An ice time
for winter fun

What's Inside

Stay safe this holiday season
In-person and virtual events at the Orion Township Library and Parks & Recreation
Orion businesses band resources to thrive in difficult times
Creative strategies for virtual learning

Your quarterly guide to life in Orion

photo by Nancy Harris Bennett
Useful Numbers

EMERGENCIES
911

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

LAKE ORION POLICE DEPARTMENT (VILLAGE)
248-693-4911

ORION TOWNSHIP (INCLUDING FIRE DEPARTMENT)
248-381-0304

WATER OR SEWER EMERGENCIES AFTER-HOURS
248-693-3000

LAKE ORION POST OFFICE
248-693-3377

ONTV
248-693-3377

COVER: A group of Lake Orion teens find a pickup game of pond hockey on the lake is a great way to burn off energy and have some fun.

Background photo by Deborah Joan Clark Bloomgren
Looking ahead to what’s in store for 2021

What a crazy and interesting year 2020 has been. We have all dealt with things that we never even imagined would be possible in our lifetime. If anything, life has taught us that it’s not about sitting out when things get tough, it’s about moving forward no matter what and learning from it.

With each bit of adversity we’ve faced, we became stronger, smarter, and more prepared for what’s to come. No one knows what 2021 has in store for us. No one knows what the “new normal” will look like. There are no clear answers, but there is hope. Renewed hope, new opportunities, new adventures, and a fresh outlook on the year ahead.

As we are looking to the new year, I want you to take a moment with me and welcome the new Board of Trustees: Brian Birney, Julia Dalrymple, Mike Flood and Kim Urbanowski. I am looking forward to seeing all of the amazing things we can accomplish together in the new year.

As we ring in 2021, I hope your New Year starts off bright, and continues to shine throughout the year. Wishes for you of peace and contentment that do not cease. Happy New year to all of you!

Chris Barnett
Orion Township Supervisor

Photo by Lee Smith
What’s going there?

New residential, retail developments and school enhancements are signs of a thriving community

**Tommy’s Express Car Wash, Brown Road**

This approved development is located between Bank of America and Lake Orion Roofing on Brown Road. Tommy’s Express’ mission is to be the absolute best car wash brand in the world, with the best wash quality, the best value, and the best car wash experience available anywhere. This 5,157 square foot state-of-the-art, single lane car wash is currently under construction.

**Silver Spruce Plaza, Silverbell and Lapeer Road**

Located at the northeast corner of Silverbell Road and Lapeer Road, this redevelopment site includes the demolition of the existing gas station and building of a 7,870 square foot state-of-the-art gas station/convenience store with a drive-thru. Also contained on the site is a new 13,500 square foot retail building. It is currently under construction.

**Breckenridge Townhomes, Brown Road**

Located next to Menards and Aldi on approximately 19 acres in the Township’s Corridor Improvement Authority, is Breckenridge Townhomes. Currently under construction, Breckenridge is a multi-family condominium community, with 112, three-bedroom ‘for-sale’ units, in 20 buildings. Through the sale of 313 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, which is located at the corner of Baldwin and Jordan Roads.

**The Laurels of Lake Orion Assisted Living, Clarkston Road**

The Laurels is on Clarkston Road across from Friendship Park. This single-story housing community includes 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.

What is the Planning Commission?

The purpose of the Planning Commission (PC) is to guide the efficient, coordinated development of the Township in a manner which will best promote the health, safety, and general welfare of its citizens. The Commission consists of seven members representing different segments of the community. Some of their duties include reviewing site plans, planned unit developments, formulate the zoning ordinance, containing land development regulations and establishing land development districts within the Township, the Township Master Plan, and much more. The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7 pm in the Board Room at the Orion Center.
LAKE ORION SCHOOLS

New Early Childhood Center, Joslyn and Clarkston Road
Currently under construction, this approximately 50,000 square foot facility, located next to Orion Oaks Elementary, will be home to the New Early Childhood Center. This project includes a 24-foot wide driveway, new approach on Clarkston Road, parking lot, drop-off lane, and play area.

Webber Elementary School, Clarkston Road
This project features a 26,000 square foot building addition, including the demolition and removal of approximately 16,000 square feet. A new parking lot and drop-off area will be added in the location of the removed portion. The existing playground was removed during the summer and a new, roughly 16,500 square foot, playground area has been built adjacent to the new addition.

Carpenter Elementary School, Flintridge and Joslyn Road
The project includes the site work of a new approach and drop-off drive for buses north of 3550 Joslyn Road, a re-aligned drive aisle and approach from Flintridge, and storm network improvements. The portion of this project off of Flintridge is complete.

Orion Oaks Elementary School, Joslyn Road
This is a two-phase development at the existing school. Phase one consists of a new approach off Joslyn on the north side of the site that extends to a new drop-off location and a larger parking lot. The parking lot south of the building will also be enlarged to provide more parking. Other site improvements consist of water main and storm sewer extension. Phase two consists of the New Early Childhood Center, additional drives, parking lot and utilities.

Want to stay in the know about the latest developments happening in Orion Township? Visit oriontownship.org/currentdevelopments for the details on each project.

Learn more at ORIONTOWNSHIP.ORG or call 248–391–0304
Protect your family from the latest scams

Across the country fraud, embezzlement, and identity theft crimes are on the rise and many people are losing their hard-earned money to scams thru lies and deceit. Some of our residents have been approached in person, over the telephone, through text messages, and on-line. In all instances, victims are deceived by individuals using a variety of “scams” to gain access to your homes, credit cards, or other personal information. Having this information allows them to access existing accounts or create new ones such as credit cards, tax returns, or applications for cable or cell phone accounts.

In the most successful scams, we often find that the solicitor has some very basic information such as your name and is able to make a personal connection, which enables them to gain your trust. A scammers goal is to gain your trust AND create an urgent matter or a good-deal you can NOT pass up!

To prevent “fraud or scams” you can’t just focus on one particular crime or the latest scam, as they change every single day. Instead, create a mind-set or a set of “house rules” that focuses on the types of “deceptions” most often used.

A voice on the phone, an unsolicited e-mail, or an unknown person at your door is simply not a trust-worthy source, until you can fully verify the information they provide.

Be on the lookout

The following are some examples and warning signs to look out for:

- Scammers often tell would-be victims that they owe money and that they must pay what they owe immediately or face jail time. Agencies never request immediate payment over the telephone.
- You may be told you are entitled to a large refund and need to provide account details so the money can be deposited into your account.
- Scammers use fake names, badge numbers, and titles to identify themselves.
- Scammers will threaten to turn off your utilities unless you cooperate and send the requested money. Agencies never ask for credit, debit or prepaid card information over the phone, email or text.

Good rules of thumb

Follow these basic rules to avoid becoming a victim yourself:

Rule 1: Avoid doing business with solicitors over the phone, in-person, or on-line and politely end the conversation. Your phone, your computer, your house, your rules!

Rule 2: Never provide ANY information over the phone, in person or online.

Rule 3: Never, ever commit to making a “transaction” regardless of what is said.

Rule 4: Always check and verify solicitor’s claims or stories through your

Learn more at ORIONTOWNSHIP.ORG or call 248-391-0304
Fall Housing Outlook: Lake Orion School District

Demand and low mortgage rates keep housing market afloat

When real estate was deemed essential in early May, many did not know what to expect and/or how the market would respond. Fast forward to July, and the market’s resilience to weather the pandemic’s storm was intriguing. Home values in Lake Orion continued their upward trajectory and rose 13 percent from May to June—demonstrating how the area’s real estate market fared relatively well despite broader economic turmoil.

The average home sales price in the Lake Orion school district continued to climb in July and August and rose 5.3 percent. On average, homes within the area remained higher than Oakland County overall, with the average sales price at approximately $361,582. New listings, a key indicator of the market’s supply, also rose over the summer, as home sellers took advantage of increased sales prices.

Although the median days on market (19 days total) slightly increased in Lake Orion, it is anticipated that we will begin to see longer days on the market as we move into the fall/winter season.

Our spring was delayed and kept the flurry of the spring rush going through August; however, with school back in session (and the challenges of remote learning factoring in), making the decision to move and even the ability to show a home (most likely cannot show during school hours if the home is occupied with school-age children) will slow down the process.

But as 2020 has shown us, the expected can very easily be turned upside down by the unexpected. The combination of pent up demand and low mortgage rates continue to keep the housing market afloat and thriving.

Tracy Woodrum, Real Estate Agent, Dobi Realty

Rule 5: Contact your bank or financial institutions and set up transaction alert notifications and other account restrictions which will avoid and detect fraud or scams.

Take action

What to do if you suspect you are a victim of Fraud, ID Theft or a Scam:

1. File a police report immediately! This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation. We will provide you with a victim assistance packet that includes all of the necessary information to complete a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) report and affidavit.

2. Cancel your credit cards immediately! The key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those in a safe place and where you can find them.

3. Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

4. Immediately order and review your credit report and look for ANY activity or information you are not aware of.

You’re entitled to one free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. Order online from annualcreditreport.com, the only authorized website for free credit reports, or call 1–877–322–8228. You will need to provide your name, address, social security number, and date of birth to verify your identity.
Positivity brightens the holiday season

It’s been so easy to focus on things we couldn’t do this year, but many aspects of the holidays can still happen just as they always have. You can make your great-grandmother’s sweet potato casserole for Thanksgiving or build gingerbread houses. You can dust off the menorah and unwrap all of your beloved Christmas ornaments. Another favorite is to drive around town and look at everyone’s holiday decorations, and of course enjoy a cup of hot cocoa! Staying positive and getting excited about all of the things you can still do will help spark more of that holiday magic.

This year more people may be staying at home to celebrate New Year’s Eve, and there are plenty of things you can do to make the night memorable. Here are nine fun ideas to help you celebrate creatively:

Cook something together. Make dinner together, or a snack or treat for later that evening. If you want to be daring, try a new food or recipe.

Star gaze. Bundle up and head outside for a little star gazing. See which constellations you can identify, then head back inside for a cup of hot cocoa!

Have a snowball fight. Either head outside and brave the cold, or use balled up socks for an indoor version (make sure you’re not near anything breakable).

Reminisce about 2020. Take turns answering these:
• 1 thing I did this year I’m proud of
• 1 hard lesson I learned
• 3 things I’m grateful for
• 2 favorite memories

Set goals for 2021. Take turns answering these:
• 3 places I want to go
• 2 ways I can help others
• 1 thing I want to get better at
• 2 things I am looking forward to
• 3 new things I want to try

Have a dance party. Set up some colorful lights, crank up the volume on your favorite songs, and just let loose.

Create countdown bags. Make small bags filled with goodies and have someone open one at each hour mark. Fill your bag with treats, a movie, glow sticks, craft kits, a game...get creative with things that your family enjoys.

Enjoy the classics. Technology is at our fingertips, all day long, this year remember the past by breaking out some traditional board games such as Monopoly, Clue, Sorry, and other classics.

Partake in some traditions from around the world:
• Eat 12 grapes at midnight, one at each bell strike, for the year’s prosperity (Spanish tradition)
• At exactly midnight, step forward with your right foot to start the year off...right (Argentina tradition)
• Stand on a chair and jump down from it as the clock strikes midnight (Denmark tradition)
• Sprinkle salt on your doorstep as soon as the clock strikes midnight. It’s considered good luck and is said to promote both peace and prosperity throughout the new year (Turkish tradition)
• Hang an onion on your front door, this is a symbol of rebirth and regrowth (Greek tradition)

Enjoy this holiday season, no matter how you spend it, slow down and remember to acknowledge all of the things and people in your life that make you feel grateful.

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Grandma’s Sweet Potato Casserole

**INGREDIENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract</th>
<th>½ cup all-purpose flour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 cups cooked sweet potatoes (about 5–6 medium sized)</td>
<td>2 cups chopped pecans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cup granulated sugar</td>
<td>½ stick of butter, softened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 stick of butter, softened</td>
<td>¼ cup mini marshmallows (optional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Scrub the sweet potatoes until clean. Place on a baking sheet. Use a fork to poke the potatoes, all over, and bake until tender, about 45 minutes. Cool. Tip: wrapped tightly and stored in the refrigerator, this can be made up to 3 days in advance.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Peel and mash the sweet potatoes. Stir in the granulated sugar, butter, vanilla, milk, and eggs. Mix well. Pour the mixture into a 9x13 casserole dish.

For the topping: mix brown sugar, flour, nuts, and butter together. Spread evenly over the sweet potato mixture.

Bake for 30 minutes until topping has browned. If using marshmallows, add them for the final 10 minutes of baking. Remove from oven and serve.
De-stress the moving process

Moving is listed as one of the top stressors that a person can experience in a lifetime. We become attached to our home and all of the memories that occurred there, our place becomes part of us. The disruption to this attachment can be stressful. Of course, there are also other factors at play such as a time pressure, big decisions, finding a new place, and financial impacts to name a few.

Instead of focusing on the stressful things, there are also many wonderful things that can come with moving: stimulation, excitement, joy, adventure and new opportunity. There are a few things you can do to help make this transition easier:

- Create a moving checklist and realistic budget.
- Declutter and donate items you haven’t used in a while. Decluttering can be done weeks or even months before you move.
- Start early. Don’t wait to the last minute to pack, clean, and move. Packing can be done over a few days or weeks, leave only the essential items until the last minute.
- Accept help. It’s ok to enlist the help of family and friends when it comes to packing, moving heavier things, or even just bringing some food over on your busy moving day.

In addition to the actual move, here are a few other reminders that are just as important:

- Update your address for all of your accounts, utilities, and subscriptions several weeks before moving day.
- If you have a Township water and/or sewer account, you will need to schedule your final read of your meter.
- Contact the Township’s waste hauler, GFL at 844-464-3587 to make sure you are up to date on your garbage bill. If you have paid in advance, your title company will want to do a proration at closing, just like they do for your property taxes.
- If the home you are selling was your principal residence, you will also want to make sure at closing to fill out and turn in a “Request to Rescind Principal Residence Exemption” form.
- If you are buying a new home in the township, you will need to turn in the “Property Transfer Affidavit” along with the “Principal Residence Exemption” form if it applies.

Remember, life can be stressful, and moving is no exception. Even the most organized person will experience a few hiccups along the way. Accept the experience for what it is, and make sure to take care of yourself during the process – start small, take breaks, and get enough sleep each night. When it’s all over, consider treating yourself to a favorite de-stressor, like a massage, a movie, ice cream, or an evening out. Whatever it is, you’ll have certainly earned it.

Heartfelt appreciation from our first responders

The Orion Township Fire Department would like to express our sincere appreciation to the community for your continued support. The recently passed millage allows the department to begin establishing Advanced Life Support (ALS) services as well as fund our operations, maintenance, and equipment for the next six years.

Your support means we can continue providing the highest level of service possible for both your family and area businesses. We are proud to serve Orion Township, and never forget: we are always here for you.

The Oakland County Sheriff’s Office Orion Substation would like to thank you for your continued support and trust over the years. The passing of this millage will allow us to keep Orion one of the safest communities in the country. We are truly thankful, day in and day out, for the support we receive from members of the community. We are honored to be part of such an amazing town.
WHAT IS A HAWK SIGNAL?

Adult red-tailed hawks make a distinctive, hoarse screech, often described as a scream, but that’s not the HAWK we are referring to today. A HAWK (High-Intensity Activated CrossWalk) signal is a device used to assist people with safely crossing busy streets.

HAWKs work the same as other button-activated signals, which direct the person walking or biking to wait for the signal to change and traffic to stop allowing them to cross safely.

For a driver, the HAWK signal appears differently than a traditional traffic light. When not in use, HAWKS remain dark. Once activated, it will then go through a series of yellow and red sequences requiring motorists to slow down and stop. After the people walking and biking cross, the HAWK signal will go dark again, allowing motorists to continue through the roundabout/intersection.

As the Baldwin corridor gets used more frequently, expect to see the HAWK signals also used more often. You will see these signals at each of the new roundabouts on Baldwin Road.

A roundabout refresher

**Step 1:** Slow down as you approach the roundabout.

**Step 2:** Use the signs and lane designation markers to choose the appropriate lane for your intended destination.

**Step 3:** Look for pedestrians and bicyclists as you approach the crosswalk. Yield to those intending to cross.

**Step 4:** Slow down and yield at the roundabout. Look to the left to see if other vehicles are traveling within the roundabout.

**Step 5:** Once there is an adequate gap in traffic, enter the roundabout. Do not stop or change lanes once in the roundabout.

**Step 6:** As you approach your intended destination, signal your intent to exit. Look for pedestrians and bicyclists before you exit.
Deck your halls safely

A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large quickly.

Make sure your holidays stay merry and bright with these basic safety guidelines from the National Fire Protection Association.

• Pick a tree with fresh green needles that do not fall off when touched.
• Before placing your tree in the stand, cut two inches from the base of the trunk.
• Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
• Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
• Add water to the tree stand daily.
• Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
• Replace strings of lights with broken cords or loose bulb connections.
• Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
• Always turn off the Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

• Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage or placed against the home.

Christmas tree disposal

For years Oakland County Parks has offered drop off Christmas tree recycling at their many locations. But this year due to low staffing levels they will not be able to offer this service. There is another option. Per our contract with GFL, they will pick up your trees during the week of Christmas and the following three weeks. All decorations, ropes, lights, metal, plastic, hangers, wire, and tinsel must be removed prior to tree disposal.

Winter tax bills

Due to the weekend and holiday, the last day to pay your winter tax bill without penalty will be Tuesday, February 16th, 2021. Beginning the 17th, a penalty of 3% will be added to any unpaid summer or winter bill. The last day payments can be made at the Treasurer’s Office is Monday, March 1, 2021, after that all unpaid balances will be turned over to the Oakland County Treasurer’s Office.

If a water or sewer emergency occurs:

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

Are you passionate about the Orion community and want to get involved? If so, visit our website to view the current Boards, Commissions, and Committee vacancies.

Learn more at ORIONTOWNSHIP.ORG or call 248–391–0304
Let’s have a fireside chat

Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires. Be warm and safe this winter with these tips from the National Fire Protection Association.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot “kid-free-zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to local codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported in December, January and February.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

FREEZE

More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.

The top 3 days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year’s Day and New Year’s Eve.

Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous. On average, 1 of every 52 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.

A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes 1 in every 4 winter fires.

Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.

Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

Read manufacturer’s instructions for the number of light strands to connect.

Put a FREEZE on Winter Holiday Fires

Holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit usfa.fema.gov/winter and nfpa.org/winter.
Are you up for a community challenge?
Stay tuned for details about a fun Township activity called The 12 Weeks of Snowcation!

Do the winter blues have you down? Well, turn that frown upside down and join in on 12 weeks of snowcation fun. Beginning in mid-December, the Township and Parks & Recreation will release a new challenge or activity each week for residents to participate in.

Some of the challenges may involve community voting, some may involve prizes, and some are just for good old fun. Join us for one or all 12—it’s up to you how many you do. These activities will be done outside or at your own home, at your own pace.

Community fun
What kind of entertainment have we cooked up for Orion residents of all ages?
Some of the activities include:

- Build your own duct tape sled (aim for style and function, you never know if you’ll need it for a race)
- Snow creature building contest
- Christmas light contest
- Travel the loop (The Clarkston/Baldwin/Waldon/Joslyn loop will be plowed again this winter)
- Agawam adventure
- Ice skating
- Treasure hunt
- Snow Dash 5k

The activity for the week and all of the details will be announced each Monday on our Facebook pages. Make sure to like and follow our pages so you don’t miss out, @oriontownship and @orionparksrec.

Park it outdoors!
Winter is a great time to get out and visit all of the parks and trails that Orion Township has to offer. From the sledding hill at Jesse Decker to the Paint Creek and Polly Ann Trails, there is something for everyone, even for man’s best friend.

Did you know that Orion Oaks Dog Park is ranked the #1 dog park in Oakland County on Yelp! This park offers a 24-acre fenced enclosure with a separate area for small and large dogs, and it includes two trails, a picnic shelter, and more.

Entry into Township Parks is free, but an Oakland County Parks Pass is required to get into the County Parks (this includes the dog park). You can purchase a park pass online at oakgov.com/parks/shop/Pages/Park-Entry.aspx, at the Treasurer’s office at Township Hall, and at the Orion Center. This park pass (vehicle permit) will allow you to get into all of the County parks, including Orion Oaks, for the calendar year purchased.

Remember to make sure your dog license isn’t expired. You can purchase your 2021 Oakland County dog licenses at the Treasurer’s office. A valid rabies vaccination certificate is required to purchase a license. One and three year licenses are available.
Ready, set, action

When the COVID pandemic hit, downtown Lake Orion pooled its energy and resources to tackle the challenges head on.

Developing partnerships

ONTV became a key partner in allowing public entities to keep their meetings open to the public. Per the Open Meetings Act, public meetings were strictly virtual, with no in-person attendance permitted. ONTV broadcasted all meetings to the public so our local government could keep moving forward through the pandemic.

Thanks to the Sunrise Rotary, who researched and provided ultraviolet microwaves that sanitize PPE masks for the Lake Orion Police Department, Orion Fire Hall #1, and our local nursing homes. Keeping our first responders, front line workers, and our most at-risk community members safe is a top priority and was made possible by this wonderful organization.

Lake Orion’s first Cornhole League was born through the pandemic! The Sons Of American Legion started a cornhole league, which allowed people to get outside and exercise and safely social distance in the downtown area. Since the first season was a success, they’ve since added a second season to run through the fall to encourage activity in the downtown area and allow people the chance to get outside and play some bags!

Music brings everyone together—from a safe distance, of course! Lake Orion’s favorite downtown music venue, 20 Front Street, partnered with the DDA to help put on the Lake Orion Live! summer concerts in Children’s Park. The series featured live music every Wednesday night, DJ’ed music on Thursdays, and a nationally touring artist every first Friday of the month. Designated areas were painted on the grass of the park to help ensure proper social distancing measures were being taken, and face masks and sanitizers were made readily available for all concertgoers.

Pivoting to meet demand

Lucky’s Natural Foods adapted to being an essential store by actively searching out and providing products major stores could not keep in stock. They provided hand sanitizers, disinfectant wipes, face masks, toilet paper, and food items that were not easily found in stores.

Ed’s Broadway Gift & Costume and Broadway Embroidery produced personal protection masks. Many of these masks were donated to those who were immune-compromised, veterans, or elderly who were in need of protection. Both businesses offered custom masks for purchase.

Sarah’s Bath Boutique made tons of hand sanitizer to help keep the community sanitized and safe! She offers many different scents to help mask the strong alcohol smell.

When the State of Michigan entered the State of Emergency, our downtown businesses did everything in their power to keep their lights on. Whether it was pivoting to an eCommerce site, offering free delivery, or curbside pick-up, Lake Orion’s downtown businesses acted fast. Hanson’s Running Shop and Green Hippo Gifts offered local porch delivery on orders.

All shops offered curbside delivery so customers could still pick up items and supplies they needed.

Fork N’ Pint offered family meal specials in addition to their regular menu for curbside delivery. 313 Pizza Bar used humor to cheer up their customers. Curbside deliveries were brought to cars by T-Rex dinosaurs and Scooby Doo.

Mannie’s Bagel & Delicatessen offered through-the-week ordering for weekend brunch packages.

Sons of American Legion filled downtown with weekly cornhole games throughout the summer.
Creating unique ways to gather safely

Restricted to public gatherings of 100 or less people, putting on events became a big challenge.

The annual Dragon on the Lake event was canceled. But, the team at the Orion Art Center went back to their roots and replaced the usual festival with the Crafty Dragon. The event offered outdoor art lessons, art demonstrations, and small scale music and tasting events.

The Downtown Development Authority’s annual Flower Fair, held each year Mother’s Day weekend, was canceled due to the pandemic. But with the help of ONTV, DDA Events Coordinator NJani Payne created a successful virtual Flower Fair which she and Executive Director Molly LaLone hosted. Businesses were highlighted to show the services and products being offered through the ‘Stay Home’ order. Prizes were offered to participating viewers of the live show.

Downtown Lake Orion is home to over 600 open airs seats! To help increase traffic and patronage to the downtown area, the State of Michigan allowed for expanded outdoor patio liquor license. The Village allowed all businesses a free “lease” for the space in front of their storefronts to allow customers the ability to enjoy food and drinks without having to sit inside. The DDA purchased 20 picnic tables for parks and businesses to use, as well as metal crowd barriers to ensure a safe experience while using on-street areas for public seating areas.

The Village approved Social Districts in downtown, which allows for consumption of alcoholic beverages while in the designated common area. 313 Pizza, Sons of American Legion, Fork N’ Pint and Wine Social purchased permits in order to sell for the Social District. The DDA provided each dining area with hands-free digital menus, sanitizing kits, and lights in public areas around town. These locations include the Flint St. Alleyway, Fork N’ Pint, 313 Pizza Bar, and between Wine Social and Children’s Park.

Patronicity Campaign brings needed relief to downtown businesses

Through a successful crowdfunding campaign of generous donors and Main Street Oakland County, the DDA was able to raise $10,486 and provide grants to nine downtown businesses.

Overall, $225,000 in grants were distributed in support of small businesses in downtown Lake Orion through programs offered by Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and Oakland County Economic Development. This campaign was part of Main Street Oakland County’s crowdfunding effort which raised over $225,000 for businesses and downtowns in Oakland County. Main Street Oakland County program matched $4,000 locally and in each community participating in the campaign.

Thank you to those who contributed to the heart and soul of Downtown Lake Orion, our businesses, and helping them continue to thrive!

Village uses whimsy and humor by creating “Barry the Construction Barrel Man” to remind those driving through M-24 construction that businesses are open.
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Pictures with the Grinch**
Friendship Park | Sat, Dec 12
10 am–1:30 pm | Ages 1-10
$6R/$8NR
Come out to Friendship Park, visit with the Grinch, write a letter to Santa, and get a take home craft! Children will register for a 15 minute time slot that will be capped at 10 children.

**DIY Birdseed Ornament**
Orion Center | Mon, Dec 7 | 5:30–7:30 pm | Ages 8+
$6R/$8NR
Drop in anytime between 5:30 and 7:30 pm at 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.

**Snow Dash 5K**
Orion Center | Sun, Dec 20 | 9 am | $12R/$17NR
Dashing through the snow down the Polly Ann Trail for our 4th Annual Snow Dash 5K. Certified loop course follows the beautiful and scenic PAT south to Civic Center Park. Finisher medals for all participants. Hats are available on a limited basis and only available with in person or call in registration, $8 each.

**Bunny Bop**
Orion Center | Sat, Mar 27
9:30–10:30 am | 11 am–12 pm
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! Egg hunt will be held indoors in the event of inclement weather. Don’t forget your camera! Walgreens will be on site to capture the moment, optional photo purchase available. Children in carriers and adults with registered participants are free.

**Flashlight Egg Hunt**
Camp Agawam
Fri, Mar 19 | 7:45–8:45 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, the event is held rain or shine. Pre-registration required, spaces are limited! Pizza and pop included.

**Mother’s Day Market Art & Craft Show**
Orion Center | Sat, May 1 | 9–5 pm
Looking for locally made, unique and one of a kind crafters and local artists to join us for the Mother’s Day Market at the Orion Center. Only locally handcrafted items will be considered, a limited number of vendors and products will be accepted. Contact jvezina@oriontownship.org for additional information.

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

**ONTV 11th Annual Fish Food Drive**
ONTV Studio | Feb 1–5
Join ONTV for a week-long telethon benefiting the Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry. Due to COVID-19 only gifts of cash and grocery gift cards are accepted. For more information call ONTV at 248-393-1060 or visit orionontv.org.
**Youth Enrichment**

**Frozen with the Ice Queen**
Orion Center | Sun, Feb 7 | 12-2 pm
Ages 2-7 | $30R/$32NR

Two sisters have traveled afar, to play and sing and celebrate who you are. Cookies and snowflakes await your day. Come out, dress up for some winter play!

**Kids Art Class**
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 25–Feb 22
6:30–8 pm | Ages 7+ | $50R/$52NR
Let’s get creative! Our young artists will be working with clay on a button scaled fish/lizard, painting with palette knives, and using experimental materials to incorporate with Manga ideas. Come join the fun! $15 material fee payable to the instructor on 1st day of class. No class Feb 15.

**TR Valentine’s Day Dance**
Orion Center | Thu, Feb 11 | 6–8 pm
Ages 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.

**Kids Learning to Draw**
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 21–Feb 22
6:30–8 pm | Ages 7+ | $50R/$52NR

Does your young artist love to draw? In these classes kids will receive gentle encouragement to explore the basic principles of drawing such as gradation of tone, proportion, texture, shapes and line. Subject matter will vary depending on students interest. At some point kiddos may need encouragement to try new techniques and get out of the comfort zone of repeating drawing styles, medium, and subject. Come marvel at their improvement! $15 material fee payable to the instructor on the 1st day of class. No class Feb 18.

**Clay Time**
Orion Center | Thu, Feb 25–Apr 1 | 6–7:30 pm | Ages 7+ | $73R/$75NR

It’s clay time! We have fun projects lined up for all of our creative kids to explore! Creations include sleeping animal plates, a beautiful triangle slap pot, coiled lambs, sgraffito etched pieces and texture bell hangings. All new and exciting! If your young artist loves to be creative and try novel things, this is the class for them! $20 material fee payable to the instructor on the 1st day of class.

**Home Alone Training**
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 25 | 6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 9+
$16R/$19NR

Is your young teen staying home alone after school? Prepare yourself and your child for this new adventure with Home Alone Training. Instructor Merry Lowis presents the skills your child will need to be home alone safely. 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. Hand-outs are included.

**Babysitter Training**
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 28 | 6–8:30 pm | Ages 11–14
$19R/$22NR

Instructor Merry Lowis presents the skills needed to start your own babysitting business—basics such as meeting the family, setting appointments, age appropriate activities and safety instruction. Handouts are included. 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.
Horseback Riding Lessons
Times Square Riding Academy | Sat, Jan 9–Feb 13
Feb 27–Apr 3 | 1:30–2:30 pm | Ages 7+ | $150R/$160NR
Each lesson consists of basic grooming, riding and horse care for beginner riders in the English Saddle style with Times Square Riding Academy, located at 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, Sat and Sun afternoons.

Private Piano Lessons
Virtual | Ages 3+ | 4 wks $100R/$104NR | 8 wks $190R/$198NR | 12 wks $270R/$282NR
Customize the piano lessons you or your child have always wanted with private instruction with Jacqui Bess. Whether you are a beginner or advanced, learning for fun or preparing for auditions, building on music theory or composing, these 30-minute virtual lessons provide the flexibility you are looking for. Take lessons from the comfort and safety of your own home with remote lessons that fit your schedule!

Sessions will be scheduled individually through the instructor beginning Jan 4. Piano or keyboard required. Lesson materials are individually determined and additional material fees may apply.

Wizard Games Workshop
Friendship Park Meeting Room
Sat, Jan 16 | 9 am–12 pm
Ages 6–11 | $32R/$37NR
Enter the world of wizards and witches in Snapology’s Harry Potter–inspired workshop. Students will attend Hogwarts classes where they will learn how real life connects to the magic world. This workshop will spark their imaginations and encourage critical thinking to devise a challenge for the Triwizard tournament by creating a solvable maze!

Incredible Inventions Robotics Workshop
Friendship Park Meeting Room
Sat, Feb 27 | 9 am–12 pm
Ages 7–14 | $38R/$43NR
Do you enjoy inventing new things? Learn about the process real inventors go through while you help design, build and program robotic models to solve problems using LEGO® bricks and robotics. Are you the next Thomas Edison? Learning is enhanced through use of laptops.

Junior STEAM Fantasy Workshop
Friendship Park Meeting Room
Sat, Feb 6 | 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Ages 4–6 | $35R/$40NR
In this workshop, students will be immersed in both robotics and STEAM activities with fantasy themes that not only engage their imaginations but their logic as they use critical thinking to create structures and shapes. Students must follow directions carefully to create the proper builds.

Pokemania Workshop
Friendship Park Meeting Room
Sat, Mar 20 | 9 am–12 pm
Ages 5–10 | $32R/$37NR
In Snapology’s Pokemania workshop, students will explore the fast-paced, fun world of the Pokémon® trainer and learn what it takes to help a Pokémon® grow. Through challenging builds and collaboration with their friends, students will revisit the unique relationship between monster and trainer and why it is so vital to the evolution of a Pokémon®.

Cookie Decorating with Alison Elle—Mommy & Me
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 10 | 7-8 pm
Ages 6-10 | $50R/$52NR
Friendship Park Meeting Room
Wed, Feb 3 | 5-6 pm | Ages 6-10 $50R/$52NR
In this workshop, students will be immersed in both robotics and STEAM activities with fantasy themes that not only engage their imaginations but their logic as they use critical thinking to create structures and shapes. Students must follow directions carefully to create the proper builds.

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ADULT ENRICHMENT

ONTV One on One Classes
ONTV Studio | Ages 13+ | $25
ONTV is offering one on one classes providing instruction on Podcasting, Editing with Adobe Premiere, Editing with Davinci Resolve, and Photoshop. Classes run 2–3 hours and will meet at the ONTV Studio, 1349 Joslyn Rd. Call 248–393–1060 to schedule an appointment at your convenience. Face coverings are required.

Community Garden Plots
Friendship Park | May–Oct | $25R/$30NR
Community gardens create awareness, sense of ownership, sustainable living principles, environmental stewardship and much more. Get your 4’ x 8’ Garden Plot at Friendship Park today! Registration will open to returning gardeners on February 1. Registration for unclaimed plots 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 into the Orion Center for more information. Wheelchair accessible plots are available. $5 discount per plot when reserving 2 or more plots.

Group Piano Lessons
Virtual | Thu, Jan 7–Feb 25 | 7–7:45 pm | Ages 18+
$175R/$180NR
Have you always wanted to play the piano, but never found the time? Did you play an instrument as a child, but you fear you have forgotten everything you learned? These 45-minute virtual group classes with Jacqui Bess will be a great chance to start from the basics in a fun group setting from the comfort—and safety—of your own home. Piano or keyboard required. $30 additional materials fee due to instructor. Private lessons available, call 248–391–0304 x3500 for more information.

Bee A Beekeeper
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 11
7–8 pm | Ages 16+
$5R/$7NR
Are you interested in learning to become a beekeeper? Winter is actually the time to get started. Grant Fodor, amateur beekeeper, will fill you in on what works, what doesn’t work, when to buy supplies and how to be successful at beekeeping.

Coffee With Chris
Orion Center | Fri, Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 26 | 9:30–10:30 am
Stop in the Orion Center for an informal meeting with Supervisor Barnett. Feel free to come with questions or join in on the discussion. Topics will include current events in the Township and other matters of interest. If you have a request that may take some research, submit it in advance to cbarnett@oriontownship.org or schedule an appointment. No registration is necessary.

Cookie Decorating with Alison Elle
Orion Center | Wed, Dec 9 | Thu, Feb 4 | 2-3 pm
Ages 40+ | $40R/$42NR
Learn the basics of decorating cookies with royal icing as you create 6 holiday themed designs to take home. All materials provided; cookies are made in a home kitchen not inspected by the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development. Allergen info: contains wheat, dairy, egg and possible trace amounts of tree nuts and peanuts.

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

TaikoFit Cardio Drumming
Virtual | Thu, Dec 10–Mar 25
6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 16+
$10R/$11NR per class
Japanese drumming uses big drums, big sticks and big moves. Combine the Taiko drumming style with high energy music and cardio and you have a really fun workout that reduces stress and is good for your mind, body, and soul. No drumming experience is necessary. Classes are not held in person, and will be held via Zoom, until indoor restrictions change. Registration is per class. No equipment? No problem, we have a list of comparable items you can use at home! Instructor: Cindi Carter with Great Lakes Taiko Center in Novi.

Hatha Yoga Yin/Yang Practice
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 25–Feb 2
4:45–5:45 pm | 6:15–7:20 pm
Ages 16+ | $23R/$25NR
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 21–28
10–11:10 am | Ages 40+ $23R/$25NR
Take some time to relax and unwind in this wonderful yoga class. We will start with some gentle movements to warm the body and calm the mind and then explore a Yin practice where the poses are held closer to the ground for 3–4 minutes. This is a wonderful practice that helps to calm the mind and open the energy flow throughout the body. We will finish class with a wonderful relaxation. Bring a yoga mat and a blanket.

High Energy Fitness Classes
Beyond the Ears | Mon–Sat, Dec 1–Feb 28 | varies | Ages 18+
$150R/$155NR
Let’s workout together while we’re apart! High Energy Fitness is offering virtual (Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat) and in-person (T/Th) classes. All classes are recorded and then posted to a private Facebook group. The virtual classes are currently being offered in the morning and run about 30 minutes. In person classes are Tue—Cycle Hybrid and Thu—Intervals from 7–8 pm held at 155 S. Washington St Oxford. Register for all 3 months and save, that’s only $50 a month!

We are a community of moms who support every stage of motherhood. From pregnancy through postpartum and beyond, our fitness and wellness programs help make moms strong in body, mind, and spirit. We are currently offering a variety of in-person and virtual classes. All in-person classes are held outside at Friendship Park, 3380 Clarkston Rd. Visit eastoaklandcounty.fit4mom.com to view the schedule and enroll in your first class for FREE! Classes offered: Stroller Strides®, Stroller Barre®, Body Back Transformation®, FIT4BABY®

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

All programs will be following current Covid–19 regulations, including wearing face masks and social distancing, some program modifications/changes may take place as regulations change.
Zumba Gold
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 11–Mar 15
Mar 29–May 17 | 9:30–10:30 am
Ages 40+ | $64R/$68NR
Drop in fee: $10R/$11NR
A Latin inspired cardio workout, incorporating dances such as merengue, salsa, cumbia, belly dancing and more! This class is different from regular Zumba in that it provides more verbal instruction to better learn the moves and is done at a slower pace. Great class for someone new to exercise or someone hesitant to try the regular Zumba. You will have so much fun dancing, you will forget you’re working out! It’s exercise in disguise! No class Jan 18 or Feb 15. Instructor: Cyndy DuVal.

Zumba Gold Toning
Orion Center | Wed, Jan 20–Mar 10
Mar 24–May 12 | 9:30–10:30 am
Ages 40+ | $64R/$68NR
Drop in fee: $10R/$11NR
Zumba Gold Toning blends the Zumba party you love at a slower pace with a redefining total body workout using Zumba Toning Sticks (1 lbs. weights recommended, no more than 3 lbs.) to shake up those muscles! Walk in ready to have a blast and tone up, leave exhilarated and empowered! Just want to dance without using the weights? No problem! Come to class for the same Zumba fun without using the weights and enjoy the party! Instructor: Cyndy DuVal.

MELT Method Class
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 11–Feb 8
Feb 22–Mar 15 | Mar 22–Apr 12
10:45 am–12 pm | Ages 18+
$45R/$48NR | Drop in fee: $15R/$16NR
MELT is a simple compression technique that uses a soft body roller and balls for the hands and feet to address the connective tissue in order to 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) Roller and mini ball kits will be available for purchase but not necessary to buy to participate in the class. Instructor: Cyndy DuVal.

Heartfulness Meditation Program—Learn to Meditate
Virtual | Tue, Jan 12–Feb 2 | 7–8 pm
Ages 13+ | Free
The Heartfulness Meditation Program offers a simple set of relaxation and meditation exercises, which when practiced daily, help restore balance in life, manage stress, better your health, and most of all will lead you to inner calm and peace. Class is free, but registration is required.

Exercise Room at the Orion Center
You must be 54 or older with a membership to use the Exercise Room. Mon–Fri | 9 am–4 pm (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)
$6/month Resident, $12/month Non–Resident
• All members will need to make an appointment with Orion Center staff prior to entering the Exercise Room. Five participants will be allowed to be in the Exercise Room at one time.
• Each membership will need to have up to date contact information in our software system.
• Once you arrive for your scheduled appointment all participants will need to fill out the designated wellness form confirming they do not have any symptoms.
• Before entering the Exercise Room, all participants will need to scan their key fob that is to the right of the door. This will log the date and start time in our software system.
• All participants must wear a facial covering at all times.
• Please maintain 6 foot distance from other participants in the room. Some equipment will be marked as “out of order” to ensure 6 foot distance.
• All patrons must disinfect exercise equipment after use.
• Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be readily available at all times.
• When exiting all participants must scan their key fob. This will log the date and end time in our software system.
• The room will be disinfected twice daily (7 am and 12:30 pm).
ADULTS 50+

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

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Java Joes
Orion Center | 9:30–10:30 am
Registration preferred

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.

Ask the Financial Guru/ Medicare Guidance
Orion Center | Every Thu 10 am–12 pm
The Michigan Retirement Agency can help with Medicare enrollment and plan reviews, Life Insurance policy reviews and provide unbiased annuity support. Schedule a one–on–one session with The Michigan Retirement Agency, Don’t Be Sold, Be Informed. Appointments are 30 minutes. If you need a different day, please let us know.

Ask the Attorney
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 11–Mar 8 1–2:30 pm | 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.

Senior Group Piano Lessons
Virtual | Thu, Jan 7–Feb 25 2:30–3:15 pm | Ages 50+
$175R/$180NR
Have you always wanted to play the piano, but never found the time? Did you play an instrument as a child, but you fear you have forgotten everything you learned? These 45–minute virtual group classes with Jacqui Bess will be a great chance to start from the basics in a fun group setting from the comfort—and safety—of your own home. Piano or keyboard required. $30 additional materials fee due to instructor. Private lessons available. Call 248–391–0304 x3500 for more information.

Clarity of Cognition with Kathleen Housey
Orion Center | Fri, Dec 11 | 1–2 pm
Free
EMOTIONAL FREEDOM TECHNIQUE (EFT), also known as “tapping” is used to address emotional short circuits that prevent normal energy flow through various organs in the body. This is a research backed approach to self healing by applying light pressure on meridian points on the face and upper body. Often many conditions, in addition to anxiety, can be brought under control through tapping. The lecture explains the history and science behind it and visually demonstrates the technique. Special Thanks to our Sponsor: Seniors Helping Seniors.

AARP Income Tax Preparation Service
Starting Monday, February 1, 2021 through Monday, April 5, 2021 AARP will be doing Income Tax preparations. AARP trained volunteers will prepare your federal and state returns. Appointments will be scheduled beginning Monday, December 7, 2020 for Orion Center Members Only. Calls from other individuals will be received beginning Monday, January 4, 2021. Ask 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.

Let’s Craft Together!
Orion Center | 2 pm
DIY Birdseed Ornament | Tue, Dec 8 $3R/$5NR
Make Your Own Holiday Cards | Wed, Dec 16 | $3R/$5NR
Alcohol Ink & Tile | Thu, Dec 10 $10R/$12NR
Reversible Wood Slice Snowman/Pumpkin | Tue, Jan 5 | $4R/$6NR
Let’s get crafty! In this class we will work together to learn a craft that you may not have had the confidence to do at home by yourself. All supplies are provided. Registration Deadline is 24 hours before the class meeting time.

Let’s Craft Together!
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**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Holly Holiday Luncheon**
Orion Center | Wed, Dec 9 | 11 am | $5R/$7NR
A wonderful tradition at the Orion Center, ring in the Holidays with some live music and a lunch to-go. Membership and Registration Required.

**Celebrate Elvis’s Birthday at the Orion Center**
Orion Center | Fri, Jan 8 | 11 am | $7R/$9NR
Elvis will be turning 86 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 individually packaged to take home. Membership and Registration Required.

**Valentines Day Tea and Desserts**
Orion Center | Fri, Feb 12 | 2 pm | $5R/$7NR
Come celebrate Valentine’s Day with us by enjoying some refreshing tea and indulging in some decadent dessert. Membership and registration required.

**EXERCISE CLASSES**

**Standing Exercise**
Orion Center | Every Mon | 10–11 am | $3R/NR per class
Combine fun with fitness to increase your cardiovascular and muscular endurance power with a standing circuit workout. A chair is used for standing support, stretching and relaxation exercises. Instructor: Becki Doyle

**Chair Exercise**
Orion Center | Every Wed | 10–11 am | $3R/NR per class
Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activities for daily living. A chair is available if needed for seating or standing support. Instructor: Becki Doyle

**CLUBS**

Membership and registration is required. Due to the current regulations, some clubs may not be meeting. To check if a club is actively meeting, please call the Orion Center or check online at orionparks.com.

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

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

**Ham Radio**
Mon & Thu | 6–8:45pm

**Bingo**
2nd and 4th Tue | 10:00–11:30 am or 1:00–2:30 pm

**Painting**
Tue | 10 am–2 pm

**Spanish Club**
Virtual | Every Tuesday and Thursday | Time varies

**Walking Club**
Wed | 10 am

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

**Library Book Club**
Virtual | Wed, 2nd of the month | 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 | 11 am–3:30 pm | $4R/$5NR
You must bring your own 2021 Official Standard Hands and Rules card.

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

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All programs will be following current Covid–19 regulations, including wearing face masks and social distancing, some program modifications/changes may take place as regulations change.
LEAGUES

YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Apr 5–Jun 20 | $20 Multi–Child Discount (excluding T–Ball)
$30 Late Registration Fee after Feb 28 | Registration Deadline Mar 15
League schedules finalized in March

Tee Ball | Ages 4–6 | $90R/$100NR

Orion Girls Softball League (OGSL)
$120R/$140NR | Civic Center Park
The Spring season will consist of two nights during the week and Saturday mornings. Late fee may be waived up to one week after deadline, call Jesse Hayes at 248–391–0304 x3506.

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
The Spring season will consist of two nights during the week and Saturday mornings.

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

** Majors division runs June—July. Teams will be formed in May. Teams will play other communities including Oxford, Independence, Lapeer, and others. 15 year olds may register for Senior & Majors for $100/division.

Uniforms will be available to try on during walk–in and upon request during Orion Center business hours.

CPR CLASSES

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

American Heart Association
HeartSaver CPR/AED/First Aid
Fire Station #2 | TBD | 10 am–5 pm | Ages 12+ | $50
Class will cover CPR/AED/First Aid/Choking for all age groups.
LOYBL Umpire Program
Apr–Jun | Ages 14+ | $10
Classroom Training | Orion Center | Time TBD
On–Field Training | Friendship Park | Time TBD
Are you interested in becoming a paid baseball umpire? LOYBL is seeking new and returning umpires for the 2021 Spring season. A $10 registration fee will get you an umpire shirt, hat, indicator, use of umpiring equipment, on–field training, and online certification. Game fees start at $30 per game! We will provide everything you need to get out on the field and start making calls and money!

YOUTH SOCCER
Orion/Oxford Soccer League (OOSL)
ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT ORIONPARKS.COM
Apr 5–Jun 19 | $95R/$105NR per player
Any child born between Jan 1, 2008 and Dec 31, 2018 is eligible and encouraged to play soccer in the OOSL Spring 2021 season. The season will consist of one practice during the week with games on Saturdays (weekday games if necessary based on number of teams in division).
U–4 | Coed | 2018
U–5 | Coed | 2017
U–6 | Coed | 2016
U–8 | Coed or Girls | 2015 & 2014
U–10 | Coed or Girls | 2013 & 2012
U–12 | Coed or Girls | 2011 & 2010
U–14 | Coed or Girls | 2009 & 2008

ADULT LEAGUES
2021 Adult Summer Softball League
Men’s Rec League | Friendship Park
Tue, May 11–Jul 6 | 6:20–9:50 pm
Ages 18+
Coed Rec League | Friendship Park
Wed, May 12–Jul 7 | 6:20–9:50 pm
Ages 18+
$305/Team | $20/Non–Resident Player
Refundable Forfeit Deposit: $100
Umpire Fees: $20/Team/Game
Open Registration begins Apr 5
Manager’s Meeting May 3 | 7 pm
Orion Center

Support Orion Recreation
Youth Athletics Team Sponsor
Orion Girls Softball League (OGSL) and/or Lake Orion Youth Baseball League (LOYBL)
$400/team
or $350/2+ teams
(either league)
Call or email Jesse Hayes at 248–391–0304 x3506 or jhayes@oriontownship.org for more information.

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

Volunteer Coaches Needed!
Visit orionparks.com for more information about our Youth Leagues.

All programs will be following current Covid–19 regulations, including wearing face masks and social distancing, some program modifications/changes may take place as regulations change.
Visit all our Orion Township Parks!

FRIENDSHIP PARK
3380 W. Clarkston Road

CAMP AGAWAM
1301 W. Clarkston Road

CIVIC CENTER PARK
2525 Joslyn Road

WILDWOOD AMPHITHEATER
2700 Joslyn Court

ORION COMMUNITY CENTER & PARKS OFFICE
1335 Joslyn Road

JESSE DECKER PARK
4100 N. Squirrel Road

GINGELL NATURE CENTER
2689 Maybee Road

Park Highlight: Civic Center Park

Centrally located and something for everyone

As the name implies, this park is situated in the Township’s Civic Center. Adjacent to Township Hall and just down the road from the Orion Center, its central location and versatile facilities make it a very popular park. New in 2020 is the complete renovation to the playground. The new playground caters to ages two to five years and offers a fully accessible design. The park also features three baseball fields, volleyball court, two basketball courts, numerous soccer fields, a picnic shelter, restrooms and access to the Polly Ann Trail through Savard’s Landing.

Visit OrionParks.com to see the full list of recreational amenities.
This township was made for walking

Give your walking shoes a workout as you check out the many scenic options around Orion

Orion is known for our lakes and outdoor recreation, especially our trails and safety paths. It’s no wonder that we were named a Pure Michigan Trail Town earlier this year. We are one of only seven in the entire state! How cool is that? The trails aren’t just for summer either, check them out this winter to see the beauty that is our town.

Clarkston Pathway

Walking down Clarkston Road will never be the same again, and we can’t get enough of it! In recent years, a connection for the Iron Belle Trail began on Clarkston Road, connecting the Paint Creek and Polly Ann Trails. The last of this important connection was completed in October 2020, spanning from Lapeer Road to Kern Road.

This new pathway takes you high into the trees, at some points 17 feet from the ground. Walking amongst the trees as the color of leaves were changing was an incredible sight, leaving us to wonder how beautiful it will be once they are covered in snow.

Did you know that the different parts of a tree grow at different times throughout the year? Typically, most of the foliage growth happens in the spring, followed by trunk growth in the summer, and root growth in the autumn and winter.

The showstopper on this pathway is the bridge going over the Paint Creek, Van Tassel Pedestrian Bridge. The view of the creek below is breathtaking. The bridge is named in honor of former Supervisor JoAnn Van Tassel. From Township Supervisor and Lake Orion Village Manager to being on the Planning Commission, Corridor Improvement Authority, Orion Veteran’s Memorial Board, and so much more, JoAnn has dedicated more than 50 years to the Orion Community, and continues to serve to this day.

Iron Belle Trail

The Iron Belle Trail is Michigan’s showcase trail, spanning from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the far western tip of the Upper Peninsula. This trail extends more than 2,000 miles and crosses through 48 different counties in Michigan. It is the longest designated state trail in the nation.

The Loop

The loop, as many call it, is the perfect place to get out and get moving this winter. The loop follows Joslyn, Waldon, Baldwin, and Clarkston Roads, totaling seven miles in distance. Free parking is available at the Orion Center and at Civic Center Park. Then use the Pedestrian Crossing to safely cross Joslyn Road. The loop is the only section of pathway that is plowed all winter, making it the perfect place to go for a walk or run this winter. While on the loop, make sure to stop at Lake Sixteen to see some of the natural beauty that our town has to offer.

Van Tassel Bridge along the Clarkston Pathway was recently dedicated to honor JoAnn Van Tassel, long-time Orion resident who has served in several capacities in the Orion community over the past 50 years.
Welcome 2021!

The whole Orion community may agree that no new year has been more anticipated than 2021! Let’s put a tumultuous 2020 behind us and look ahead to brighter days in the new decade. The Orion Living Staff, on behalf of all the departments we represent, sends best wishes to our beloved community for a healthy, prosperous, safe and joy-filled new year! We look forward to adding more community events to this calendar as life resumes some normalcy in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, please check department websites for any updates or changes to their scheduled activities.

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CALENDAR of EVENTS
  Winter 2021 | Orion Living

1 New Year’s Day
1 Resolution Run, Downtown Lake Orion
1–31 Lake Orion DDA Local Focus Photography Contest
4 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm, Township Hall
11 Virtual: Healthy Living for your Brain and Body, 6:30 pm, Orion Library
19 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm, Township Hall
22 Coffee With Chris, 9:30 am, Orion Center
28 National Kazoo Day

1–5 ONTV FISH Food Drive, ONTV Studio
1–28 Lake Orion DDA Shop to Win Contest
1 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm, Township Hall
6 Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary Ice Cup Golf Challenge, Downtown Lake Orion
12 Chinese New Year
14 Valentine’s Day
15–16 Winter Break, schools closed
16 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm, Township Hall
17 Virtual: Family Magic with Cameron Zvara, 2 pm, Orion Library
18 Martin Luther King Day, schools closed
26 Coffee With Chris, 9:30 am, Orion Center

Photo by Jim Newell

Photo by Amy Scott
The ongoing pandemic has raised financial concerns among individuals and households—How do I best use stimulus money? What can I do about retirement savings? What can I do to regain financial security? Our Chamber member experts address these concerns. Some things to consider:

**Budgeting**
It is a good idea to put pen to paper (or fingers to a keyboard/Excel spreadsheet) and detail monies going in and out, including rent or mortgage, utilities, insurance, groceries. As well as the main expenditures, be aware of all the discretionary “extras” like dining out, gym memberships, entertainment, clothing. Tag each expense as a luxury or a necessity to help prioritize how you spend your money and look for ways to reduce spending. Financial advisors Edward Jones (Edward Jones, 2020) suggest:

- Get Creative. Look for cheaper substitutions or lower cost ways to do things such as trading in eating out for a picnic inside.
- Cancel subscriptions you are not using. Do you subscribe to streaming services you are not using or magazines you don’t read?
- Shop for lower insurance rates, but don’t sacrifice coverage. There are Chamber members who can help you with that. Look them up on our online member directory!
- Refinance your mortgage. (More on that later!)

If you are thinking of allocating some of your budget for retirement savings, Preston Zale of Zale Group advises, “A 401k is a great way to save for retirement, but before you put all of your savings there, consider funding a Roth IRA. Most individuals can contribute $6,000 after tax per year ($7,000 if you’re 50 or older) subject to income limits. Your contributions are available for withdrawal without penalty if you need money in an emergency.”

**Stimulus money**
If you receive a stimulus check, consider how to use the money wisely and come up with a plan. It is suggested that you:

- Prioritize and pay off bills which are due immediately to avoid late fees
- Pay down credit cards
- Make payments towards your most expensive debt
- Add to your emergency savings account

If you are lucky to be financially stable, think about spending some of your stimulus money locally at your favorite small businesses who may be struggling or a non-profit close to your heart.

**Retirement savings**
John Manzella of Oxford Bank has the following advice on retirement savings:

“If you contribute to a retirement plan or invest in a brokerage account, your future account balance depends on what you do right now. You must avoid making moves based on emotion rather than rational planning. If you already have a retirement savings program underway, with asset allocation appropriate to your risk profile and long-term goals, you should continue following your plan.”

Under the CARES Act, individuals affected by COVID-19 can withdraw up to $100,000 from employee-sponsored retirement accounts like 401(k)s as well as personal retirement accounts. The 10% penalty will be waived for distributions made in 2020 and there are no mandatory withholding requirements. The distribution can be taxed as income spread evenly over three tax years. But, if you pay back the amount you took out within three years, you can claim a refund on those taxes.

However, the consensus among financial professionals is, if possible, to stay the course and keep your money invested—don’t withdraw funds from your 401(k). If you do borrow from your 401(k), Lisa Trudell of Flagstar Bank advises, “you’re better off taking out a loan rather than making a withdrawal. The IRS requires 401(k) loans to be repaid within five years, with at least quarterly payments towards the interest and principal”.

**Investments**
Without doubt, the current pandemic along with its resulting effect on the markets is making investors nervous and reassessing their risk tolerance. Genisys Credit Union (Genisys Credit Union, 2020) suggests:
• Don’t make sudden or drastic changes. Making sudden decisions to sell may leave you with unexpected tax penalties or other fees. Wait for the market to stabilize before making significant financial decisions.

• Don’t follow blanket advice. Individuals have different needs, very often dependent on how close they are to retirement or not. Bear that in mind before following advice meant for people in a different situation to your own.

• Review your portfolio. Now is the perfect time to review your portfolio to make sure you have sufficient diversity and are investing in ventures that provide the greatest potential long-term growth and tax advantages for your situation.

• Don’t watch the markets. There have been dramatic falls in the market before (remember 2007-2009?) and there will be again. This too shall pass.

Consider refinancing
A relatively inexpensive way to borrow money is to refinance your home, especially as interest rates are at historic lows and home values are rising. By refinancing you can lock in a lower interest rate or use the equity in your home to get a home equity line of credit.

However, Steve Wandrie of Caliber Home Loans has some words of advice: “When considering a refinance for debt consolidation, it’s critical to determine the overall costs and term of the loan. Pay attention to the title, origination and overall closing costs. Some lines of credit offer lower fees with slightly higher rates, while others allow you to “stretch” out your payments for decades. Don’t fall into the trap of “lowering” your monthly payments by simply “extending” the length of the new loan. The back end interest could be much higher in the long run.”

Consider short-term loans (rather than financing by credit card)
A short term personal loan may be a better option than using credit cards or payday loans. Credit cards have much higher interest rates whereas short term loans have set payment terms and lower interest rates, making them easier to budget for and repay.

Prepare for the next time
There will be a next time. It may not be so drastic as a pandemic but it could be the loss of a job, a health issue or an unexpected major expense. It is recommended to set aside three to six months of living expenses in a liquid, interest bearing account to be used for emergencies. A little saving every month can make a big difference.

The above article has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on, for financial or investment advice. You should consult your own financial advisors before engaging in any transaction.


“Do’s and Don’ts of Investing During a Crisis”. Genisys Credit Union, 2020, genisyscu.org/genisys-blog/dos-and-donts-of-investing-during-a-crisis
The season and the reason to shop local

2020 has been quite a ride
So why bother with waiting outside?
Orion has everything that you need
And we'll help you avoid the stampede.

This year we have all the more reason
To shop local this holiday season!

Orion during the holidays is a magical place to be. Between events, decorations, and all the natural beauty of winter, there is no place better. We're here to remind you that this wonderful town couldn't flourish without the small businesses that are its foundation; its support.

So, in lieu of those big box corporations and online mega-stores, this year, more than ever, your community needs you to shop local for the holidays. And we're going to show you that you'll still be able to get the most unique gifts, the most delicious treats, and the safest, most convenient experience, right here at home.

**Great Lakes Laser Design.** If you're looking for that perfectly unique, customized gift, look no further than Great Lakes Laser Design! They can engrave on wood, acrylic, fabric, glass, some metals and many more materials. Their specialty is creating custom pieces, just for you, and they can ship anywhere!

**Broadway Embroidery.** A family owned and operated business that is passionate about all things embroidery related! They offer products in about every category you can imagine, and you have the option to personalize almost anything! And for the month of December, you can get 10% off.

**White Pine Coffee Roasters.** White Pine Coffee is a small batch roaster and purveyor of high-quality specialty coffees sourced fresh from around the world. If there is a coffee lover in your life, this is the place to go! If you’re not sure what to get, the whole White Pine Coffee team, as well as local Michigan artists, designers, and companies, have worked hard to create the best coffee gift this year: The Explorer Gift Box. Check that, and all their offerings, out on their website!

**Yates Cider Mill Store at Canterbury Village.** Yates offers cider, fresh baked goods, fudge, ice cream and a great assortment of gift baskets and other items. If you're struggling to find the perfect gift for somebody on your list, you can't go wrong with a gift from Yates!

**Expedition Soaps.** With over 130 products and more coming soon, Expedition Soaps has something for everyone! They offer real, luxurious quality natural soap and skin care products that you can use every day. They also offer gift sets to help make your holiday shopping a breeze.

**Gals and Ghouls.** Gals and Ghouls is a local, on-location hair and makeup company that services all of Michigan and beyond. Their services include traditional and special effects. They also offer classes, apparel, skin care, and makeup.
products. This December, you can get BOGO 1/2 off makeup classes (both in-person and online). The class purchase is good for six months. You can also get a free Gals & Ghouls sticker with any t-shirt purchase.

**Cookies and Cream by Sprout Bake.** Cookies and Cream is a seasonal ice cream and cookie shop in downtown Lake Orion. They feature Ray’s Ice Cream, vegan ice cream from Ice Cream Plant in addition to their own amazing baked goods. This holiday season they’ll also be offering gift baskets for that person with a sweet tooth on your list.

**Practically Perfect Vacations.** Everybody is hoping for a little getaway right now, and with Practically Perfect Vacations with Christa you can book with an expert of all things Disney at no cost to you! As an Authorized Disney Travel Planning Agency, her services are catered to match your family’s individual wants and needs and are always complimentary! If you are looking to experience a different kind of travel magic, she also books Universal Orlando Resort Vacation packages. Right now, as an extra holiday treat, she is offering a FREE Gift Card with your vacation package booked for travel in 2020 or 2021! Just let her know that you found her through the Orion Living Magazine and she will include a Gift Card with your travel packet prior to your booked trip.

**Homegrown Brewing Company.** Homegrown has been voted the best brewpub in Metro Detroit multiple times, and it’s easy to see why when you go there. This is the perfect place to get something for the beer lover or foodie on your list. They also have monthly beer-pairing dinners, and gift certificates available! $50 per person for 5 chef-created courses, each expertly paired with a HomeGrown beer. Next dates: Dec 16 & 17!

**Lucky’s Natural Foods.** Lucky’s is the perfect place to shop for everything you could possibly need for your holiday meal. They have fresh Amish turkeys, a wide selection of both gluten free and vegan products, pumpkin streusel, zucchini bread, plenty of baking supplies to make anything else, and even natural candy canes! They also have many unique options for gifts and stocking stuffers!

**Oat Soda.** Oat Soda is a Downtown Lake Orion restaurant with 30 craft beers on tap. They also feature an extensive retail shop highlighting several other local businesses. It’s the perfect place to browse for any unique gifts that you’re still looking for on your list.

**Great Harvest Bread Company.** Great Harvest is a wonderful local cafe and bakery. Along with some of the best baked goods you can find, they also offer a variety of selections of Michigan products and gift items. In the holiday season, they also offer special ordering of homemade dinner rolls. Make sure you check them out!

**Custom Threads.** Custom Threads is a great place to go to get all of your Lake Orion and Clarkston community school branded gear. This is a great opportunity to shop for all of the students on your list.

**Autumn Moon Holistic Wellness Collective.** Autumn Moon offers a curated selection of unique beauty and wellness gifts and stocking stuffers, including gift certificate specials for skin care services and custom-blended lip colors, custom crystal therapy kits, professional at-home skin care tools, indie beauty finds, candles, diffusers, and more! They will also be offering private and safe holiday shopping days with giveaways and special deals.

There are so many amazing options for shopping locally here in Orion. Make sure to check out our member directory to find a local business that offers exactly what you’re looking for.

**Northern Wholesale Flooring.** In September the Chamber celebrated the new location and rebranding of Chamber member Northern Wholesale Flooring, formerly Northern Flooring and Interiors. Located at 118 Indianwood Road, the flooring company provides the same excellent customer service and quality products at a reduced cost to the customer. For more information on Northern Wholesale Flooring call 248-282-3992 or visit nflooring.com.
2020 Impact Award Winners

Recognizing our standout members

The Orion Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 Impact Awards. The Impact Awards celebrate those in our community who have gone 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 James Lopiccolo, owner and founder of Capocore Professional Advisors in Downtown Lake Orion. Capocore Professional Advisors specializes in Business/Individual Tax Advisory Services, Financial/Accounting Services. During 2020 James has gone above and beyond to help the Greater Orion Area with resources to navigate the COVID crisis. He has used his skills and knowledge as a CPA to lead educational webinars for the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce (OACC), the Oakland Chamber Network (OCN) and the Michigan Association of CPAs (MICPA). He has worked tirelessly to ensure that our community was knowledgeable and had access to the resources available. James took it upon himself to provide education to the community so that local businesses and non-profits were able to take advantage of EIDL loans and walked countless businesses through the PPP process. He’s deeply involved in the community through the DDA and OACC. He’s sponsored events, donated to charity, and above all has helped numerous businesses in the area with their financial needs. He is the Treasurer of the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce and a Chair Member of the MICPA Small Practitioners Task Force. This year’s Business Person of the Year Award is Sponsored by Golling Buick GMC.

Community Beautification Award

The Community Beautification award goes to Orion Kennel Club. Orion Kennel Club has been in business since 1987 but owners Steve and Amy Hardenburgh, who purchased the business in 2015, have taken the 5-acre plot on the corner of Waldon and Lapeer and created a park-like space for their business. The Kennel Club facility is a beautiful 15,000 square foot building that has been landscaped with attractive plants and a well-manicured lawn. Their grounds off M-24 enhance the beautiful green spaces of Lake Orion and are an asset to our community.

Economic Impact Award

The Economic Impact Award goes to Johnny Blacks Public House. In 2018 Matthew Moore was already the owner of three successful Johnny Blacks locations as well as Orion Sports Bar & Grill but saw the opportunity to invest in the Baldwin corridor with a fourth location of Johnny Blacks. In 2019 the
new Orion Township location of Johnny Blacks Public House was opened to great acclaim creating 50 new employment opportunities and driving foot traffic to surrounding businesses during a difficult construction period for the area. Johnny Blacks has continued to create employment opportunities during the difficult circumstances of 2020 as well as collaborating with and supporting fellow businesses on Baldwin Road.

Entrepreneur of the Year Award

The Entrepreneur of the Year award goes to Sally Medina and Olivia Mitteer, co-owners of Broadway Embroidery. When they opened their store front in Downtown Lake Orion in October of 2019 they had no way of knowing what was right around the corner for their business. After a successful first holiday season where they made custom creations for customers, many featuring Dragons for Orion families, they were blindsided like other business with an abrupt shutdown in March of 2020. Within days of shutdown they sent out a donation request to the community for any elastic people had on hand. They took those donations and began to create masks for essential personal and health care providers in a time when it was desperately needed. Word got out about the masks and they were flooded with requests from all over the state. They personally donated over 10,000 masks to those in need both in our community and out of state. The sisters were able to take this abrupt change to business and create a much needed product for the Orion Area. It is hard to go out these days without seeing a custom mask created by Broadway Embroidery. Although it has been a challenging economic environment they have been able to grow and expand their storefront to accommodate their newest business venture a children’s clothing line, Landslide & Laughter, along with offering varsity jackets and personalized wood crafts.

Youth Impact Award

The Youth Impact Awards goes to Amber Kish. As a caseworker for Orion Area Youth Assistance (OAYA) Amber has been an essential part of a network to support youth in crisis in the Orion school district. As a counselor with our district courts and local police departments to protect the youth in our community. In 2020 Amber has gone above and beyond her typical work requirements to work with other local community organizations to provide resources to children and families during the stay at home orders. Amber brought awareness and education to issues like suicide, depression, bullying and isolation that children are facing without normal social interactions and remote learning. Amber has made it her mission to provide a safety net for youth in need and a voice for those who are most vulnerable. We are proud to present the Youth Impact Award to Amber Kish. This Year’s Youth Impact Award is Sponsored by The Counselis Agency—Farm Bureau Insurance.

Gardening By Sindy.

In September the Chamber celebrated one of our newest members, Gardening by Sindy. Located in Lake Orion, Gardening by Sindy provides light landscaping and design, planting, wedding, planters, spring and fall cleanup and holiday décor services. For more information call 248-933-7440 or visit them at gardeningbysindy.com.
New and renewing members

New Members

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<th>New Members</th>
<th>mid-July to mid-October</th>
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<td>NON-PROFIT MEMBERS</td>
<td>General Federation of Women’s Clubs—Lake Orion Women’s Club</td>
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<td>General Motors</td>
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<td>Pet Passages Dignified Pet Cremation Services</td>
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<td>ROMA International</td>
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<td>Heartland Payment Systems</td>
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<td>BUSINESS BASIC MEMBERS</td>
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<td>PREMIER MEMBER</td>
<td>Golling Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram</td>
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<td>Renewing Members</td>
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<td>NON-PROFIT MEMBERS</td>
<td>Dutton Farm</td>
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<td>Blessings in a Backpack—Lake Orion</td>
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<td>Freedom Road Transportation</td>
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Find out more about how being a Chamber member can help your business grow and thrive in challenging times at orionareachamber.com.

Rebekah’s Health and Nutrition. In October the Chamber celebrated the Grand Opening of Rebekah’s Health and Nutrition. Located at 1095 S Lapeer Road in Orion Township, Rebekah’s Health and Nutrition offers organic snacks, herbs & homeopathic remedies, vitamins & supplements and other wellness based products. The Lake Orion location of Rebekah’s is the 4th and largest in the chain of Rebekah’s Health and Nutrition stores. For information call 248-929-8990 or visit them at rebekahspureliving.com.
Bringing Toys Alive to Spread Christmas Joy

The Orion Area Parade Group’s annual Christmas Parade adopts drive-thru approach to social distance yet retain long-standing tradition

The 2020 Orion Lighted Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 5th at 6 pm in Downtown Lake Orion. Lake Orion is the home of the largest lighted Christmas Parade in Michigan! The Orion Area Parade Group is using a different approach to keep this annual tradition alive despite the complications brought on by Covid-19. This year will be the first-ever “Drive-Thru” parade with participating entrants stationed along Broadway Street, and spectators will drive by each display to get their dose of Christmas cheer.

The theme for 2020 is “Christmas in Toyland”, and participants and downtown businesses are going to light up the night and celebrate the season using their favorite vintage or new toys to depict the holiday spirit. Floats will be positioned several feet away from each other, all COVID-compliant social-distancing guidelines will be enforced, and the Lake Orion Police will control the flow of traffic along the route. Many downtown businesses will be open to welcome spectators and offer specials to shoppers ready to start their holiday shopping.

Entry fees were waived for participants this year, but there are still plenty of costs associated, so the Orion Area Parade Group has established a GoFundMe to help offset those costs. Find more information and donate at orionlightedparade.org.
From the Director

Take life one day at a time

As we near the end of 2020, life continues to look very different from life a year ago. As a country, as a world, we continue to battle the COVID–19 pandemic and work to keep as many people safe and healthy as possible. To that end, the Orion Township Public Library has made a number of changes. In order to continue to serve and engage a thriving community of lifelong learners safely, we have had to limit how many people can be in the library building at one time. Therefore, we have been offering a number of new services, like Curbside Pickup of materials and Take and Make projects. Although we may be tired of Zoom meetings, we also continue to offer some programs virtually. Please know that our staff continues to work tirelessly for our library—answering the phone calls and the emails—to keep everyone as informed as possible.

As the director, I monitor the changes with the state, the county, and the pandemic on a daily basis. I work with the Library Board of Trustees to make decisions that are in the best interest of our library staff and patrons. Some of you have reached out to me with questions, and I encourage you to do so. We may not be able to accommodate all of your desires at this time, in the interest of safety, but know that we are doing our best.

If nothing else during this time, I encourage all Orion residents to READ. And if you are uncertain about the facts that you are reading, give us a call at the library. Misinformation, disinformation, or “fake news” as it is often called is everywhere. In the Fall issue of this Orion Living magazine, we included an article to help you distinguish between the various types of information you may read. Read all that you can, analyze what you read, and make the best decisions for yourself and your family that you can during this time.

Finally, I have found it helpful to take life one day at a time. I know that may sound cliché, but I try to make the most of every day right now. I hope you can too. If we can help, do not hesitate to reach out. You can reach me directly at kknox@orionlibrary.org, and the most recent information about the library will be posted at orionlibrary.org.

Karen

Thank you!

The library board is extremely grateful to all those who support our library through various forms of donations. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to gather and celebrate. However, we found new ways to say ‘Thank you!’ and we sure appreciate each and every donor who has supported us over the past year. Visit orionlibrary.org/donations if you are interested in donating to the Library, or contact the library director at 248–693–3000 x430.

General Info

Notary Services
As of this printing, we are unable to provide notary services. If this changes, we will update the information at orionlibrary.org.

Upcoming Library Closings

Thanksgiving: Wed, Nov 25 (closed at 5 pm), Thurs, Nov 26, Fri, Nov 27
Christmas: Thurs, Dec 24, Fri, Dec 25
New Year’s: Thurs, Dec 31, Fri, Jan 1

For a calendar of all library events please visit the Events tab at orionlibrary.org.

Thank you to our donors!

Check out our Library Wishlist at orionlibrary.org/library-wishlist! This web page 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.

Department Numbers

Adult 248–693–3001
Outreach 248–693–3000 x411
Teen 248–693–3000 x414
Youth 248–693–3002
**General Federation of Women’s Clubs—Lake Orion (GFWC)**

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

**Grant Dollars at Work**

The Orion Township Public Library’s mission is ‘to serve and engage a thriving community of lifelong learners’ and our vision is ‘to be known for more than books.’ In order to accomplish this mission and vision, our staff members and librarians on our Grants Team work hard applying for grants to help supplement our funding for innovative programming and services.

In 2020 alone, Orion Township Public Library has been awarded over $8,000 from organizations such as the Institute of Library and Museum Services and the Library of Michigan. Thanks to this grant money, we have been able to provide new services such as Memory Kits for individuals with Alzheimer’s or dementia and their caregivers, a Sensory Kit for children with special needs or sensory seeking kids, and programming such as the Joe Reilly Outdoor Concert. And there is still more to come as we prepare to offer mobile Wi-Fi hotspots and Chromebooks for check out to those with limited in-home internet and computer access.

Thank you to our Grants Team who worked tirelessly all year to get these fantastic grants, the Institute of Library and Museum Services, and the Library of Michigan for helping us continue our mission.

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**Library Service Updates**

**Curbside Pickup**

Weather permitting, Curbside Pickup is available from 9:30 am–8:30 pm Monday through Thursday and 9:30 am–4:30 pm Friday and Saturday, and Sundays from 1 pm to 4:30 pm. Hold requests can be placed online or by phone and when the items are available, you will be notified by email, phone call, or text message. When you arrive at the library, you will pull into one of our three numbered parking spots located in the side parking lot and send a text message to the number posted on our curbside pickup signage. Items will be checked out by library staff and be delivered to you in a paper bag with a receipt. Staff will deliver the bag to your trunk or through an open car window. Staff will not accept return items or fines during this transaction. Items must be returned to one of the drop boxes and fines must be paid online.

**Appointments Available**

In addition, appointments are available to have an exam proctored or to use a study room as an individual. We are continuing to schedule individual appointments for patrons to use computers in the library, or for patrons to access our library Wi-Fi network with their personal devices. 45–minute appointments are available Monday through Thursday from 9:30 am to 8:30 pm, Friday and Saturday from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and Sundays from 1 pm to 4:30 pm. Appointments are also available to print, scan, fax, and copy documents. (Please bring cash as needed, exact change preferred for fax and copier, cc payment available for printing.) All equipment is disinfected between patrons, and the computers will have disposable plastic coverings on the keyboard. Hand sanitizer will be available for patron use as well. Patrons are limited to one appointment per day. All patrons with appointments are required to wear a mask and respect social distancing requirements. To schedule an appointment, or if you have any special needs or requests regarding these appointments, please call us at 248–693–3000 x545.

For a complete list of library services that are available please visit orionlibrary.org.
All Take and Make supplies for youth, teen, and adult programs will be available on a first come, first served basis in the lobby starting at 9:30 am on the day of the program.

Take and Make: Winter Workshop
Sat, Dec 12
While we won’t have a visit from Santa this year, the library is still here to bring you some holiday cheer for all ages! Stop by to pick up a special Take and Make kit to celebrate our annual Winter Workshop.

- **Youth**—LIVE Winter Bounce and Boogie | 11 am
- **Youth**—Take and Make for Preschoolers and Elementary ages

**Teen**—Harry Potter Wizard Crackers

**Adult**—Greeting card kits—A kit with supplies to make custom greeting cards

**Makerspace**—Felt holiday ball ornaments—Get in on the needle felting craze with these seasonal felt ornaments

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**Patron Highlight: Lionel Train Exhibit**

**Collector shares his love of trains**

Dennis Lakomy and his wife, Darlene Frederick, entertained visitors at the library’s Winter Workshop in 2019 with their traveling Lionel train exhibit.

Dennis created this traveling exhibit after his wife told him he was collecting too many trains. Once packed up and loaded, Dennis and Darlene can travel around to local community organizations to help bring people together.

“We’ve set up at local senior communities, assisted living homes, elementary schools, and libraries.” Dennis enjoys bringing his set around the community, even though it’s an all-day event for him and Darlene. “The setup starts before we even get to the location. We have to pack the set into the travel containers, pack the car, then unload once we get there.”

Even though they have to do this packing at the end of the day as well, they wouldn’t change a thing. The enjoyment they get from letting people of all ages take turns operating the train set makes it all worth it. Dennis says operating the remote train is approachable for all ages and abilities, from young children to special needs individuals to people in wheelchairs.

This is also the reason Dennis figured the library would be a great place to set up his traveling display.

“People of all ages utilize the library; it’s a common ground for all ages and abilities.” Dennis enjoys the library because he can just explore and learn, without any idea of what to looking for. Sharing and teaching people about his traveling exhibit can be just that for just about anyone.

Dennis’s collection started when he was just 10 years old, when his Dad bought him his first set as a hobby they could do together. He’s been collecting ever since, and even still has the original table his dad built him all those years ago. The library is looking forward to hosting Dennis and Darlene and the traveling exhibit next year at the 2021 Winter Workshop.
**READING CHALLENGES FOR ALL AGES**

**50 Books in 52 Weeks**
The Orion Township Public Library challenges you to read 50 books in 52 weeks in 2021, starting on January 1st! This ongoing program will run the entirety of 2021, and participants will have the opportunity to win fun prizes all year long depending on how many reading challenges you complete.

All 50 reading challenges are different. You may be asked to read a book published in 2021, read a book based on a true story, or to read a book recommended to you by a friend. You can also listen to audiobooks to complete any of the 50 challenges throughout the year.

For more information and to register visit [orionlibrary.org/50-books-in-52-weeks](http://orionlibrary.org/50-books-in-52-weeks).

**Teen Winter Reading Challenge**
Dec 18–Feb 5
Stay cozy this winter with our Teen Winter Reading Challenge. Summer reading might be over, but there are plenty of books to curl up with while the snow is falling. Participants will have the opportunity to win fun prizes by completing reading challenges ranging from reading with a friend, to reading a holiday themed book. Prizes will consist of books and gift cards to local Lake Orion businesses. All prizes will be random drawings and the more challenges you complete, the more prizes you can win.

For more information and to register visit [orionlibrary.org/teens/winter-reading](http://orionlibrary.org/teens/winter-reading). Happy reading!

**1000 Books Before K and 500 Books by 5th**
Do you want your child to love reading? We have two great programs that help children become lifelong readers! The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program encourages parents and caregivers to provide positive, nurturing experiences by reading aloud to their children regularly. The 500 Books by 5th grade encourages children to begin and continue to read independently throughout elementary school. By inspiring reading for fun, we are helping to develop strong reading skills that last and also fostering a lifelong desire to continue to learn. Register your child today at [orionlibrary.org/youth](http://orionlibrary.org/youth), and start tracking every book they read or listen to. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten participants earn prizes for every 100 books that are logged, and 500 Books by 5th Grade participants earn prizes for every 50 books logged. Once awarded by a Youth Librarian online, prizes can currently be picked up through Curbside Pickup at the library.

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**Take and Make: Tie-Dye Masks**
Sat, Dec 5
Pick up a kit to create a colorful tie-dye mask for you to enjoy or gift to a friend or family member. Each kit will have two masks for you to dye.

**Virtual: Superhero Trivia**
Wed, Jan 20 | 7 pm | Register online
Gather a team to test your knowledge of all-things superhero! Families and groups of friends of all ages are welcome to participate in this super virtual event. Prizes will be awarded to the top teams.

**Virtual: Board Game Night**
Mon, Jan 25 & Feb 22 6:30 pm
Join us on Board Game Arena to play a variety of popular board games virtually.

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

Winter 2021 | Orion Living
ADULT SERVICES

All Take and Make supplies will be available on a first come, first served basis in the lobby starting at 9:30 am on the day of the program.

Virtual: Snowy Owls in Michigan
Sun, Dec 6 | 2 pm
(recording available Dec 6–13)
Naturalist Andrew Nowicki will present a photo tour of owls commonly seen in Michigan. Learn about these bird’s incredible adaptations and how you can experience them around your own home.

Virtual: Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group
Tuesdays | Dec 8, Jan 12, Feb 9
10:30 am
This monthly support group for individuals who care for those with Alzheimer’s disease and other related dementia is led by a trained facilitator and sponsored by the Michigan Alzheimer’s Association.

Virtual: Michigan Works
Tuesdays | Dec 8, Jan 12, Feb 9
1–3 pm
Oakland County Michigan Works! Pontiac will assist you with upcoming workshops, youth and adult programs, resume ideas, job searches, interview skills and much more. They can point you in the right direction for inquiries about local resources. Contact Beth Sheridan at esheridan@orionlibrary.org or 248–693–3000 x411 to set up your Zoom appointment with a staff member from Michigan Works.

Virtual: Isolation during the Pandemic: Especially for Seniors
Tue, Dec 8 | 3 pm
(recording available Dec 8–15)
While isolation has affected everyone’s mental health this year, it is especially hard for senior citizens who need to quarantine to stay safe. Join Dr. Nicole Lawson of the Oakland Community Health Network, Kristen Nelson, chair of the Oakland County Senior Isolation Taskforce, and Cameron McClure, chairperson of the Oakland County Senior Advisory Council, as they speak on, give practical advice about, and share resources to help on this timely topic.

Virtual: Writer’s Workshop
Wednesdays | Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10
7 pm
Meet the second Wednesday of each month and connect with a group of like-minded writers to learn from each other, share ideas, and practice your writing skills. For the winter quarter this group will meet online.

Virtual: Book Discussions

New members are always welcome!

Virtual: Cook the Book | 7 pm
Mon, Dec 7: Sister Pie by Lisa Ludwinski
Mon, Feb 1: My Prairie Cookbook by Melissa Gilbert
You select and prepare a recipe from the cookbooks chosen, and meet virtually to discuss recipes from that month’s cookbook. Please either put on hold or inter-loan your own copy of the cookbook for each meeting; call 248–693–3001 if you need assistance acquiring a cookbook.

Virtual: Monday Evening Book Discussion | 7 pm
Mon, Dec 21: Lillian Boxfish takes a Walk by Kathleen Rooney
Mon, Jan 18: As Bright as Heaven by Susan Meissner
Mon, Feb 15: The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
Virtual: Book Bunch Book Club 1 pm
Wed, Dec 9: Virgil Wander by Leif Enger
Wed, Jan 13: The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle by Stuart Turton
Wed, Feb 10: The Peculiar Miracles of Antoinette Martin by Stephanie Knipper
Virtual: Thursday Afternoon Book Club | 1:30 pm
Thu, Dec 17: Bring Your 2020 Favorite
Thu, Jan 21: Save Me the Plums by Ruth Reichl
Thu, Feb 18: The Guest List by Lucy Foley
Virtual: Dine, Drink, and Discuss | 7 pm
Mon, Jan 25: The Guest List by Lucy Foley
Mon, Feb 22: Untamed by Glennon Doyle
The 2020 Postcard Project
Sat, Dec 19
With this mail art project, capture your thoughts and feelings about this unique moment in time by creating a postcard–sized piece of art and writing a message to your future self about 2020. Artists will return their postcards to the library, we will scan them for our local history collection, and the postcards will be mailed back to their creators in December 2021.

Call–In: Weekly Meditation Sessions @ the Library
New meditations every week Jan 4–Feb 22
Relaxation is just a phone call away. Learn and practice meditation with our free dial–in program, facilitated by local RYT 200 & Yoga Therapy instructor Jess Dues, owner of Pushna Wellness. Call 248–287–8028 anytime to access each session. Sessions will change weekly focusing on a different calming topic. Patrons will be able to access past weeks’ meditations via our website.

Take and Make: Book Letters
Sat, Jan 9 | Register online
Memorialize your favorite book covers on stand–up letters! Tell us some of your favorite book covers and choose a letter. We will supply you with a 6 inch letter and graphics to cover your letter.

Virtual: Healthy Living for your Brain and Body
Mon, Jan 11 | 6:30 pm
Science provides insights into how to make lifestyle choices that can help keep your brain and body healthy as you age. Join Deb Archer from the Alzheimer’s Association as she presents research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement, and helps you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging.

Virtual: Orion Historical Society (OHS)
Mondays | Jan 11, Feb 8 | 7 pm
(No meeting in Dec)
Come to an OHS meeting to learn about our township’s history and work on projects to preserve the past. Newcomers are always welcome! For the winter quarter this group will meet online.

Virtual: Intro to 3–D Printing
Thu, Jan 14 | Register online
Using an interactive video from Lynda.com, learn to design and print 3–D objects with Tinkercad. You can use the library’s 3–D printer from home!

Take and Make: Hand Painted Wood Slices
Sat, Jan 16
Wood, paint, and brushes will be provided in this take and make kit for you to pick up and enjoy at home.

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

Virtual: Communicating Effectively with Individuals with Dementia
Mon, Feb 8 | 6:30 pm
As people with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias progress in their journey and the ability to use words is lost, families need new ways to connect. Join Debra Archer from The Alzheimer’s Association to explore how communication takes place when someone has Alzheimer’s and identify strategies to help you connect and communicate at each stage of the disease.

Take and Make: Yarn ‘Love’ Signs
Sat, Feb 13
Learn to make a yarn wrapped ‘Love’ sign for Valentine’s Day with Creativebug.com.

Virtual: Abraham Lincoln: A New Birth of Freedom
Available Feb 21–27
Join us for a virtual presentation as Kevin Wood portrays President Abraham Lincoln, one of our nation’s most beloved and esteemed historical fictions. This presentation will cover the entire period from Independence through the Civil War, especially the 12 turbulent years from 1854–1865. It also includes Lincoln’s inspiring personal story.

Take and Make: Leftover Kits
Sat, Feb 27
Whether you’re an adult, teen, or kid we have a program for you! Starting at 9:30 am, kits from extra programs the library did throughout the winter will be available for you to pick up and enjoy.
OUTREACH SERVICES

No Contact Home Delivery
We have always delivered books to Orion Township residents who are unable to physically visit the library, but we have expanded that service to include anyone who is uncomfortable leaving their home and visiting the library due to the pandemic. The first step to becoming a No–Contact Home Delivery patron is to fill out the online application on our website, or call 248–693–3001. You can put holds on items yourself in our catalog, or let us know what you like and we can introduce you to new authors and/or request materials for you. On delivery day, library staff will safely place a bag containing the items outside your door; all returned items are quarantined before circulating again.

NEW Memory Kits
Funded by a Library of Michigan Public Library Services grant, we now offer Memory Kits for you to check out and enjoy with your loved one who has memory issues. The relaxing DVDs, photos, and activities in these kits are designed to help your loved one recall and reminisce. By helping them to recall positive experiences and memories from the past, the Memory Kits will not only validate the individual’s self–worth but also help you and your loved one connect. Each kit includes a DVD with looped sections of beautiful pictures accompanied by relaxing music, photo and activity cards to be used to stimulate conversation, and tactile objects such as art activities or puzzles. Memory Kit themes range from seasons, to handymen/homemaker memories, to dogs or cats, to farms or great outdoors memories. Borrow one via curbside today! To put a Memory Kit on hold, search our catalog using the keywords ‘Memory Kit.’

Are you in a bit of a reading rut?
We have several reading recommendation tools available to help you select your next great read.

- What to Read Next
  orionlibrary.org/what-to-read-next
  Online list of recommended reads by genre. Simply click on your favorite genre and browse our collection.

- NoveList Plus
  orionlibrary.org/resources-a-z
  Reading recommendations based on your favorite book or even author read–alikes.

- Your Next Few Books
  orionlibrary.org/your-next-few-books
  Fill out a short form asking questions like your favorite and least favorite genre and a librarian will get your request and create a custom reading list for you with at least five recommendations.

- Book Bundles
  orionlibrary.org/book-bundles
  Fill out a book bundle request form found on our homepage and a librarian will place a custom bundle of books on hold for you to enjoy. If there is a title the Orion Library doesn’t own but you would like us to purchase it, you can fill out a ‘Purchase Consideration Request’ at orionlibrary.org/purchase-request and our librarians will review it for our collection.

Virtual: English Language Learning Conversation Group (ELL)
Wednesdays | 10:30 am
(no meeting Dec 23 or 30)
ELL conversation 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.

Our “Adopt a Little Library” program seeks volunteers
You will stock and maintain your Little Library throughout the year. Contact Lori Morris, our Volunteer Engagement Specialist if you are interested at lmorris@orionlibrary.org.

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

Education looks very different this year with so many students utilizing remote learning. While virtual classrooms are a great opportunity to learn new skills and try new learning techniques, many students are missing out on hands-on experiences. We have many resources to help students and parents fill the gap left by remote learning.

Makerspace programs have become popular in schools and libraries because they combine technical and subject knowledge with creativity and collaboration. Makerspaces give users an outlet to create something physical with their knowledge and skills, a task that is challenging when not learning in person. Even though our physical Makerspace is unavailable, we still offer engaging maker services and programs to the community.

Our Take and Make kits have been extremely popular over the summer and fall. These kits, often following a fun theme, include the supplies and instructions on a variety of electronic, chemistry, and craft projects like paper circuits, miniature robots, crystal growing, and bracelet making. In addition to the Take and Make kits, we have several online resources to promote the computer skills needed to thrive in a makerspace. Lynda.com offers dozens of classes on how to use image and video editing, 3-D design, and coding software. CreativeBug.com emphasizes the craftier side of the makerspace with guides for projects like sewing, paper-craft, painting, and even food projects. Makerspace projects are a fun and unique way to learn, and we hope you will take advantage of the maker services offered at the library.

JUST FOR TEENS

All Take and Make supplies will be available on a first come, first served basis in the lobby starting at 9:30 am on the day of the program.

Virtual: Geek Club
Tuesdays | Dec 1, Dec 15, Jan 5, Jan 19, Feb 2, Feb 16 | 6:30 pm
Geek Club is a casual hang-out for teens who enjoy anything from anime, comics, video games, board and card games, D and D, crazy YouTube clips and more! For the virtual winter session, we will be exploring Jackbox games, digital escape rooms, teen trivia, etc., stop by and meet some new friends. New faces always welcome!

Take and Make: Food in a Mug
Sat, Jan 9
While you curl up with your Winter Reading Challenge book, don’t forget the comfort food to match. We will supply the dry ingredients for both dinner and dessert in a mug. Supplies will be handled with CDC guidelines.

Take and Make: Stranger Things Perler Bead
Sat, Jan 23
For all you Stranger Things fans waiting for Season 4, here is a craft to get you through the dark days of waiting for your favorite characters to come back to the screen. Perler bead Holiday light pattern!

Take and Make: Harry Potter Wizard Crackers
Sat, Dec 12
A Wizard Cracker is a magical kind of Holiday cracker that wizards often gift to each other around December that holds a small gift inside. We will supply the supplies and you create at home to give to a fellow wizard of your choosing!

Take and Make: Lara Jean inspired Valentine’s Day Craft
Sat, Feb 6
Valentine’s day is coming up, let’s celebrate Lara Jean style! You do not need a Peter Kavinsky in your life to tackle this craft; from friends to grandparents, all will love this handmade valentine!

Virtual: Alex Thomas and Friends
Available Feb 14–20
Learn to draw fun caricatures of some of your favorite characters led by a puppet instructor! Whether you are just beginning or more advanced, this workshop will teach you the tips, tricks, and techniques of caricature drawing. The link will be available on our calendar in the program description box, and on our website home page. Have fun!
**Virtual: 123 Play with Me Parent and Child Online**

December 2020 | No registration required

Visit orionlibrary.org/youth all throughout December for daily activities, tips for early literacy learning, and fun interactive elements during the month of December. Watch videos from librarians and other early childhood professionals that answer some of the most common questions about little kids and learning.

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**Virtual: 20th Annual Preschool and Child Care Fair**

Wed, Feb 17 | 6 pm | Register online

Parents, are you searching for the right preschool or child care? Register to get a link to our virtual preschool and child care fair. Lake Orion and Oxford area providers will provide links, information, yearly schedules, and age requirements at this virtual fair. Click on the library link for a checklist of what to look for in preschool or child care, along with a link to our preschool and child care directory.

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All Take and Make supplies will be available on a first come, first served basis in the lobby starting at 9:30 am on the day of the program.

**Take and Make: Disguise a Gingerbread Man Contest**

Tues, Dec 1

Pick up your gingerbread man at the library and build a disguise for him using materials you have at home using characters from books, movies or graphic novels. Email a photo of your incognito gingerbread man to youth@orionlibrary.org. We will pick a winner who will get a surprise gift card.

**Take and Make: Mystery Maker Projects**

Thu, Dec 3

Pick up a kit with a variety of maker-space projects for families to complete together.

**Take and Make: New Year’s Party Prep**

Wed, Dec 30

Get your New Year’s party started with these fun projects. The whole family can work together to get the house ready for the party of the year.

**Take and Make: Home Obstacle Course**

Sat, Jan 9

Do you need to get some energy out? Pick up supplies to create your own home obstacle course.

**Virtual: Family Magic with Cameron Zvara**

Sun, Jan 17 | 2 pm

Register online

Gather your family for some awe-inspiring and astonishing interactive magic with Cameron Zvara! Register to receive the Zoom link prior to the show and meet us online for a fun afternoon!

**Take and Make: Do You Want to Build a Snowman?**

Sat, Jan 30

Who doesn’t want to build a snowman? These fun crafts will help you create some adorable snowmen regardless if there is snow outside.

**Take and Make: Chinese New Year**

Thu, Feb 11

Celebrate the Year of the Ox with these fun Chinese New Year crafts.

**Take and Make: Spread the Love**

Sat, Feb 13

Create some fun love-inspired crafts that you can share with those around you.

**Take and Make: Leftover Kits**

Sat, Feb 27

Whether you’re an adult, teen, or kid we have a program for you! Starting at 9:30 am, kits from programs the library did throughout the winter will be available for you to pick up and enjoy.
PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Virtual: Bounce and Boogie
Saturdays | Jan 9 & Feb 6 | 10 am | Ages 0–5
Register online
A music and movement–based program just for ages 0–5! Join us as we dance, groove, jump, and move to our favorite songs and rhymes!

Virtual: Sleepy Storytime
Mondays | Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8 | 6:30 pm | All ages | Register online
A virtual bedtime story brought to your house! All you need is your jammies, blanket, and favorite stuffed animal for some evening storytime fun!

Virtual: SENSEsational Storytime
Fridays | Dec 18, Jan 15, Feb 12 | 12 pm | All ages | Register online
A welcoming, interactive environment designed for children with special needs and sensory seeking kids.

Take and Make: Pick Up STEAM—Winter
Tue, Dec 8
Pick up STEAM is a preschool friendly science, math, and learning series. There will be experiments, fun, crafts, and math all centered on the winter season.

Take and Make: Dino Discovery
Thu, Dec 17
Become an archeologist as you excavate dinosaur bones! Dino-themed crafts also included.

Virtual/Take and Make: Sunshine & Rainbows
Fri, Dec 18 & Mon, Dec 21 | 10 am | Register online, limit 20
Join Ms. Halli for a live virtual storytime all about sunshine & rainbows! Sign up for a Take and Make kit available Dec 18 with fun crafts and activities, then attend our live Zoom storytime on Dec 21.

Take and Make: Marshmallow Mania
Thu, Jan 21
Who doesn't love a good marshmallow? This STEAM kit is full of marshmallow crafts and activities that are sure to please.

Virtual: Winter Weekly Storytimes
Join us for Live virtual storytimes with age–appropriate stories, songs, finger plays, puppets, and activities the weeks of Nov 30–Dec 14, 2020 and Jan 4–Feb 22, 2021. Siblings are welcome. Storytimes will be held online via Zoom. Register online to receive a link to each program.

Itsy Bitsy Babies
Tuesdays | 10 am | Birth–12 months
Babies experience the sounds and structure of language through rhythm, rhyme, and repetition.

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

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

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

**5th Grade Battle of the Books**

There’s still time to sign up for Battle! This battle will be like no other before it. Get a group of friends and create your team for battle. Battle teams can be 2-4 members. Participants must be in fifth grade and live or go to school in Lake Orion. The titles this year are full of adventure, fun, resilience, and humor. You are guaranteed to find a new title that you will enjoy. The battle will encourage teamwork and test your knowledge of these titles! Individual members must be registered by January 16, 2021.

**Virtual: Battle of the Books Halfway Meetup**

Thu, Jan 14 | 6:30 pm | Must be registered for Battle of the Books to attend

Get all your questions answered about our virtual Battle of the Books. Meet with librarians and other teams to discuss the books along the way. Mentors and teams are all encouraged to attend.

**Take and Make: There’s No Place Like Gnome**

Mon, Dec 21

Every home should have a gnome. Pick up the supplies to create your own gnome. Some basic sewing skills are required.

**Take and Make: Superhero Showdown**

Sat, Jan 16

It’s a bird, it’s a plane…It’s a superhero party! Pick up a kit to create your own superhero inspired crafts.

**Take and Make: Celebrate Black History Month**

Thu, Feb 4

Learn together about some famous Black Americans with activities and crafts.

**Take and Make: No-Sew Sock Worms**

Tue, Feb 16

Calling all book worms! Pick up a kit to create an adorable stuffed worm. No sewing skills required.

**Take and Make: Pets**

Sat, Feb 20

It’s ‘Love Your Pet Day,’ so let’s celebrate with some fun pet-themed crafts!

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**Three things I learned from my mom**

*by Jan Thomas, Friends president*

When I became president of the Friends of the Orion Township Library, I shared with my fellow board members that my mom, who passed away in 2009, played a big part in my love of reading and of libraries. She loved and used our library in my hometown in Indiana, not only for the books, but also for the experiences it provided her. Every Monday, you could find her at our library with her friends in the quilt guild working on quilts and projects, preparing for their quilt shows, and having fun. I have such fond memories of visiting with them on Mondays at the library. As we kick off 2021, I am reflecting on a few words of wisdom my mom shared with me as I was growing up.

**Pay yourself first:** Throughout my childhood, youth and beyond, my mom was adamant about the importance of paying myself first with my financial gifts and earnings. Whether it was putting pennies in my piggy bank as a child to contributing to my retirement savings plan as an adult, I would hear her words, *pay yourself first.* And once that was done, it was important to meet my financial obligations and also give to causes that are important to me, just like she did by giving to her church and other causes that meant something to her.

**We Take Care of Our Own:** My mom’s youngest sister, my Aunt Jane, was
We support library programming!

Did you know the Friends of the Orion Township Library has donated over $240,000 to programming since 2011, plus over $50,000 additional donations for renovations and gifts since 2017? Here are a few of the programs Friends gifts support:

- Adult, Teen, Youth & Outreach Services Programming
- Battle of the Books—Elementary & Middle School
- Summer Reading Program
- Team Trivia at the C-Pub
- Author Visits
- Speakers & Performers
- National Library Week celebration

Become a friend for free through April 2021!

As we announced previously, the Friends of the Orion Township Library are offering free memberships now through April 30, 2021. Current memberships have automatically been renewed for this year. Those new prospective members who are interested in joining the Friends of the Orion Township Library can go to orionlibrary.org/friends/membership/join. Questions? E-mail the Friends at friends@orionlibrary.org or check us out online at orionlibrary.org/friends.

Help the Friends

Remember that you can designate the Friends of the Orion Township Library as your charity of choice with your Amazon Smile & Kroger Rewards accounts.

Friends of the Orion Township Library Board

Jan Thomas, President
Don Walker, Vice President
Carla Tousley, Treasurer
Shae Smith, Secretary
Bob Bambach, Deputy Treasurer
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not able to live independently due to a developmental disability. She lived with my parents and me after my grandmother died—my whole life—until Jane's death in 2008. Jane was a childhood friend for me and all my cousins through several generations, and we all share stories of swinging with her under the grape arbor and singing church songs. She loved drawing and eating anything sweet, especially orange slices. As a young kid, I remember asking my mom why Jane lived with us. My mom's response, we take care of our own. I don't know how, but at such a young age, I knew that was important. Those words remained with me, and I can still hear my mom say it, we take care of our own. It's something that I hold dear and try to keep at the forefront in my life for not only my immediate family, but my extended family, friends and community.

Leave a mark, but not a stain: When I was in elementary school, I received an autograph book as a gift that I could use to have friends and family sign. My first autograph in my book came from my mom, may your life be like a snowflake, leave a mark but not a stain. I tell you, as a kid who was approaching junior high, that's not the message I was looking for then. Yet, those words remained with me, and as I've revisited and reflected on that message over the years, what a gift it is that I hold near and dear to my heart. Leave a mark but not a stain.

As you kick off your new year, I hope you have time to reflect on those things that are important to you and look forward to the possibilities of the year ahead. And I hope you remember that our library, its staff and the people who use the library provide endless opportunities for you to experience and connect around those things that are important to you. On behalf of the Friends of the Orion Township Library, I want to wish a happy new year to you!

Thank you to our library staff for their hard work and dedication. We appreciate you!
When state of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer closed all schools in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus concerns, teachers were stunned. The most important task became caring for the students’ well-being.

In the classroom, teachers could look in the students’ eyes, read their body language and walk next to them for a private conversation or quiet assistance. Now, just getting the students signed on to the online class was the priority.

Governor Whitmer and her staff quickly had the same focus: Students would not be docked for “missing” online class and their grades could not be lowered, only improved, as long as in-person school was prohibited.

At first many wondered if it would be a week, then a few weeks, then possibly a month. As Lake Orion Community Schools staff created educational opportunities for students, trying to embrace the new methods was a challenge for all.

Some called it “triage,” the process of assigning degrees of urgency. As families were concerned under the state’s stay home order, teachers were trying to adapt from their own homes.

By June, the concept of online learning was improving for staff and students, just in enough time for the summer break, hopefully returning to a “normal” school year in the fall.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 virus, that did not play out as hoped and LOCS began the 2020-2021 school year with all students in a remote setting.

This time, the teachers were ready for the twist, having spent the summer gaining the skills for online teaching and preparing their classes with tips to enhance the process.

In this edition of Orion Living magazine, we’ll share how a few of those teachers adapted and thrived in the online environment, embracing the opportunity.

Elementary

When in-person school closed suddenly in March, Orion Oaks Elementary third-grade teacher Shelby Watts reacted.

With the world full of uncertainty, her first thought was to make the new surroundings feel safe for her students.

“I knew I needed to be there for kids, that they needed someone who would be a calm person to support them through all of it,” she said this fall. “We just eased into a bit of review work so they felt confident and they got used to the virtual world.

“Everyone was in shock and scared, but it doesn’t help to worry. So I went slowly into virtual learning to support my students.”

That instinct showed how well she understood her students.

There was a mix of reactions at the beginning: concern, excitement, confusion, curiosity. Managing all of that in a physical classroom is challenging at the start of the year. Essentially restarting in March was on another level.

But they quickly found a rhythm, aided by the students’ eagerness to connect through the technology, seeing all of their friends every day and playing online games, even though they couldn’t hug and play in person.

As they adjusted, so did she.

Then one beautiful day in April, the students walked outside to see something IRL ("in real life" as the kids say.) Their beloved Miss Watts had spent her Sunday spreading them joy.

As she tweeted that day: “Drove around on this sunny day to leave driveway messages for all my students! Got to talk to a few of them from the distance of my car! I miss them so much and hope this brings them a little joy!”

The students were thrilled and she had shown the power of a personal touch.

Fast forward to the fall and she was back in her classroom at Orion Oaks—just without students. She carved out a corner of the room, set up her computer and began the full curriculum, just in a different venue.

Her transition was eased as she moved to fourth grade with 18 of her 22 students advancing with her, having been her third-graders in the spring.
But in the fall, school was structured more like the traditional school day with reading, math and science lessons, and stretch breaks.

A large part of her job was trying to connect with the students and keep them focused on the screen.

“You have to make a point during virtual learning to have students share—otherwise it is difficult to gauge their level of understanding and engagement,” Watts said.

She kept them on their toes with their names on sticks that she pulls from a cup to call on them. While that’s a familiar teacher trick, using it in the remote environment forced the students to pay attention because they may be next.

“My favorite part is assignments because you can do your assignments anywhere in your house,” said student Landon G.

The “transition dance” between every subject drew them out of their seats and allowed for an energy release.

Moving in and out of their work allows students to change the pace.

“Miss Watts brought learning videos that made our remote learning more fun,” Orion Oaks student Niko P. said. “She also reassures everyone understands her instructions and does follow up utilizing the Seesaw app.”

LOCS elementary teachers presented a lesson and often allow students independent work time to complete it, before coming back to the group to share.

The wonder of technology and breakout rooms allowed students to connect in small groups and then return to the full class.

It’s a world few imagined and in the fall it became routine.

**Middle School**

Miriam Hamilton returned to her classroom at Oakview Middle School in fall realizing something needed to change.

Years of teaching always began the same way, with her students filing in, taking their seats and her learning their names as quickly as she could, trying to match up the faces.

With the 2020-21 school year beginning remotely, that was going to be much more of a challenge, as the students would only appear on her computer screen through the Microsoft Teams platform.

She problem-solved, as all the best teachers do.

Each student’s photo and name was printed and taped onto each seat.

When she began setting them up, Hamilton had no idea if she would ever see those students sitting in those seats. But placing the faces just felt more comfortable, almost as if they were there in person.

“I saw someone else do it and I thought it was a great idea,” Hamilton said. “I showed them (remotely) the first day of school. ‘You’re actually here with me. You’re not just out there somewhere on your own.’ It’s my mindset. Just to see that they’re here with me, if not in body, in spirit.”

In the beginning, she would even change out the photos between classes to help with learning the names. A few weeks into school, the names were all familiar. But the photos remained on the seats.

As a veteran teacher, pivoting to online education was an adjustment.

She relied heavily on learning the remote world processes through the LOCS online professional development resources provided in the spring and summer.

The process for a middle school math teacher was like a school year, stacking one block on top of the other.

Beginning with the Teams platform, used by all of the secondary-level staff, then she added the math-specific programs of DeltaMath and Prodigy.

“Adding on one thing at a time,” Hamilton said, “Not doing too much (at once).”

Oakview student Reinaldo S. said the addition of DeltaMath has made a significant difference.
Guiding middle school students in math held its own challenges as confidence was a critical component. In the physical setting, she’s able to read their eyes and see if they are embracing the concept.

In the remote world, she encouraged the challenged students to visit her online office hours, where she has seen those breakthroughs.

It’s a lesson for her that she planned to take with her to the next iteration of in-person learning.

Previously, she offered a once-a-week “7th hour” for students to stay after school and ask questions. But it was only that day and if there was a conflict, finding individual time with her would be difficult.

Now, she understands the value to students and will try to incorporate that, even if the “office hour” part of her day is conducted remotely.

There’s more prep work in the online world for the teachers than in person.

It meant more detail for students, explaining parts of the lessons that may be presented differently in the previous in-person setting. As Hamilton has seen the results, she knows that level of detail will make her a more efficient teacher for the rest of her career.

Being forced to embrace the technology also has broadened her ability to bring more resources to the students, a step she may not have taken so quickly had each year rolled along as she had for most of her career.

For the students, the priorities are a bit different.

“My favorite part of remote learning is being in school with my pajamas on,” said Oakview student Lena O. “I have learned about how to speak out and to answer questions when I know the answer.”

High School

Watching Stephen Bodiya teach his Lake Orion High School students online, he moved with a comfort, bouncing from one student to another, drawing their attention and then releasing them back to their work.

A two-hour class with his Advanced Placement Calculus class took no shortcuts, using every bit of the available time.

The teacher evolution in recent years has moved away from a single instructor in the front of the classroom writing on the board and students mindlessly staring forward. The goal of interaction shifted to give and take, which became an important part of the online world as well.

“It’s about encouraging kids to respond to you and getting them involved,” Bodiya said. “It’s harder to get that connection piece that we normally make face to face.”

Guiding high school students takes a deft touch. They need less guidance and, after years of building study skills, they have a feel for how to prioritize their work and understand quickly when a concept or lesson is not clear.

Yet there is more pressure on them as well than the younger levels, as many students feel there is more at stake with their future (college, a job, a trade, etc.) in the upcoming years.

Bodiya entered remote learning in the spring a bit apprehensive about the environment. As a high school math teacher, he was familiar with his lessons and knew how to reach the students. But presenting the same information in an online format would be a challenge.

“It’s kind of reinventing the wheel,” Bodiya said. “It’s probably more work than we’re used to doing in the past... After we got into it, taking the good out of an unfortunate situation, there are a lot of really cool things were going to keep hold of when we go fully back in person and the pandemic is over.”

This is where the creativity enters—even math teachers get to be creative in the COVID-19 world—as Bodiya and his colleagues are “finding new ways to do the same thing.”

Everything from technology to parent communication adjusted to fit the online environment.
The LOHS math department used the summer to embrace the flipped learning model a book study, using “Flipping with Kirch: The Ups and Downs from Inside My Flipped Classroom.”

The flipped instructional learning model allowed teachers to maximize the classroom time, with students learning the lessons on their own time by watching teacher-created videos and applying them when in the live class. Bodiya and his colleagues figured out there are many more branches beyond just sending out a lesson.

One of Bodiya’s examples was sending students a number of graphs to examine prior to class and work toward a definition based on the graphs they saw on their own time.

His greatest lessons in the online environment may be a few that serves him well in person: Reflection and patience.

After the first week of remote teaching this fall, he didn’t feel that connection or that he was teaching the way he wanted, pushing out the information and receiving little engagement.

He examined what worked in the in-person classroom—the small groups creating whiteboards—and created channels to replicate those online.

He gave each group a few problems to solve and jumped from group to group online to interact and guide them as they helped each other.

“Almost immediately, when I jumped into the groups, it felt a lot more like school normally felt,” Bodiya said. “They were talking to each other, they had their cameras on, they were asking for help. They were a little more apprehensive to do that in a 30-person (online) class.”

In the remote scenario, he tried different techniques—placing students in smaller rooms, asking them more questions, etc.—and had to learn that just because the attempt didn’t connect with the student in the first 10 minutes, five minutes later they may have that breakthrough.

Online he learned not to rush as much to move on to the next topic or be too quick to try to find another way to reach the student. They may just need a bit more time to bounce those ideas off each other.

Looking forward

Each of the LOCS teachers found a new way to connect with students and admits, their future and profession likely will improve.

The advent of technology provides another option for them to connect with students.

What our students say

Lake Orion Community Schools students adapted well to the remote learning environment. Each found a different appealing aspect.

Abby P. (LOHS): My favorite part about remote learning is that I have more time to complete assignments. Instead of having to complete everything in one night. I’ve learned the most about the history of different types of theatre. Flipped instruction videos have been a big help in my classes because they allow me to go back and review information or look for something I missed.

Derek S. (LOHS): My favorite part of remote learning is definitely how the teachers have made it feel like you’re still in the classroom by doing lots of different activities. I learned a lot more about patience and perseverance especially with the technology and it glitching and not always doing what you want it to do. The one thing my teachers have brought that made remote learning easier is their energy and excitement to be able to teach again. They’re showing up to class every day excited about the lesson and energized which then in return makes the students more energized and it gives it more of a realistic feeling.

Teuta B. (Oakview Middle School): My favorite part about remote learning is how easily accessible it is to do remote learning. I’ve learned a lot of science this marking period and about energy sources.

Lena O. (Oakview Middle School): My favorite part of remote learning is being in school with my pajamas on. I have learned about how to speak out and to answer questions when I know the answer. All my teachers let us take breaks and we can turn off my camera, which I appreciate. Oh, and they keep me focused.
Orionites offer New Year’s advice

What did you learn in 2020 to make for a better 2021?

George Sinnott, 83: “Exercise is the key to staying healthy. This includes stretching, hiking, biking, as well as other physical activity.”

Owen, 5: “I can go to school at home and it is fun!”

Jill Potter, 47: “Zooming and connecting with family and friends can provide hours of entertainment. We now have an extended family zoom from all over the country once a month. Does wonders for the heart.”

Evelyn, 16: “You never realize how much you don’t know about yourself until you’re the only person you have to spend time with. I’m learning about how important it is to spend time alone, and it’s helped me to expend my energy towards things that make me happy.”

Carrie Gerdeman, 50: I’ve learned that I don’t need much to be happy.

Audrey, 18: “Life is constantly fleeting, even the things we hope will be permanent. That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t ever try or get attached; it means our priorities should always be on what makes us happy and satisfied. I’ve learned to be comfortable with change and trust myself to know what feels right to do.”

Dan Solarczyk, 54: “Things in your life can change in an instant; don’t hesitate to get busy living.”

Ava, 8: “I like to be kind to everyone. I learned to accept others who are different than me and to always include others!”

Janet Palmer, 56: “I’ve learned to be more appreciative of things I used to take for granted...visiting with people, store employees, frequenting local eateries, etc. In 2021 and beyond I hope to be more vocal in thanking others, spread kindness and continue finding ways to be present and connect with my family and friends.”

Danny, 15: “Don’t take things for granted and respect others’ opinions.”

Julie, 41: “I learned that joy and peace come from self awareness, authenticity and living in the present with simplicity and gratitude for the things in life that money can’t buy.”

Tonya Hamilton, 47: “My personal mantra has always been ‘Find the beauty in the adversity.’ Although 2020 has not been a beautiful year, it has shown us how much strength there is in kindness, compassion, empathy and patience. I will continue to seek these examples of goodness in 2021.”

Keith, 35: “I’ve learned to appreciate the little things and quality time spent with loved ones.”

Emily, 9: “Just have fun and love everyone.”

Kelly C., 60: “Sadly, many of us have learned that life is very short. With that being said, I have learned to truly appreciate every moment with my loved ones, along with really enjoying the beauty of nature.”

Adam, 7: “Anything unexpected can happen at any time and you just go with the flow.”

Kate Schueren, 55: “2020 has taught me that family time is extremely valuable, whether your children are 5 and 7 or 22 and 24. Meal times, game time, together time is to be enjoyed and cherished. The value of knowing your neighbors is of the utmost importance. You will have to help those who need it the most, and they in turn can help to boost your mental health. Be kind, as we are all in this together.”

Kristen Leenstra, 36: “2020 has taught me to be flexible and to realize that your plan A might not happen but your plan B might actually be better! Be sure to look for opportunities in the chaos.”
Big-hearted Lions deliver

Christmas Basket Program brings food, holiday cheer to our vulnerable neighbors

When you spend an entire calendar year raising funds for a project in December, an eight-month pandemic will certainly derail your efforts. Such is the case the Lake Orion Lions Club is facing this year.

The Lions Club’s signature outreach activity is their long-standing Christmas Basket Program. They raise funds and hold food drives throughout the year so that right before Christmas they can spread the joy of the season to almost 300 households in the Orion area. The food baskets are overflowing with fresh food, non-perishable items and gifts for children.

This year’s fundraisers—from the Lions Races in March, to the Jubilee Carnival in downtown Lake Orion in June, to their Christmas for Everyone Auction at Milosch’s Palace dealership in November—were canceled due to COVID-19.

So what’s the group to do? There are still families in need and the big-hearted Lions still have a desire to make a difference in the community. The Lions Club has set up a GoFundMe account in the hopes of raising enough funds to provide as they normally do (See sidebar).

The Christmas Basket Program will go on as scheduled on December 18 and 19. The event starts on Friday morning, where donated non-perishable food items are sorted in the CERC gym. Trucks are unloaded, boxes are assembled, carts are lined up. When volunteers arrive to help, they are given a shopping cart, boxes and a list of details for one household. The volunteer then shops for their designated family at the tables of sorted food items. There’s an area with toys and other gifts that they can choose from as well. This process continues until all 200 families and about 90 seniors have boxes designated for them.

The next morning volunteers add fresh perishables to the baskets and load their vehicles with deliveries for each family. They happily deliver the food, along with a good dose of Christmas cheer, to each grateful recipient.

“The pandemic has presented a unique challenge to the Christmas Basket Program this year,” says chairperson Dave Tucker. “But we fully intend to bring what local assistance we can while being mindful of and respecting proper recommended COVID protocols. We have contingency plans in place for specific circumstances, and our ability to help is largely dependent on the donations that we receive.”

Joining in the Lions Club’s effort to spread Christmas cheer to those in need in our community sounds like a cathartic and uplifting way to end a turbulent, isolating and divisive year. The group is grateful for any contribution you can make to their project this year.

For more information about the Lions Club Christmas Basket Program, visit lakeorionlions.org.

How to help

- Donate to the Lions Club GoFundMe account. This is their most important need at this time. Visit charity.gofundme.com/lolionschristmasbaskets, or send a check to the Lions Club at P.O. Box 255, Lake Orion, MI 48361.
- Donate food and gift items. Donations boxes will be set up at local car dealerships and Wonder Cleaners in Lake Orion. The Lake Orion schools will also be taking food donations.
- Volunteer by just showing up at the CERC any time on Friday and/or Saturday about 9 am. There is no need to sign up beforehand. Children are welcome to participate if accompanied by a parent.
In search of great shots!

Do you have a great shot 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 would like to have a gallery of great shots that we can use in upcoming issues of Orion Living. 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
HEALTH ALERT: CANNABIS

Key info you need to know:

- Marijuana use, vaping and cigarette smoking can compromise the respiratory system and impair immune function, which increases risk for COVID-19.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that you should not use e-cigarette or vaping products that contain THC (the primary psychoactive cannabinoid in cannabis) due to risk of serious lung injury.
- It’s illegal to possess or use marijuana if under age 21
- It’s illegal to consume marijuana in ANY PUBLIC PLACE including in a parking lot while in your own vehicle.
- Research shows that marijuana use, and withdrawal from marijuana, can increase anxiety and sleep problems.
- Heavy users of marijuana can have short-term problems with attention, memory, and learning, which can affect relationships and mood.

https://uhsc.umn.edu/marijuana

ROSS SZABO

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Ross Szabo has spent over half of his life finding ways to make mental health approachable for everyone. He was the Director of Outreach for the National Mental Health Awareness Campaign from 2002-2010 and had the opportunity to make challenging mental health messages relevant to large audiences. His achievements in the youth mental health field have earned him the Didi Hirsch Removing the Stigma Leadership Award and his advocacy work was entered into the Congressional Record by Congressman Patrick Kennedy.

“You could have heard a pin drop. He made a lasting impression. Students are saying this was the most informative, motivational, helpful, and life-altering speaker they have ever heard”

DONNIE TODD, COUNSELOR & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CHAIR, BRENTWOOD SCHOOL

The North Oakland Community Coalition is excited to bring Ross Szabo to our community in early 2021. Make sure to follow us on social media and subscribe to our email updates at www.noccmi.org.
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HOME VALUES IN LAKE ORION CONTINUED THEIR UPWARD TRAJECTORY AND ROSE 13 PERCENT FROM MAY TO JUNE.

The average home sales price in the Lake Orion school district continued to climb in July and August and rose 5.3 percent. On average, homes within the area remained higher than Oakland County overall, with the average sales price at approximately $361,582.

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

NEW LISTINGS

MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

CONTACT ME TODAY TO SEE HOW I CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS.

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TUNE IN TO MY WEEKLY “TEA WITH TRACY” SERIES ON INSTAGRAM FOR CURRENT MARKET INSIGHTS!
What is your winter pleasure?

Whether it’s a quiet afternoon catching up with a friend, a pick-up game of hockey on the lake or a blissful walk along one of our many snow-covered trails, take a few moments to enjoy the beauty of a Michigan winter from the confines of our little town.

Orion residents Felicia Walker and Frances Albers catch up on their lives over frothy cups of hot chocolate at Yates Cider Mill at Canterbury Village.