to eat your way to better health/period. Ask about the Pizza Wars trophy for the second year!

To purchase healthy food to make at home visit Lucky’s Natural Foods. Lucky’s carries a full line of natural and organic groceries that are free of antibiotics, hormones, GMOs, artificial flavors, colors, sweeteners and preservatives. For health and wellness products visit Simple Organics which provides the highest quality supplements, body care, and other health and wellness products available. Apothecary & Co. is the area’s first and only integrated health wellness pharmacy which offers a compound pharmacy for humans and animals alike.

Care for the skin you are in and call S.K.I.N. Junkie by Janny or stop by and visit Autumn Moon Holistic Wellness Collective which offers Holistic Skin Care services, Reiki and crystal and shamanic healing. Say “om mani padme hum” and visit Reiki and crystal and shamanic healing. Say “om mani padme hum” and visit Reiki and crystal and shamanic healing. Moon Holistic Wellness Collective which offers Holistic Skin Care services, Reiki and crystal and shamanic healing. Say “om mani padme hum” and visit Reiki and crystal and shamanic healing.

To work out the kinks in your spine and align your new year visit Optimum Chiropractic & Wellness, Oakland Sports Chiropractic and Orion Family Spinal Center, who specialize in structural spinal improvement and reduction of nervous system pressure.

To learn more about these wonderful local businesses visit our online directory at orionareachamber.com or contact us directly. Have a happy and healthy 2020!
**Non-Profit Spotlight: Orion Area Youth Assistance (OAYA)**

**STRENGTHENING YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

By Jim Newell

The Orion Area Youth Assistance (OAYA) is dedicated to serving Orion’s youth, a goal embodied in its mission statement: To strengthen youth and families and reduce the incidence of delinquency, neglect, and abuse through community involvement.

Through its organization of volunteers, the OAYA works with local schools, police, parents, youth and community partners to help families and young people find solutions to their individual and collective problems.

While some may view the OAYA as dealing with “troubled” youth, this is not necessarily the case: its focus has shifted over the years to a prevention-based approach. Parents themselves frequently bring their student to the OAYA if their child needs help adjusting to school or environmental factors.

The OAYA’s dedicated caseworker meets with students and parents, providing supportive counseling, behavior monitoring, assessment and referral services, and develops an appropriate treatment plan.

The OAYA also sponsors its own youth-centered programs: The annual Youth Recognition Awards Ceremony honors those outstanding school-aged children who have volunteered or have made great positive changes in their lives.

Each year, the OAYA sends dozens of youngsters to summer camp through its “Adopt-A-Camper” scholarship fund. This critically important program provides a wonderful camping experience to children who would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend camp.

“Just the Facts” Math Club is a collaboration between Lake Orion United Methodist Church, the LOHS Math National Honor Society, and OAYA. These third-grade students work hard on their math facts and have fun every Monday after school at Blanche Sims Elementary.

The OAYA also hosts a Family Funfest event each spring, offers skill-building scholarships, tutoring, the Mentor’s Plus program, and is working to engage high school students in volunteer opportunities.

Lake Orion Community Schools, Oakland County Circuit Court—Family Division, Orion Township, and the Village of Lake Orion are program sponsors for the OAYA.

For more information on OAYA services, volunteer opportunities or to support OAYA programs, please visit lakeorionyouthassistance.com, or call the office at 248-693-6878.
New & renewing members

Orion Art Center
Orion Area Chamber of Commerce
Pristine Properties
Redwood Lake Orion
S.K.I.N. Junkie by Janey
SERVPRO of Farmington/Farmington Hills
Sparkz-Griffin Funeral Home
The Event Place by Something Fabulous
The Neon Team—Keller Williams Realty
Thrive Solutions
Turner Sanitation
Wally Edgar Chevrolet
Wine Social

Signature Members
Orion Oaks Dental
Planet Fitness Lake Orion

Premier Members
Beaverton
HealthQuest Physical Therapy
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland

Elite Members
Capocore Professional Advisors
Capocore Professional
Counselling Agency—Farm Bureau Insurance
Counselling Agency—Farm Bureau Insurance

Social Media Handles
Facebook: orionareachamber
Twitter: @orionareachamber
Instagram: orionareachamber
LinkedIn: Orion Area Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement
The Orion Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to advancing the general welfare and prosperity of the business community in the Orion Area.

Five tons for 5 or 5 Food Drive
Help ONTV reach their 10,000-pound goal to mark the 10th anniversary of their live event.

To combat hunger in the area, Orion ONTV is hosting its annual 5 or 5 Food Drive on Saturday, February 8 at their Orion Center studio at 1349 Joslyn Road.

It’s a crazy day of marathon live broadcasting with live music, entertainers and moving reporters. Families and individuals are invited to be part of the live studio audience from 10 am to 4 pm. Bring a donation of $5 or 5 non-perishable food items and you can enter their raffle of great items donated by area businesses. The food and cash donations benefit Orion/Oxford FISH Food Pantry.

ONTV’s goal is to collect 10,000 pounds of donations to commemorate the 10th anniversary of their food drive. That’s ambitious, considering most years their collections total around 6,000 pounds. Do they weigh every item received? No, there is a formula to determine the approximate weight of the food and the monetary donations, but if you figure one can of peas weighs one pound, you get the idea of how much food is needed to reach the 10,000 pound goal.

The timing of the food drive is intentional.

“After Christmas, the FISH pantry is bare,” says ONTV’s Tracy Marsh. “We hold the food drive in February to help restock the pantry.”

After the bustle of the holidays and many people’s New Year’s resolutions to get organized and eat better, it is a great time to refresh your pantry and in turn benefit those in need in our community.

For information on becoming a collection site or a raffle donor, contact Tracy Marsh at 248-693-3377 or tmarshal@orionontv.org. ONTV is also year-round collection site so stop in any time throughout the year to donate non-perishable food.
Stay busy this winter

During these winter months, residents may be looking for more activities to stay busy. I’d like to invite you to come to the Orion Township Public Library! We have so much going on every day—with materials you can check out and take home, programs you can attend at the Library, and friendly staff to help with all your questions. And it’s all FREE! Take a look through this section of Orion Living to find something new that speaks to you. We have opportunities for all ages.

• Looking for some local holiday shopping options? Check out the Friends of the Library Holiday Silent Auction before it closes on December 7!
• Planning to attend the Lighted Holiday Parade on December 7 in downtown Lake Orion? Watch for the Library’s Bookbike!

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! We meet at the Orion Library the second Thursday of the month from 12 to 3 pm. For more info, contact Renee at 248-701-8821.

Don’t forget to check out our Library Wishlist. This online webpage lists some of the many things that the library would like to purchase, but they are beyond the scope of our budget. If any of the items on the list are of interest to you, perhaps you could donate to the cause. Donating is easy and can be done right online. You can check out our Wishlist at orionlibrary.org/library-wishlist.

Library Blood Drive

Thu, Dec 12 | 9:30 am–6:30 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! Sign up online at redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: orionlibrary, or call 1-800-733-2767.

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

Thank you to our library donors

The Library Board is extremely grateful to all those who support our library through various forms of donations. On Sunday, October 6, 2019, we gathered with many of them to thank them for their thoughtfulness and generosity. During an after-hours reception, donors were given a summary of recent activities at the library that were made possible due to their donations.

Director Karen Knox also took interested attendees on “behind the scenes” tours during the reception.

If you are interested in donating to the Library, please see orionlibrary.org/donations or contact the library director at 248-693-3000 x330.

From the Director

Karen

Orion Living | Winter 2020
FAMILY FUN!

Winter Reading Challenge
Sun, Dec 1 – Sun, Jan 5 | Youth and Teens
Read with us during the month of December! Pick up a bookmark to mark off time spent reading during the month of December. Once complete, stop by the library during any of our Winter Break week programs to pick up your prize!

Harry Potter
Family Trivia
Sat, Feb 8 | 2 pm
Register online (team of 6 or less)
Do you think you’re the smartest Muggle? This all-ages and family event will test your knowledge of everything Harry Potter including the books and movies, and the Fantastic Beasts universe. Please have at least one person bring a cellphone in your group. Refreshments provided.

Jigsaw Jamboree
Sun, Feb 16 | 2 pm | All ages, register online, limit 10 teams
Families and friends are encouraged to register your team of 2-5 to compete to see who can complete their puzzle the fastest. Puzzles will all be 500 piece puzzles. Prizes and refreshments provided.

Leap Day Party
Sat, Feb 29 | 10 am | All ages, drop in
Grab your crew and come create your own unique bird art. Everyone will have fun being part of the finished product.

Magic and Comedy
with Cameron Zvara
Sun, Dec 29 | 2 pm | All ages
Join us for an afternoon of FUN with Pregnancy Magician & Entertainer Cameron Zvara! Cameron’s show is filled with magic, comedy, juggling, music, and TNOS of audience participation.

Create with Your Crew
Sat, Jan 4 | 10 am | All ages, drop in
Reptiles, amphibians, mammals and more! REPCO Wildlife Encounters is coming to the Orion Township Public Library. Families of all ages will experience a live animal show that focuses on research, education, conservation, and of course, entertainment! Space is limited.

Family Book Bingo
Thu, Dec 26 | 11 am
Caregivers and children, drop in
Play traditional bingo and win books! Bring your whole family for a free, fun-filled time. Both caregivers and children will go home with a FREE book.

Did You Know...
You can check out a book written by a local author from our Local Author Area, Binge Boxes with multiple-themed movies and puzzles! Come in and see for yourself!

English Language Learning Conversation Group (ELL)
Wednesdays | 10:30–11:30 am (no meetings Dec 18, 25, Jan 1)
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.

Drop-in Tech Help
Thursdays | 6–8 pm
Our “IT Guy” is available to help you with your electronic device every Thursday on a first-come, first-served basis. No sign up is necessary for this program, but you may call Eric at 248–287–8019 if you need to discuss any issues.

Michigan Works
Mondays | Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10
9:30 am–1 pm
Oakland County Michigan Works will assist you with upcoming workshops, youth and adult programs, resume ideas, job searches, interview skills and more. They can point you in the right direction for inquiries about local resources, Department of Health & Human Services, and much more.

Leap Day Party
Sat, Feb 29 | 10 am | All ages, drop in
Celebrate your bonus day with us at this frog-themed party. There will be fun crafts, games, and snacks!

Community Conversation
Join us upstairs at Lockhart’s BBQ
Mon, Dec 9 | 7 pm
Vaping: What we need to know
Come connect with a group of like-minded writers to learn from each other, share ideas, and practice your writing skills.

Adul...
They Shall Not Grow Old

Documentary
Sun, Jan 12 | 2 pm
Out of the centennial anniversary of the end of World War I came this highly acclaimed documentary by Academy Award-winning director Peter Jackson. An impressive technical achievement of restored footage, They Shall Not Grow Old has allowed Jackson to erase the barriers of time and speak to a new generation about what war does to youth, while paying brilliant cinematic tribute to the sacrifice of a generation. Join us for popcorn and the movie on our Big Screen.

Eat Well to Be Well in 2020

Mon, Jan 13 | 6:30 pm
Join certified Nutritional Therapist Valerie Penza, owner of Holistic Health by Valerie and author of Deliciously Holistic—Inspired Favorites, as she explains why we should be eating more—not less—in order to be well today. This is an interactive event that includes food samples, recipes, and all of the guidance you need to make 2020 the year to eat well and be well. Copies of the cookbook will be available for purchase after the program.

Macramé Wall Hanging Class

Tue, Jan 21 | 6:30-8:30 pm | Orion Art Center Studio
Register online
Macramé is back! Join us for this FREE, fun, and retro class and leave with a your own, unique, macramé wall hanging. The Orion Art Center Studio is located at the Moose Tree Nature Preserve, 3191 W. Clarkston Rd.

Grown with Google

Sat, Jan 25, Feb 8, 22 | 10 am | Register online
Participants will learn applied digital skills using the ‘Grow with Google’ curriculum. Course topics include internet safety and security, creating and editing shared documents, internet searching, and more. This is a series of three introductory level online classes.

2020 Academy Awards

Tue, Jan 28 | 7 pm | Register online
The library is excited to welcome Tom Santilli, Executive Producer of Movie Show Plus and Rotten Tomatoes film critic, for an exciting discussion on the 2020 Oscar nominations. Tom will discuss the categories, why certain films were nominated, and participants will get to vote for their favorite movies of the year. Refreshments provided.

Parenting Book Discussion with LOCS

Wed, Jan 29 | 7 pm | Register online

Save the date!
2020 Adult Battle of the Books
The Orion Township Public Library in partnership with the Auburn Hills Public Library and the Clarkston Independence District Library will hold its first Adult Battle of the Books program on Thursday, April 16! This program is designed to encourage reading all types of literature and recognize those who like to read. Sign up will open on January 2, 2020. Look for more details coming in the spring edition of Orion Living.

Orion Historical Society (OHS)
Mondays, Jan 13, Feb 10 | 7 pm James Ingram Room
(No Dec meeting)
Come to an OHS meeting to learn about our community’s history and work on projects to preserve the past. Newcomers are always welcome! Visit orionhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

Special presentation!
Life During the Civil War
Tue, Dec 17 | 7 pm
Have you ever wondered what life was like for a Michigan soldier during the Civil War? Join the Orion Historical Society (OHS) for a presentation by Alex Konieczny, of the 15th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Co. B. Civil War Reenactors to learn about what they ate, what they wore, their weapons, where they slept, and more. This presentation is geared toward adults, but would also be of interest to students in grades 8-12. Refreshments provided.

Immigration: an American Story
Sat, Feb 22-26, March 17, 2020
This traveling display, created by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, presents documents, maps, and images to tell select stories of those who came to America, some by coercion and others by choice, in search of a better future for themselves and later generations.

Museum Exclusive!
Macramé is back! Join us for an introductory class using high quality cotton cord to create a wall hanging. Materials and instruction included. Class size limited to 10 people. $40 adult/$25 child. Registration required. Call 248-693-3001.

International Women’s Day Film Series
With films from around the world, this year’s event celebrates women and their contributions in all walks of life.

Orion Living is here to encourage you to find something new to read. Whether you’re a deep believer in the good ol’ tried and true, or you’re looking for something unfamiliar, we’ve got you covered! Check out Orion Living’s Adult Battle of the Books this year and treat yourself to some well-deserved time to relax and read your favorite book.
**OUTREACH SERVICES**

**Orion Center Library Branch**
For a slower pace and a smaller venue, the Orion Center Library Branch caters especially to senior citizens and is located in the Orion Center at 1335 Joslyn Rd. Large print books, audiobooks, movies, put and take paperbacks, puzzles, and magazines are available for all. There are also computers and a printer available.

**Orion Winter Challenge**
Thu, Jan 2 – Fri, Feb 28
Stay active and feel your best again this winter! The Orion Center and Orion Center Library are partnering to offer fun challenges and great prizes. Visit or contact the Orion Center Branch at 248-693-6840 for details, or to sign up.

**One-on-One Technology Help**
for Seniors

| Wednesdays | 10 am Orion Center Library Branch (by appointment only) |
| Seniors, do you need help with your computer, tablet, cell phone or other technical device? Do you need assistance with email, texting, surfing the internet or e-books? Our volunteer technology expert, Dr. Bob Hazzard can help! Call 248-689-6840 for more information, or to make an appointment.

**Coloring and Coffee with the Classics**

**Thursdays | 11 am-12 pm | Orion Center Branch**
No class Dec 26 or Jan 2
Treat yourself to some free time, color a page or two, and enjoy a cup of coffee while socializing and listening to calming classical music. Adult coloring sheets and pencils will be supplied.

**Senior Moments Activity Hour**

** Thursdays | 1:30 pm | Orion Center Branch**
No class Dec 26 or Jan 2
Join our weekly conversation group for some trivia, games, and fellowship. Any senior is welcome to this fun, casual program.

**Home Delivery Services**
If you or someone you know lives in Orion Township and is unable to physically visit the library, let us know. We offer delivery services for books, audiobooks, and music—give us specific titles or let us know what you like and we can introduce you to new authors. Material is delivered on your schedule so we can bring a lot or a little and come only as frequently as you need. Call 248-693-3000 ext. 41 for more information.

**Did you forget your readers?**
The Orion Township Public Library now has reading glasses for in-house use, and we also have some available at the Orion Center Branch Library! Ask at the front desk to borrow a pair of reading glasses.

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**JUST FOR TEENS**

**Teen Advisory Board**

**Mondays | Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 3**
4-5 pm
Want to earn extra volunteer hours just for spending time with other teens? Join the newly established Teen Advisory Board (TAB) and have exclusive opportunity to plan events and programs, suggest improvements to the Teen department, and talk about books, movies, and video games with other teens. TAB members earn volunteer hours for attending meetings and programs. Members can earn 6 extra hours by fulfilling the following requirements:

- One school year membership—Sept through May
- Attend at least 3 meetings per school year, one per semester
- Volunteer for one large library program, ex. Fandom Fest or Summer Reading Kick Off
- Plan and implement one teen program with fellow TAB members and with assistance of the teen librarian.

Any questions please contact our Volunteer Engagement Specialist Lori Morris at lmorris@orionlibrary.org or Teen Librarian Sabrina Hausley at shausley@orionlibrary.org.

**Geek Club**

**Tuesdays | Dec 3, 17, Jan 21, Feb 4, 18 | 6:30-8 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.

**Ugly Holiday Sweater Craft**

**Sat, Dec 7 | 2-3:30 pm**
Register online
Who doesn’t need an ugly sweater for the upcoming holiday season? You supply a sweater/sweatshirt and the library will provide all the ugly accessories needed to walk out with the most heart-warming hideous holiday attire needed for the season.

**Think Link After School**

**Mondays | Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 3, 24**
3-5 pm
Special registration required
LOCs 6th-8th graders can register with their school and receive a special bus pass to come to the library Mondays after school. Middle schoolers can socialize, study, use the library, and participate in the day’s planned activity like art projects, video games, book discussions, makerspace projects and more!

**Note:** If schools are closed due to inclement weather, library teen programs are canceled.

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**Library receives Brooksie Way Mini–Grant**

The Orion Township Public Library was awarded a Brooksie Way mini–grant for Geri–Fit Exercise Classes for Seniors starting January 2020. Recognizing a need for social activities that are both fun and activity related, we purchased this evidence-based health promotion and chronic disease self-management support program designed exclusively for older adults. These free 6-week sessions for seniors will combine strength and balance training which translates into fewer falls, which is an established risk for older adults.

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**Chopped Teen Edition**

**Sat, Jan 11 | 2-4 pm**
Register online
Whether you are a budding chef, or still not sure how the kitchen works, come join the teen edition of Chopped at the Orion Library, where you must come up with ideas for dishes using the mystery ingredients provided.

**Teen Late Night**

**Fri, Feb 14 | 6-9 pm**
Registration required
Teen Late Night is an after-hours event open to teens in 8th through 12th grade, involving games, crafts, movies and just hanging out. Pizza will be provided for dinner.

**SAT Practice Test**

**Sat, Feb 22 | 10 am-2 pm**
Register online
Get ready for test day! If it’s your turn to take the SAT’s, let the Orion Library guide you in preparation for the start of the 2020 SAT dates. Sign up to take a practice test and come back a few days later to view your results, all courtesy of Sylvan Learning Center of Troy. SAT test results and presentation is Wednesday, Feb 26 at 7 pm.

**Taste Test Challenge**

**Sat, Feb 29 | 2-3 pm**
Register online
Would you drink pickle flavored soda? Can you tell the difference between Oreo and brand cookies? Do you know what a macaroni is? How hot do you like your hot sauce? Let’s see how brave you are with this taste test challenge!
1000 Books Before Kindergarten
The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program encourages parents and caregivers to provide positive, nurturing experiences by reading aloud to their children regularly. Research shows that the most reliable predictor of school success is being read to at home during early childhood. The brain develops more rapidly during the first three years of a child’s life than at any other time during the lifespan. Reading to children from an early age can help close the vocabulary gap and prepare children to enter kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed. Most important, sharing books with children promotes a lifelong love of books and reading. The program is open to patrons ages 0–5. To sign up, visit orionlibrary.org/youth/1000-books.

500 Before 5th
Continue on your reading journey after 1000 Books before Kindergarten. Set a new goal for elementary school to read 500 more books before finishing 5th grade! Register online and stop by the library at each 100-book milestone for a prize.

Parent Program
19th Annual Preschool and Child Care Fair
Wed, Feb 19 | 4–7 pm
Parents | Drop in
Parents, are you searching for the right preschool or child care? Meet Lake Orion and Oxford area providers, ask questions, and gather information at this special open house. Receive a checklist of what to look for in preschool or child care, along with information on the programs that each facility has scheduled throughout the year.

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

We’re a Family Place Library!
The Orion Township Public Library (OTPL) is proud to be a Family Place Library! Family Place Libraries create a culture that actively and intentionally supports young families by providing specific programs and services aimed at families with young children. As a Family Place Library, we promote the belief that parents and caregivers are a child’s first teachers. OTPL fosters this culture in a variety of ways. One such way is by maintaining a learning and play space in the library that is specially designed for children under five. Our play area at the library features a train table, play kitchen, blocks, puppets, and puppet theatre. Dramatic play and manipulatives are fun for kids and actually help them with early literacy. The actions of playing, sharing, talking, and building with their caregivers and other kids are actions that contribute to better literacy skills for when they are ready to read.

Another way that OTPL is caring for young families is by offering our 1, 2, 3 Play with Me workshops. This format allows caregivers and children to play and learn together. Each week an expert on early childhood services such as nutrition, child development, speech, and music and movement visit the workshop to answer questions caregivers might have about a certain topic. This one stop shop is a personal approach to learning that many families appreciate instead of attending a non-interactive lecture. Another crucial piece in caring for the family is providing resources for parents. Thus, we have a parenting collection with books, DVDs, and learning-to-read books that are relevant to the issues many caregivers face.

By being a designated Family Place Library, OTPL is committed to the success of young families and growing the whole family’s love of learning. For more information on Family Place Libraries, visit familyplacelibraries.org.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Winter Storytimes
Bring your child for age-appropriate stories, songs, finger plays, puppets, and activities the weeks of December 2, 2019 and January 6–February 10, 2020, unless otherwise noted. Siblings are welcome.

Itsy Bitsy Babies
Tuesdays | 10 am | Birth–12 months | Drop in, limit 20
Baby experiences 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 | Tuesdays | 11 am | Ages 3 & 2
Drop in, limit 20
Ones and twos develop social, emotional, and language skills through movement, stories, songs, and rhymes.

Preschool Pals
Mondays and Thursdays | 11 am | Ages 3–5 | Drop in, limit 20
Preschoolers build vocabulary, language development, and listening comprehension with stories, rhymes, songs, movement, and creative expression.

All About Colors
Mon, Dec 16 | 11 am
Ages 2–5 | Drop in, limit 20
Join us for a mini-storytime followed by playtime with color-themed activities.

Pick Up STEAM
Tue, Dec 17 | 10 am | Thu, Feb 27 | 10 am
Arctic Animals | Dinosaurs
Ages 3–6 | Drop in, limit 25
Pick up STEAM is a preschool friendly science, math, and learning series. There will be experiments, fun, crafts, and math all centered on each theme.

Family Place Free Play
Thu, Dec 19; Tue, Feb 20;
Thu, Feb 25 | 10 am | Parents/ care givers with children ages 0–5
Stretch out and enjoy a time of open play with our family place toys in our large meeting room—a great chance to meet new friends.

GOT A LOCAL NEWS STORY YOU THINK OTHERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT? LET US KNOW VIA ORIONTOWNSHIPTWITTER.COM OR ORIONTOWNSHIPPUBLICLIBRARY.COM.

Over in the Ocean
Mon, Feb 24 | 11 am | Ages 2–5
Drop in, limit 20
Join us for a mini-storytime followed by playtime with ocean-themed activities.

Lions Club Vision Screenings
The Lake Orion Lions Club par with the Orion Library to offer FREE vision screenings to children over 5 months old.
The test is quick and painless. If caught early, 95% of vision issues can be corrected.

Lions Day 10–12
Lions District 10–A2

Siblings are welcome/period.lnum

Bounce and Boogie
Sat, Dec 7, Jan 11, Feb 8
10 am | Ages 0–5 | Drop in
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!

Sleepy Storytime
Mon, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10
6:30 pm | All ages | Drop in, limit 20
Bring your jammies, blanket, and favorite stuffed animal for evening storytime fun. Like our morning storytimes, but at night!

SENSEsational Storytime
Fr, Dec 20, Jan 17, Feb 21
12 pm | All ages | Drop in, limit 20
An inclusive storytime with a focus on stories, songs, rhymes, group activities, sensory exploration, and crafts appropriate for children with special needs.

Lions Club Vision Screenings
Thu, Dec 12

Orion Living | Winter 2020
Winter 2020 | Orion Living
**SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS**

**Doggone Readers**  
Wednesdays, Dec 4, 11, Jan 8, 29, 2 pm  
Grades K-5  
Register online  
Practise your reading skills with our lovable dogs, and receive a stamp for each time you read. Receive a free book of your choice after you have earned four stamps.

**Fly Guy Book Party**  
Fri, Jan 3  
 Grades K-5  
Drop in  
Who’s the guy? Fly Guy! We will read, craft, and play games all centered around our favorite guy.

**5th Grade Battle of the Books**  
There is still time to form a team for Battle of the Books!  
Online registrations for individual participants accepted until Mon, Jan 6. Team confirmations due by Mon, Jan 13. Visit orionlibrary.org/youth/battle-of-the-books for more information.

**Lego® @ the Library**  
Saturday, Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1  
2 pm  
Grades K-5  
Drop in, limit 25  
Calling all builders! A fun and creative time to use your imagination and our colorful bricks to make an amazing object!

**Orion Gladiators**  
Fri, Dec 27  
2 pm  
Grades 3-8  
Register online, limit 30  
THIS IS ORION! Are you the fiercest gladiator? Compete in a series of physical challenges to test your prowess against other champions. Prizes will be awarded to the top competitors.

**Fun with Puppets**  
Sat, Dec 28  
11 am  
Grades K-5  
Drop in, limit 30  
Spend a fun morning puppeteering!  
Stadium Drive Elementary’s former theatre teacher, Megan Firis, will be visiting the library to share her puppet collection and activities. Learn how to make your puppet look alive through performance, create your own puppets to take home, and learn how to put together a puppet story to create a puppet show.

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Fri, Jan 3  
2 pm  
Grades K-5  
Drop in  
Who’s the guy? Fly Guy! We will read, craft, and play games all centered around our favorite guy.

**Amulet Party**  
Wed, Jan 15  
4:30 pm  
Grades 3-8  
Drop in  
Celebrate Kazu Kibuishi’s amazing graphic novel series with activities, crafts, games, and snacks!

**Kids Create**  
Tue, Jan 28  
4:30 pm  
Embroidery  
Thu, Feb 20  
4:30 pm  
Paper Quilling  
Grades 3-6  
Register online, limit 25  
Learn to DIY with various teacher-led craft classes. Take a fun creation home with you!

**Sloth and Llama Crafts**  
Mon, Feb 17  
11 am  
Grades K-5  
Drop in, limit 30  
Create fun sloth and llama crafts, and learn how to draw these cool animals.

**“Nailed It!” Kids Edition**  
Tue, Feb 18  
2 pm  
Grades K-5  
Register online, limit 30  
Our kid version of the popular kitchen competition show. Participants will compete in groups to create the best edible art. Grab some friends and sign up to compete to see which team “Nailed It!”

**Eagle Scout donates project to the Library**  
On October 7th, 2019, David Kaufman presented his Eagle Scout project to the Orion Township Public Library. David is part of Troop 186, out of St. Joseph’s in Lake Orion, under the leadership of Scout Master Steve Anderson. His project included ten beautiful and unique puzzles, plus a wooden shelving unit to store them. His project will be such a welcome addition to not only our Youth Department, but to our adults with special needs volunteers and visitors. Thank you, David!

**Resolve to get involved!**

The new year presents an opportunity to reflect on what’s important to you and take stock of your life. This year when you’re setting down your resolutions, why not resolve to get involved?!  
1. Share your talents. Use your skills and interests... or even learn something new!  
2. Make a difference. Charitable organizations meet needs in the community and your support is in high demand!  
3. Make new friends. Volunteering and getting involved is a great way to connect with others and make new friends.  
4. Get involved with the Friends. The Friends of the Orion Township Library have opportunities for you to get involved:
   - Become a Friends member.
   - Volunteer at a book sale.
   - Help with the holiday silent auction.
   - Get involved with the Friends board.
   - Serve on a committee (fund-raising, marketing/PR, book sale, membership).
   - Donate a book.
   - Make a monetary contribution.

For more information, contact the Friends via e-mail at friends@orionlibrary.org or check us out online at orionlibrary.org/friends. We wish for you and those you love the happiest of holidays and blessings in the new year!

**FRIENDS OF THE ORION TOWNSHIP LIBRARY**

248-693-3000 x770  friends@orionlibrary.org  orionlibrary.org/friends

Follow us! Friends of Orion Township Library

**Friends Winter Book Sale**  
Tue, Jan 21  
10 AM-4 PM  
Friends of the Library  
Member Day & Teacher Day  
(Membership will be available for purchase at the door)  
4:30-8:30 PM  
Open to the Public

**Wed, Jan 22 & Thu, Jan 23**  
10 AM-8:30 PM  
Open to the Public

**Fri, Jan 24**  
10 AM-4:30 PM  
Open to the Public

**Sat, Jan 25**  
9:30 AM-1 PM  
Open to the Public  
$5 bag sale  
(All a bag supplied by the Friends for $5)

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**SUN BOOK SALE**  
May 5-9

**FALL BOOK SALE**  
Sept 15-19

**Amazon Smile & Kroger Rewards**

Support the Friends with your shopping by designating the Friends of the Orion Township Library as your charity of choice with your Amazon Smile Kroger Rewards accounts.

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**Sign up for Library Programs at orionlibrary.org/calendar or call 248-693-3000**
“Are you coming for science today?” they ask. Over and over all through the halls. “Are you coming for science today?” they ask. Over and over all through the halls.

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Making the leap to adding a large group would be a major investment of time and resources. “Realizing that the experiences elementary children were going to have were significantly different than they’d had in the past,” Kimber said.

“We needed more,” Mercer said. “The elementary teachers needed more support and our students needed more science.”

The first thoughts are always ambitious. Imagine a fleet of coaches, available to help students and support teachers for whatever is necessary.

LOCS hired three elementary STEM coaches, assigned to two schools each.

“The goal would be for those teachers to work directly with the elementary school teachers,” Mercer said. “It’s job-embedded professional development.”

That idea was part of the evolution. LOCS’ existing coaching model centered around coaches training teachers during professional development and having them take it back to their own classrooms. Under this expanded plan, the elementary STEM coach would aid the planning, then be in the room with students, assisting in the lesson with the classroom teacher.

This also made a huge difference from the top down as the new standards asked for K-12 coherence, creating building blocks through the grades.

The administration sketched out the STEM coach role, received Board of Education approval, reinforcing the Teaching and Learning philosophy: Resources are put at the classroom level.

The ideal candidates

It was the great unknown, finding an ideal coach for an undefined position. Let alone three of them.

While there was a sketch, Mercer and her team simply shared the job description and hoped for enthusiastic applicants. Given that a small minority of the more than 120 current elementary teachers had a certification in science, the pool was limited to start and the administration didn’t seek outside or out-of-district candidates.

Fortunately, some of the district’s most passionate teachers embraced the opportunity.

Andrea Brook, a longtime high school science teacher, brought the background of lab time, a focus on biology and chemistry, and a sense of where students would end up through the curriculum.

Amy Bohn was 15 years into working as a third and fourth-grade classroom teacher at Orion Oaks Elementary. And Pam Moreman’s diverse resume, with 11 years as a fifth-grade teacher and also middle school experience in another district, allowed her to visualize the growth.

“I heard about it and there wasn’t even a hesitation—I want that job,” Moreman said. “I love teaching science, I liked the idea (of) being a leader and that was the next step in my career…It just sounded fun.”

Bohn noticed the challenge of implementing the new curriculum when the Phenomenal Science program was piloted and thought “I can make a difference helping people with that.”

Current elementary teachers were a logical fit.

But for Brook, coming from the high school down to elementary, it was a different perspective. She had a different asset as her summers already were spent training science teachers through Oakland Schools.

“We didn’t have any preconceived ideas that they would be elementary or any makeup of any sort,” Mercer said. “However, when we had a high school teacher apply, it was the content specifically with the chemistry, the biology, that we felt could be a real asset to the team.”

Adding three female coaches in the STEM area, which is historically perceived as a male-populated field, was an unintentional reminder that teachers are teachers, regardless of stereotypes.

“I hadn’t (thought about it), but I’m glad that we’re all in this role,” Bohn said. “Especially with the kindergarten this year and thinking about what a scientist is, and what a scientist looks like, you already see those preconceived notions of a man, with crazy hair and a white lab coat…This is their initial thinking.

“But that’s already shifting because they’re starting to see themselves as a scientist.”

Day to day

The big picture challenge is finding a way to get the important information to all the students and teachers who need it.

The numbers get a little overwhelming: Three STEM coaches, six elementary schools, over 120 elementary teachers, 180 school days and 3,000 students.

So Mercer’s team developed a plan. Year One in 2018-19 focused on the greatest impact area: Grades 3 to 5.

Each coach was responsible for two schools. To attempt continuity, they would spend about six weeks at their first stop and work through the lessons, then move to the next building for the next six weeks along the same path, then...
COACHES ARE ON SITE AND BASED IN THE FORUM WITH THEIR ASSESSMENTS.

The STEM program's third-grade team needs assistance, and I'm having trouble setting up this coaching system. Because we're doing this lesson today, you and I will work together.

"When you're leaving a planning meeting, a fourth-grade teacher grabs you and says, 'Do you have five minutes? We need to talk about this.'" Brook said. "In the past, we had to call each other to get help, but now we just call a coach. That's our primary job."

Brook said the job extends beyond the classroom day. Sometimes, the job extends beyond the day's lesson.

"Sometimes, the job extends beyond the day's lesson," Brook said. "We have a planning meeting, a fourth-grade teacher grabs you and says, 'Do you have five minutes? We need to talk about this.'"

The STEM coaches are on site and based in the forum with their assessments. The STEM coaches fit that bill. The STEM coaches are on site and based in the forum with their assessments. The STEM coaches fit that bill.

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Knowing where to go and how to do it makes them rock stars in each classroom. With great power comes great responsibility.

"They're fast days," Bohm said. "Very fast.

Looking ahead

With STEM as the national trend in education, LOCS has embraced the opportunity to participate in this trend. LOCS has added the STEM coaches at the elementary level for multiple reasons.

Looking at the certificates of diste consultation, elementary teachers, few had a focus in science, so boosting those skills with all staff members was a priority. At the middle school and high school levels, another area of benefit is the STEM coaches are helping design the future.

The next step in the master plan? Facilities.

As the coaches integrate into the elementary school's curriculum and daily workflow, the next step is providing students an appropriate place to conduct their science.

LOCS passed a $160 million bond in November 2018 with much of the focus on facility upgrades. Each elementary school—Carpenter, Orion Oaks and Webster—in the current first three-year series, Blanchen Sims, Stadium Drive and Paint Creek in a later series—will convert a large space into a flexible STEM area.

With storage, additional power, water and lighting adjustments, this space is a location for the STEM coaches to run experiments and lessons not suited for a traditional classroom. Coaches' input to the design phase is a critical component for the architects.

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For a list of Winter class offerings, see our Enrichment Catalog, mailed to residents December 1. Copies are available at the CERC and class registration and registration is available online at digitalsignup.com/locons.

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What teachers say...

LOCS classroom teachers have already experienced the significant impact of the STEM coaches in just 1/2 years of the program. Here are a few of their thoughts:

"Just like any coach, strong relationships of trust are built where educators can learn and grow from constructive post-teaching feedback."

-- Norman Wright, fifth grade, Orion Oaks Elementary

"It was an unforgettable moment the first time the students at Orion Oaks met Andrea Brooks. She sashayed into the gymnasium donning her white lab coat and an enormous smile. When handed the microphone, she announced that she was here from the high school to help students and teachers with science. The crowd of students erupted in cheers and applause.

Mrs. Brook, Science-Teacher-From-The-High-School, might as well have been Supergirl from Krypton.

--- Andrea Morel, fifth grade, Orion Oaks Elementary

"I had the privilege of having our coach model a few lessons, help me dig deeper into certain lessons, and help to guide engaging group discussions. Having a coach to help me ask the right kind of questions to encourage my students to think more deeply was a wonderful thing to see and be a part of."

--- Sarah Dahlrodizi, third grade, Stadium Drive Elementary

"I have appreciated them sharing their knowledge, time, and ideas with me. When we plan lessons together, they guide and direct us but also let us make the lesson our own, adding our own unique teaching styles."

--- Dawn Marmen, third grade, Carpenter Elementary

"I loved the time we have been able to work with our STEM coach so far this year! When she visits my room during science time, it is great to have a second set of hands during lessons that have lots of materials and supplies. She co-teaches with me when she visits and the kids are building a great relationship with her as well."

--- Jaime Lovel, first grade, Blanchen Sims Elementary

"I’ve been invaluable with her support, bringing additional resources to aid student understanding, providing quick formative assessments for teachers to use, and being an extra set of hands throughout investigations. She has been a questioning board for all teachers. Additionally, she helps unpack the lessons and units for teachers to further understand the outcomes."

--- Kiley Kast, fifth grade, Blanchen Sims Elementary

"Being able to co-teach with a STEM coach has completely changed the way science is taught in my classroom. The students take more ownership than ever over their learning. Because there are often two teachers in the room, students are able to design experiments, test theories, and come to conclusions based on observations."

--- Alisa Oriolski, fifth grade, Carpenter Elementary

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"I loved the time we have been able to work with our STEM coach so far this year! When she visits my room during science time, it is great to have a second set of hands during lessons that have lots of materials and supplies. She co-teaches with me when she visits and the kids are building a great relationship with her as well."

--- Jaime Lovel, first grade, Blanchen Sims Elementary

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The next issue of Orion Living will hit resident mailboxes the week of March 1. Reach 20,000 Orion residents to promote your products or services. Space Reservation Deadline: Monday, January 20.

Contact Jenny Bhatti at the Charter Township of Orion for rates and art specifications. 248-391-0304 X1003 OR JBHATTI@ORIONTOWNSHIP.ORG

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Do you have a great shot of an LOHS football game or the throngs of fans in the stands? Your child at the Big Rig Gig or Halloween Parade? Your family bike riding down one of our scenic trails? A day on the water? Ice fishing on the lake? We have seen your great shots on social media so we invite you to share them with us.

We are assembling a gallery of great shots that we can use in upcoming issues.

We are looking for high resolution photos (300dpi) of a few people or a beautiful landscape that are well-composed, vibrant and interesting.

Thank you for helping us make Orion Living a useful magazine that beautifully depicts life in our community!

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT JENNY BHATTI AT THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ORION 248-391-0304 X1003 OR JBHATTI@ORIONTOWNSHIP.ORG

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