Autumn brings thanks and giving

What's Inside

Orion Library, Parks & Rec events ramp up for Fall

Chamber events promote local businesses, your health

Embrace autumn with downtown festivities

LOHS Homecoming traditions return

Photo by Ajit Maklecha
Useful Numbers

EMERGENCIES

911

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

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

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

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

ORION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
248-693-6300

ORION TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
248-693-3000

LAKE ORION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
248-693-5400

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)
248-693-9742

VILLAGE OF LAKE ORION
248-693-8391

ROAD COMMISSION FOR OAKLAND COUNTY
877-858-4804

LAKE ORION POST OFFICE
248-693-3253

ONTV
248-393-1060

Cover: Orion couple Anand & Raman stroll amid the beauty of a fall day at Canterbury Village.
Welcome to Fall! We made it through yet another hot (and this time very rainy) summer. Like many of you, fall has become my favorite season—and not because of pumpkin spice everything. For me, it’s the perfect temperature and the changing colors of the leaves. It’s a season of comfort and thankfulness, and a perfect time to get out and explore our trails. There is so much to look forward to, especially for our kids: friends they have missed, sports to practice, and roasting marshmallows over a campfire at Camp Agawam.

Another thing to look forward to are some of the construction projects: A lot of school facility renovations and additions happened this summer, the completed construction of Baldwin Road, and great progress had been made on the municipal complex. We will be moving in later this fall.

Not only that, but we are bringing back #OrionSnowcation this winter! I wanted to make sure you have enough time to prepare for it. There are going to be fun activities for all ages, starting off with last year’s favorite, the Christmas light decorating contest.

It is important for us to stay connected to the community, and one of the best ways for us to get feedback from you is with a community survey. Our bi-annual survey will be released in September on the Township’s website, OrionTownship.org, and Facebook page, @oriontownship.

Because it is fall, I can’t leave you without a…corny joke. What month does every tree dread? Sept-timberrrrr! Ba-dum-tiss!

Chris Barnett
Orion Township Supervisor
Orion Township Fire Department

When minutes count, Advanced Life Support is a game changer

Orion Township Fire Department (OTFD) has been serving the residents of Orion Township and the Village of Lake Orion for many years. The Township has experienced growth, year over year since it was established in 1835. From 2010 to today we have experienced over 12% growth and the Fire Department has dedicated themselves to providing excellent service that matches the increasing demands and needs of our rapidly expanding community. OTFD has recently achieved a new license level for the Emergency Medical Services provided to our residents that is truly valuable to the health and safety of our community.

Needs grew as community expanded

Assistant Fire Chief John Pender recalls, “When I started in 1996, Orion Fire was completely paid–on–call MFR (Medical First Responder) department”. Since then, the department remained predominantly a Paid–On–Call (POC) Fire Department with the addition of only a handful of full–time administrative staff that provided Fire and Life Safety services, as well as Basic EMS first–response services. POC firefighters would respond to calls for service from their homes and/or places of employment. This dedicated group serviced these calls, trained, and engaged in community events all while raising families and working their regular day job.

Over the years our community has continued to grow in commerce, industry, and number of calls for service. The increased call volume placed a significant strain on the individuals responding to calls as their second job. In 2015, the department hired the first group of full–time firefighters to staff three stations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. While OTFD provided first–response basic emergency medical services; patient transportation and advanced emergency medical services were provided by Star EMS (a third party), or on occasion, an ambulance from a surrounding community.

In Oakland County there are three State of Michigan EMS licenses that are recognized: Medical First Responder (MFR), Emergency Medical Technician–Basic (EMT–B) and Emergency Medical Technician–Paramedic (EMT–P). The EMT–B license requires a nearly year–long academy with a national exam. The Basic EMT can assess injuries and illnesses, stabilize injuries, manage a patient’s airway and breathing, obtain vital signs, and perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The Paramedic requires an additional year of schooling and can perform the basic skills with the added interventions of electrical therapy, medications to treat conditions, intravenous (IV) and intraosseous (IO–bone injection) and advanced and surgical airways.

The department had another goal of Basic Life Support (BLS) transporting and that was initiated with the hiring of Fire Chief Rob Duke in 2018. This increase in service would allow the fire department to transport non–critical patients to local hospitals, or in cases of emergencies, to rapidly transport and rendezvous with Advanced Life Support (ALS) units en route to the hospital. The increased level of service required the purchase of two ambulances, and the hiring of more full–time personnel. Three of Orion’s four fire stations were then manned with two firefighters 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Having this additional staff and equipment allowed three ambulances to respond to calls for

Orion Fire Department’s new Advanced Life Support equipment allows for cardiac monitoring, specialized IV placement, and assistance with breathing.
help—our two ambulances and the one from Star EMS.

**The next level of care**

Due to local and national EMS manpower shortages, and competing demands for service, the availability for any agency to provide Advanced Life Support service to the Township and Village became stressed. Response times for that next level of care had lengthened, and that’s not something you want in an emergency. During this time, several firefighters completed schooling and became licensed paramedics. It was then decided that future hirings would focus on candidates with EMT-Paramedic licenses. The stage was set for Orion Fire to deliver the next level of EMS care.

In November of 2020, the residents passed a millage to allow for the expansion of services provided by the Fire Department. This support from the residents allowed the department to pursue upgrading services to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS).

In January 2021 OTFD began purchasing ALS equipment including LIFEPAK 15 monitor/defibrillators for identifying cardiac and related conditions and providing electrical therapy to help treat life threatening conditions, intraosseous systems to allow for bone access to deliver fluids and medications, video laryngoscopes to allow for more definitive management of a patient’s airway and breathing among a myriad of other medical devices and supplies. Intensive training on this new equipment, supplies, and injuries and illnesses began the first week of January. In April, a new ambulance was purchased to maintain fleet readiness. During this time staffing was increased to 30 full-time firefighters to allow all 4 stations to be manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. OTFD also has six dedicated part-time firefighters that staff shifts and respond to calls from home.

**Advanced Life Support arrives**

In March, the department filed an application to officially upgrade our agency licensure to Advanced Life Support. The application was approved by the Oakland County Medical Control Authority (OCMCA) Professional Standards and Review Organization in early May to continue with the licensure process. The application also received motions to approve from two more OCMCA committees. On June 9th, the State of Michigan reviewed the OTFD application, OCMCA approval, and performed inspections on all 3 ambulances. Formal approval to begin ALS service came on June 11th, 2021. Orion Township Fire Department began Advanced Life Support service on June 12th at 8AM. Within the first month of ALS service OTFD transported an average of 6 calls a day, almost 3 times the average daily number of transports prior to the service upgrade.

This accomplishment is truly a testament to the professionalism and dedication of each member of the Orion Township Fire Department. The department is proud to grow with our community and deliver the highest level of care possible. The growth of the department would not have been possible without the support of our residents and local businesses. Thank you!
Stay a step ahead of identity thieves

Identity theft is becoming more and more prevalent these days and is something that we all need to be aware of. Identity theft happens when someone steals your personal information to commit fraud. The identity thief may use your information to apply for credit, file taxes, or get medical services. These acts can damage your credit score and cost you time and money to restore it.

Here are a few simple steps that you can take to reduce or minimize the risk of becoming a victim of identity theft.

- Practice safe internet use. Change your passwords regularly and don’t use passwords that include birthdays, names, or street addresses. Create complex passwords that can’t be easily guessed.
- Destroy private records. Shred receipts, credit offers, account statements, and expired credit cards. This can prevent “dumpster divers” from getting your personal information.
- Don’t share personal information (birthdate, Social Security number, or bank account number) just because someone asks for it.
- Secure your mail. Collect your mail daily and place it on hold when you’ll be away for more than a couple of days.
- Review your credit card and bank account statements regularly. Compare receipts with account statements and watch for unauthorized transactions.
- Be careful with your Social Security number (SSN). Don’t carry your Social Security card in your wallet or purse. Only give out your SSN when necessary.
- Check your credit report yearly. Everyone can request free copies of their reports once a year. Be certain that they don’t include accounts that you have not opened.
- Beware of scams.

If you do find yourself a victim of identity theft, it is important to act quickly.

- Report the fraud to local law enforcement
- Contact the major credit bureaus
- Create a fraud recovery plan
- Here are some resources to help you if you find yourself a victim of identity theft: annualcreditreport.com; identitytheft.gov; ftc.gov/credit

New license designation is sensitive to those with special needs

Michigan residents on the autism spectrum or those with hearing loss can now get a special designation on driver’s licenses or state IDs. The law will also allow parents to add the designation to their own driver’s license or ID. Advocates for the bill said it will help keep them safe during encounters with police.

Law enforcement will be able to see the designation in the Michigan Law Enforcement Information Network during traffic stops. The designation is private and can only be seen by law enforcement officials.

People with autism can be sensitive to loud noises, bright lights, and being touched. These are common things that happen during traffic stops—loud sirens, loud vocal commands, and in some cases a fast approach from an officer could make people with autism anxious, over stimulated, and cause them to behave in ways that officers might find strange or threatening. This designation will hopefully allow for better understanding and communication during traffic stops.

People with hearing loss or deafness do not always respond correctly to verbal commands, because they do not understand them. If an officer tells the driver to get out of the vehicle, but that person thought they said to get their ID, they just reached for something without the officer’s permission. Situations like this can go sideways, and quick. This designation is the first step to improving communication and relationships between police officers and those on the autism spectrum and those with hearing loss.

There is no fee to have either designation added to your record. For more information and to view the application, please visit Michigan.gov/SOS and search ‘communication impediment’.
Fall Maintenance Tips

Protect your home from the ravages of a Michigan winter

During the fall months, there are several things that homeowners can do to protect their homes from winter water damage.

Before the cold weather hits, be sure:

- Outside water faucets are opened, and inside the home the line is closed.
- Locate and mark the main water valve for your home and make sure the adults in your house know where it is located. Water damage can be minimized if all adults know where to turn off the water in the event of an emergency.
- Consider insulating any pipes that are near outside walls, under the home (in crawl spaces) or in the attic.

If you have had problems with lines freezing in the past, inspect the lines before the winter hits. In addition to insulating the pipes, seal any gaps in the walls with caulk or other means. Check with your local hardware store for other effective ways of insulating and sealing gaps.

If your pipes do freeze, remember that you should never thaw the pipes with an open flame. It is best to use a small portable heater, or a hair dryer. Please make sure you are careful about electric shock around standing water!

If your home is going to be vacant for any prolonged period of time, you can contact the Department of Public Services at 248-391-0304, ext. 8503 and have the water shut off at the street to prevent damage from occurring within the home. You may want to consider keeping your heat over 60 degrees and draining the water from your lines inside your home.

During a winter storm there is always the possibility that you will lose power to your home. If the power will be off for a long period of time, turn the water off at the main shut off valve in your home. Open faucets in all levels of your home to allow for expansion should any water left in the lines freeze.

If you notice anything unusual like unfrozen puddles or large pools of water, please contact the Orion Township Water and Sewer Department so that we can shut off the water at the road. If you have a water pipe that has broken in your home or on your property, you will have to contact an independent contractor to fix any damage that occurs within your property.

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

Smoke alarm giveaway and free installation prevents home fires

The Orion Township Fire Department has joined the MI Prevention statewide fire safety campaign to reduce the high number of fire deaths, injuries, and property loss in Michigan. The Fire Department will be installing smoke alarms in homes free of charge.

“Having working smoke alarms in your home and making fire safety a constant priority are the best ways to prevent fires before they start,” said Fire Chief Rob Duke.

More than just an alarm give-away program, this campaign is an actual home installation program with an educational component to increase awareness and knowledge about fire.

Homeowners can contact the Fire Department to request a fire safety home visit by calling 248–391–0304, ext. 2000 or by email at orionwpfd@comcast.net.

If a water or sewer emergency occurs

Call Orion Township Monday through Friday during Township hours 248–391–0304 Ext. 8505

or call Oakland County Emergency Dispatch during non–business hours 248–858–4911
Happy retirement to Orion’s own Lieutenant Dan

Dan Toth retires from the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office Orion Substation.

Following a long career of public service and leadership, Lieutenant Dan Toth has announced his retirement effective October 6, 2021. “Thank you” does not even begin to describe how appreciative the Township and its residents are for your service.

Lt. Toth started his service as a Military Police (MP) Officer and MP Investigator in Washington, DC. He joined the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office in the late 1980s, where he has served for the past 34 years. He was assigned to the Orion Substation in the early 1990s, when the population was under 20,000 and there were only 2 patrol cars per shift. He quickly fell in love with the community and wanted to make it home. For the last 10 years Orion Township has been fortunate to have him as the Station Commander.

When thinking back to his childhood, Lt. Toth always had a desire to work in law enforcement.

“My immigrant grandfather, father, uncles, other family members, and neighbors all served our Country and community,” Lt. Toth recalled. “All the social unrest in the 1970s probably had an effect too. I was taught that unless you’re willing to step up in some way to contribute and try to make a difference, words alone are not enough.”

A problem solver

Lt. Toth took that to heart and took the approach of being a problem solver. Community policing emphasizes proactive problem solving in a systematic and routine fashion. Rather than responding to crime only after it occurs, community policing encourages deputies to proactively develop solutions to the immediate underlying conditions contributing to public safety problems. That also means getting to know the community, gaining residents trust, and building upon these core principles. For Lt. Toth, helping people solve problems and conflicts has been the most rewarding part of the job.

“I was taught that unless you’re willing to step up in some way to contribute and try to make a difference, words alone are not enough.”

-Lt. Dan Toth

“We often encounter residents at some of the worst moments in their lives,” Toth said. “To make that personal connection, where people know that we do care, and that we are doing our best to keep everyone safe and trying to make things a little better is the best part of my job.”

Lt. Toth has become an “expert” problem solver, from his up bringing to his time in the military, on the job learning, and trainings with the FBI in Quantico, Virginia. He was first able to train with the FBI at the training facility in 1985 as an Army Investigator and always dreamed of going back. In 2017, Lt. Toth was nominated by his peers to attend the FBI National Academy—Class 269. The FBI invests a vast amount of resources into the management and leadership training academies and offers it to a select number of participants each year from all 50 States and allied countries throughout the world.

“The training and liaison opportunities are superb, but the takeaway for me was communication and perspective,” Lt. Toth said. “You are working in teams and learning from other law enforcement leaders from around the world, from small towns to huge metro agencies...it helped reinforce the many successful strategies we use in Orion and provided other options on issues we can improve upon. It was an invaluable experience.”

Lt. Toth was able to bring this knowledge back to the men and women of the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office.
**Tales from the squad car**

The training at Quantico is some of the best, but it cannot prepare you for every situation. Police are often confronted with some of the most tragic, as well as some of the most bizarre situations imaginable. Lt. Toth recalls a story from his earlier patrol days:

“While on routine patrol, just after 2 am, I saw a pick-up truck swerving all over the roadway and attempted to pull the vehicle over. The vehicle refused to stop and continued into a neighborhood and then suddenly turned into a driveway; meanwhile the lights and sirens had been going for a while. The driver jumped out and confidently told me that he was now safe at home. At that same moment, the dispatcher announced over the radio that the registered vehicle owner actually lived down the street! The young man proceeded to look at the house, then at me, and suddenly jumped up on his hands and attempted to negotiate a resolution to his problem. He was trying to convince me that walking on his hands would be better than a normal sobriety test and that if he can “walk” all the way home on his hands that I should agree to just let him go to bed! He proceeded to “walk” down the driveway and into the street, failing his own sobriety test. This was 25 years ago, and sometimes I wish we had cameras back then.”

**Awards and rewards**

Over the years Lt. Toth has received many awards and recognition for his hard work, including awards for chasing down armed robbers and tracking down a murderer across the country. To him, the best rewards are the ‘thanks’ or simple hugs from people he has helped. After pulling a grandmother from a burning home, and on another occasion, pulling a man from a burning church building, Lt. Toth expressed, “I received hugs and tears of gratitude from their family, and that is priceless. I felt that more than any award.” He was still emotional while recalling these moments, all these years later. It is about the people for him, it always has been, and always will be.

When asked what he will miss most about Orion, without hesitation, Lt. Toth responded, “Hands down, the people. Looking back on the past 10 years, we have overcome so many public safety challenges, both large and small. From the aftermath of the financial recession and recovery, the 2012 US Senior Open, two major roadway projects, major building and infrastructure projects, 911 call center upgrades, to the many other 24/7 public safety incidents, the one constant that stands out is the support from all our residents. This is huge to the men and women in uniform,” Toth said. “The deputies in Orion are actively engaged and connected to the community, and it is easy to see that reciprocated by our community.”

**Free time awaits**

As retirement is quickly approaching, we began to wonder what Lt. Toth plans to do with all his free time.

“An extended vacation is in order and then I have several other interests I plan to pursue,” Lt. Toth said.

Raising children, taking care of aging parents/family, volunteering, and all of him and his wife’s other commitments, they have not been able to truly take vacations. He has always had a cell phone and/or pager glued to his hip for the last 30-plus years and has been on-call 24/7. Let’s face it, a vacation is not truly a vacation if you are checking your emails and taking work calls all the time. It is almost time to set your clock to beach time, Lieutenant!

Here are a few parting words from Lt. Toth: “I am fortunate and lucky for doing a lifetime of something I love to do while working with so many men and women that are so committed to their job and also fun to work with. I want to take this opportunity to thank our residents, friends, co-workers, and others who helped me along my journey and inspired me with their kindness, respect, gratitude, and humanity. You made the difference, and I will always be grateful and humbled.”

As Abraham Lincoln once said, “I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives, and I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.” We are proud of you, Lieutenant Toth, for everything you have done for the community. Thank you for your service and sacrifice. You risk your life everyday so that others can lead an otherwise boring life. We have great respect for you, honor you, and are thankful for all that you have done!
Did you know that in the early 19th century, government surveyors reported that the lands in Orion Township were not suitable for farming? There were only marshes, swamps, and barren land. Boy were they wrong! As early as 1826 early settlers cleared and cultivated the land. In fact Jesse Decker was the first to seed three acres of wheat and in 1830 the first barn in Orion was raised.

During the 19th century Orion became an agricultural hub, providing grain, fruit, potatoes and even dairy to the community and by train to neighboring counties. There are a few barns that are still standing in Lake Orion.

**Wisconsin Dairy Barn**
The large red Wisconsin Dairy Barn at 4215 W. Clarkston Road was part of the Lakefield Farm. This “gentleman’s farm” was developed by Oscar Lambert and John Weber in 1914. Famous for raising cattle, hogs and sheep, this barn was developed by the University of Wisconsin’s Agricultural Experiment Station. The barn featured a wide central servicing alley for livestock. The Lakefield Farm has many other agricultural buildings on their farmstead that are still standing today.

**Porritt Barn**
Another famous barn still standing is the Porritt Barn. This barn was once home to the Porritt Dairy operation. It was originally built in 1925 and was located at M-24 and Silverbell Roads. The barn was manufactured by the Aladdin Company of Bay City and was shipped in pieces to the Eames Station, then delivered by horse and wagon to the Porritt property for friends and family to assemble. In 2000, a joint effort by the Orion Historical Society and Orion Township Parks and Recreation relocated the barn to Friendship Park.

**Scripps Wildwood Farm**
We cannot forget the famous Wildwood Farm, established in 1916 by William Scripps. His farm on 1601 Joslyn Road was one of the state’s foremost livestock breeders in the early 20th century. There was a hay barn, beef cattle barn, dairy cattle barn and a large saddle horse stable. These barns have since been redeveloped into present day Canterbury Village.

These are just a few of the many barns in the area. Do you know of any barns that are still standing in Lake Orion? Feel free to share your barn history with us at WhereLivingisaVacation.com!

By Orion Living Contributor Jimmy Johnson. Jimmy owns Graphic Takeover and shares Orion history at WhereLivingisaVacation.com and on Facebook @WhereLivingisaVacation.
Flush or don’t flush?

Flushable wipes? Don’t flush!
Even though the packaging clearly states they are environmentally safe and dissolve in water, manufacturers do not state how long they take to dissolve in water. The fact is they do not dissolve as quickly as most would think and cause a tremendous number of issues in the sanitary sewer mains and associated pump stations. Unlike normal toilet paper that decomposes quickly, these flushable wipes are more like cloth than tissue and end up clogging the sewer mains and pumps.

In Orion, we have had several instances where our sewer lift station pumps were plugged with flushable wipes. Not only does this cause strain on the sewer pumps, it also could lead to a sewer main backup. They can even clog residential sewer lines, which can result in a homeowner having to hire a plumber to unplug the line. Municipalities across the country have expressed their opposition to flushable wipes and asked their communities not to flush them down the toilet, and we agree. Please do not put “flushable” wipes down the toilet.

Unused medication? Don’t flush!
Most residents in Orion probably have old prescriptions somewhere in their homes. The most common way of disposing of them has been to flush them down the drain or toilet. In recent years, information has surfaced showing that the wastewater treatment plants cannot always remove the high concentrations of metals, chemicals, and/or organic substances found in medications. Ultimately, trace amounts of these medications can end up in our water supply and research has shown that the amounts detected are too low to have any impact on human health, but there is a better way to handle medication disposal. Here are alternatives to flushing them down the toilet:

- Ask your pharmacy if they have a drug take back program.
- The Oakland County Sheriff’s Department has a program called “Operation Medicine Cabinet.” The Orion substation is a drop-off location for this program. They collect unused, unneeded, or expired medications.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration offers guidelines on how to properly dispose of medication in other ways than flushing them down the toilet.

For more information visit fda.gov and search unused medication.

Fighting the Phragmite takeover

You may not be aware that Orion Township is being invaded—it’s true, and we are asking for your help! The population of an invasive, non-native plant species known as Phragmites is increasing and threatening the ecological health of our marshes and wetlands.

Phragmites are a perennial that can grow up to 15 feet and can create tall, dense strands which replace native plants, deny fish and wildlife nutrients and space; block access to the water for swimming, fishing, and other recreation endeavors; spoil shoreline views; and pose a fire hazard due to dry plant materials. The presence of Phragmites on residential lots can also affect property values.

By using an integrated management approach, invasive Phragmites can be controlled. This approach includes herbicide treatment, followed with mechanical removal such as cutting or mowing, and annual maintenance.

As part of our ongoing control program, the Township holds an EGLE permit for the herbicide application which saves you from having to go through the process of pulling the permit yourself. This herbicide treatment usually occurs before the first frost of the year (September or October) with the follow up cutting during the winter (around February).

Please consider joining Orion Township in our fight to protect and preserve our woodlands, wetlands, marshes, and neighborhoods now and for generations to come!

If you would like more information about Phragmites control, please visit the Department of Public Services tab at oriontownship.org or call 248-391-0304 ext. 8503.
What’s the first animal to appear on a US coin?

Can you guess the first animal to appear on a circulating coin? Go on, I’ll give you a second to guess.

That’s right, the first animal to appear on a U.S. circulating coin was an eagle, back in 1794. No other animal graces as many precious metal coins as the bald eagle. That’s because no other animal represents traits so closely associated with a country. As President John F. Kennedy once said, “The fierce beauty and proud independence of this great bird aptly symbolizes the strength and freedom of America.”

The “Eagle” was a $10 coin at one time. Centuries ago, the United States Mint created several “Eagle” coins that represented $2.50, $5, $10, and $20. A $2.50 eagle was called a quarter eagle. The $5 eagle was called a half eagle, and the $20 coin was called a double eagle.

The second animal featured on a circulating coin was the bison, also called a buffalo. It was on the nickel from 1913 to 1938.

If any animal could stand in for the bald eagle, it is undoubtedly the buffalo. Credit the animal’s strong spiritual connection with Native Americans, the tens of thousands of buffalo that used to roam the continent, or the fact that three states—Kansas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming—selected the buffalo as their state mammal. The coin’s design was resurrected nearly 70 years later for the one-ounce Gold American Buffalo Coin. The buffalo featured on the coin’s design may have been based on an actual buffalo: a massive American buffalo named Black Diamond. The buffalo kept its status as the only non–eagle animal until the 50 State Quarters Program introduced more animals in 1999.

If you have a child who is interested in learning about money, look no further! The U.S. Mint has everything you are looking for—educational games, trivia, activities, and videos! The U.S. Mint has a great website for kids (and adults) that contains games of various skill levels, activities, videos and other information regarding our coins and money. These fun games can be played for individual enrichment or as part of a home school lesson plan.

What’s going there?

Lifted Industrial

Located on Lot 4 in Liberty Tech Center off of Giddings Road, the approved plan is for a 42,500 square foot industrial building.

There are always projects in the works at Orion Township! Once the ground has been broken, you’ll see an update on the project here in Orion Living. Until then, you can view cases moving through the Planning Commission approval process on the Township’s website or by attending a Planning Commission meeting the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Additionally, all current project under construction can be found on the Township’s website under Current Developments.

Check out US Mint website at usmint.gov/learn/kids to get started today.

And the survey says...

The community survey is being released this fall and we would love your input. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website, OrionTownship.org, for more details.
Bundle your yard waste before December 15

Yard waste collection ends December 15th. Yard waste must be bundled as required, placed in large capacity craft/paper bags, placed loose in a can with a “yard waste” or “compost” sticker on the container (provided by GFL at your request), or placed in a purchased Township yard waste/composting cart. There is no limit on how much yard waste may be set out each week.

Types of yard waste accepted are:

- Lawn debris, Grass clippings
- Weeds, Leaves
- Small twigs and prunings
- Shrub clippings (tied and bundled)
- Vegetable garden and kitchen waste materials and fruit
- Old potting soil
- Halloween pumpkins
- Dirt incidental to minor plantings or edging of lawns
- Brush and tree trimmings
- Tree branches and logs (less than three inches in diameter and less than four feet long) tied or secured with string or twine in bundles less than 18 inches in diameter
- Small shrubs and bushes with direct removal from root systems

How to reduce yard waste

Did you know that yard waste can recycle naturally, when managed correctly? Here are a few ways you can put less yard waste to the curb and benefit your garden at the same time.

- Grasscycling. Use a mulching mower and let grass clippings fall back into the lawn (you can also retrofit your current mower with a mulching blade kit). This adds nitrogen from the clippings to the soil. It can cut fertilizer use by 30% or more. Cut only one-third of grass blade at a time to promote root growth and shade out weeds. Deep roots help plants resist drought and disease.

- Reduce lawn area. Add low maintenance plant beds and ground covers, slow–growth bushes, decks, walkways, and borders to your yard to reduce lawn area.

- Use shredded leaves and grass clippings as mulch. This helps control weeds, conserves moisture, and reduces soil erosion. Place a one-to-two-inch layer on wet newspaper between vegetable/flower rows. Sprinkle one inch layer around bushes and tree bases. Shred leaves into the lawn which adds nutrients and will not cause any harm to the lawn.

- Backyard composting. Make your own bin/pile or purchase a compost bin and compost your yard waste.

Make an easy autumn leaf wreath

This fall there is sure to be plenty of leaves collecting throughout your yard. Take some of those leaves and turn them into a wreath with materials you likely already have on hand.

Materials

- Autumn leaves (use leaves that are fairly sturdy, already dried, and not too curly)
- Metallic paint (optional)
- Wood embroidery hoop (or other similar object)
- Hot glue gun
- String or ribbon for hanging

Instructions

- Paint leaves (or leave natural). You can paint leaf sections, images, shapes, dots, or trace the veins. You can even use metallic Sharpies. Let paint dry completely.

- Prep your materials. Heat up your hot glue gun and separate the inner and outer hoops of your wood embroidery hoop (you need just one per wreath).

- Begin to glue. Run a line of hot glue along a small section of the embroidery hoop. Quickly press a leaf over the hot glue, holding it in place for a moment to stabilize as the glue cools and dries. Continue until the hoop is covered with leaves.

- Add string or ribbon. Tie or glue a loop of string or ribbon to the hoop to use for hanging.

- Hang in a sunny window or on your front door.
Local real estate market news

A strong market for the foreseeable future

Last quarter we talked about the current state of the real estate market and how it has been unlike any market we have ever experienced. While there are always natural cycles within the real estate market, favoring buyers at times and sellers other times, this was one of the most extreme seller's markets—historically we have never seen anything like it.

While things started heating up in the February/March time frame, by June (the latest numbers available at the time this goes to print), we really saw incredible changes, especially within the Lake Orion real estate market. From March 2021 through June 2021, homes sold within the Lake Orion school district saw an increase of 24%, with average sales prices increasing from $332,700 to $413,217.

High demand, multiple offers

Not only did we see an increase in the average sales price but demand was so much higher than inventory that the Median Days on Market in Lake Orion was less than one week. In many cases, move-in ready homes received multiple offers within the first day or two on the market.

As sellers started to see the growing sales prices and how quickly homes were selling at increased prices, more sellers decided it was the right time to sell and inventory began to climb. Lake Orion listings began to steadily climb each month. Total listings on the market in Lake Orion went from an all time historical low of only 48 listings in March 2021, to almost double that amount by June 2021. As more sellers are interested in cashing in on this lucrative market, the supply and demand levels are slowly beginning to align with that of a typical seller's market scenario.

No bursting bubble soon

If you are a buyer who has been waiting for the “bubble to burst” you may be waiting for some time. All market indicators and forecasts report that the real estate market will continue to be strong in the foreseeable future. Interest rates remain low and demand is still high.

Those buyers that purchased homes at what many considered ‘overpriced’ sales prices, have already seen an increase in their investment as home prices continue to rise. While values may not continue to increase exponentially, as during this past spring market, they continue to increase nevertheless. If you are considering selling your home, be sure to connect with a real estate professional who is highly skilled in marketing, to help you to maximize your profit!

By Orion Living Contributor Tracy Woodrum. Tracy is an Associate Broker/Dealer with DOBI Real Estate

Have you got curb appeal?

Your home’s exterior is like the cover of a book, it sets the stage for what’s inside, and helps boost the market value. Whether you’re looking to sell or just interested in some improvements, adding curb appeal is often an easy and inexpensive way to make your house stand out.

House numbers, the entry door lockset, overhead light fixture, and mailbox are all elements that can add style and appeal to your home quite easily.

Another focal point is your homes front entry door. Make a statement by painting your front door, opt for a bold color that accentuates and enhances the other colors of your exterior. Low-voltage or solar-powered landscape lighting makes a huge impact on your home’s curb appeal while also providing safety and security.

Chances are, your home already has curb appeal, it just may need some finishing touches to really look its best. With a little time and effort, you’ll be amazed by how much of a difference the little things make.
Green Schools Program

Donate your points to benefit school projects

Have you signed up to earn points when you recycle through the Recyclebank program? Did you know that you will be able to donate your points to fund a school project?

The RTS | Recyclebank Green Schools Program encourages students to make a difference in their communities. Promoting environmental education, innovation, and creative solutions, this program believes in investing in young people and giving them the resources, they need to be positive examples for their community.

A project benefiting Orion Township Schools will be added to the Recyclebank website, where members can donate their Recyclebank points online. For every 250 points donated to a school’s project, we will grant one dollar.

Stay tuned for more information about how you can donate your points to the RTS | Recyclebank Green Schools program and the selected projects!

Are you moving?

If you are moving out of Orion Township, please call 248–391–0304 ext. 8505 to schedule a final water/sewer bill.

Please provide:

- Property address
- Date of closing
- New owner’s name
- Name and address of title company

We want all households in Orion Township to get rewarded for helping us make our community a greener, cleaner place. When you recycle, you earn points you can use to save money and support our local businesses! Check out some of our current rewards, and start saving today!

Free Garden of Life 5ng Chd with purchase of $100.00 500 POINTS
Free Small Iced Coffee 150 POINTS
Free Chocolate Chip Cookie with purchase of medium ice cream 50 POINTS
$2 off $10 or more cup(s) purchase 20 POINTS
15% Off any small or large pizza when you dine in 100 POINTS
Free 8 oz Candle 100 POINTS
Free 6 oz Body Butter with $75 Purchase 250 POINTS
Two free hours of tutoring or coaching 200 POINTS
FREE Capture Your Moment Photo Session at Magic Kingdom with Vacation Package Booking 100 POINTS
FREE Large Bath Bomb with $20 Purchase 100 POINTS
1 FREE Truffle with $10 or more Purchase 50 POINTS
1 FREE Kindermusik visit 150 POINTS

Recyclebank® To redeem your rewards or sign up for free, visit www.recyclebank.com
Downtown comes alive!
Celebrations strengthen community spirit

Why is the spirit of welcome and family so strong in Downtown Lake Orion? It is the symbiotic relationship between municipality, businesses, and the local residents. Downtowns and the businesses located there distinguish a community, are the drivers of economic development, and help to offer a sense of place that contributes significantly to the quality of life of its residents.

Community support pays off
During the 2020 Covid–19 shutdown, friends of Downtown Lake Orion—near and far—took extra steps to support Lake Orion and its business community. They did this by contributing to crowd-funding campaigns for small businesses, purchasing Downtown Dollar gift certificates, attending events, strolling through town to read the Storywalk, enjoying the public art, and making sure our businesses knew they were valued.

“Our sales are up 46 percent compared to 2019, the support has been amazing,” says one local business owner.

This trend by Downtown Lake Orion patrons continues into 2021, filling downtown streets, shops, parks, and restaurants with people and economic activity. The call came from shop owners and managers to continue offering events which encourage people to come downtown. Taking this to heart, the Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors (DDA) made events, music, and winter activities a priority in 2020 and again in 2021.

This Fall you can look forward to fun events, a new Storywalk, and Ladies Night festivities each month.

Look at what The Lake Orion DDA has planned: In September, the DDA Board approved two new events—Oktoberfest and Back to School Movie Night. In October, the Halloween Extravaganza is back. In November, Downtown will celebrate the Hometown Holidays with the Sing & Stroll Tree Lighting, as well as Shop Small Saturday and a new Turkey Trot 5k. The Orion Lighted Parade is back this year too!

Oktoberfest
September 10 | 5–11 pm
Children’s Park Parking Lot

This year marks the 1st Annual Oktoberfest fundraiser for downtown, a chance for the community to come together for an evening of entertainment and friendly competitions.

Back in 1810, Oktoberfest celebrated a royal wedding, since then the event has been a celebration of the seasonal Oktoberfest style of beer brewed every Fall. You and your lederhosen will feel at home in the Beer Tent featuring the ceremonial tapping of the Golden Keg, German musicians, German-style eats, Stein hoisting contests and a beer slide game!

Dr. Sam Caruso and his daughter Marcella visit some local shops on Flint Street.
Our more family-friendly events include a Flickin’ Chicken Competition and a lively Weiner Dog Race. Guests can register online to prepay for entry and competitions or pay at the door. It’s sure to be the event of the year!

**Back to School Movie Night**
**September 24 | At dusk**
**Children’s Park**
Round up the kids and join us in the Children’s Park to enjoy the movie, “Raya and the Last Dragon!” Bring your chairs and blankets and get comfortable on one of our tiers around the gazebo. Families can enjoy concessions including glow-in-the-dark cotton candy, chips, sweets, water and soda, and purchase glow jewelry or light-up swords.

Downtown Lake Orion is collecting donations of school supplies for the beginning of the school year. So bring donations like crayons, pencils, paper or your favorite school supplies and enjoy the show!

For details about these events, visit downtownlakeorion.org/events.

Halloween fun returns for all ages on Wednesday, October 20th for the new and improved Halloween Extravaganza. Also look for Santa, Mrs. Claus and all your favorite characters and brilliant floats at the Orion Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 4th.
SPECIAL EVENTS

Slow Row LO
Join an informal social group of kayakers on area lakes. Each participant is required to provide their own craft, PFD and any user fees to gain access to boat launch. Visit SlowRowLO on Facebook for event dates, details and exact location. Parking permits/passes may be required for some locations.

Dragon Dash 5K
Wildwood | Sun, Sep 12 | 9 am | $14R/$17NR
Whether you run or walk, join us for the Annual Dragon Dash! This new 5K certified course beginning and ending at Wildwood and following the Polly Ann Trail north toward the Orion Center will enhance your training season. All runners will receive an award crossing the finish line. All levels of runners and walkers are invited, from beginner to competitive. Shirts can be purchased for an additional fee.

Bike Rodeo
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 23 6–7:30 pm | Ages 11–13 | $8R/$10NR
Join us for our first annual Bike Rodeo and Safety Clinic! Your tween will learn how to wear a helmet properly, how to inspect and repair basic bike mechanisms, crossing major roads, what to wear for best visibility and so much more! With more and more safe routes to school being completed and more access to bike routes, safety paths and trails in the community, your student and you need to be confident with their ability to bike safely.

Fall Festival of Family Fun
Camp Agawam | Sat, Sep 25 | 11 am–3 pm | Free Parking & Admission
Come out to beautiful Camp Agawam for a day filled with fall activities for the entire family including crafts, petting farm, hay wagon rides, carnival games, and more! Parking and admission is free, more details to come.

Game Day & Puzzle Swap
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 30 9 am–5 pm
Free Parking & Admission
Love Games? How about free games? Game Day swap will have puzzles, books, DVDs and board games for anyone to swap and exchange. Event is free for anyone to participate.

Blood Drive with Versiti Blood Center
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 30 | Thu, Dec 9 | 2–7 pm
Ages 17+
Every day, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan needs more than 560 blood products to meet hospital demand. What we collect will go back to help people in your community! The key to success is to fill all appointment slots. To schedule your appointment please sign up at donate.michigan.versiti.org.

Made in the Mitten Art & Craft Show
Orion Center | Sat, Oct 2 10 am–5 pm
Free Parking & Admission
#BuyNearBy and Shop Local!
Start your holiday shopping early with one of a kind, unique arts and craft show featuring distinctive and classic Made in Michigan products, made by Michiganders for Michiganders! Find an exclusive holiday, birthday or just because gifts for yourself and your friends & family! Vendors will be throughout the Orion Center with everything from one of a kind, hand–made jewelry, clothing and home décor. Interested vendors can contact Jennifer Vezina at jvezina@oriontownship.org or 248–391–0304 Ext 3503 for details. Only hand made locally produced products will be considered.
Boo Bash
Orion Center  | Fri, Oct 15  | 5:30–7 pm or 7–8:30 pm | Ages 1–8 | $10R/$13NR
Join us for an evening of Halloween fun including cider and donuts, haywagon rides, trick-or-treat street, crafts, carnival games and much more! Preregistration is required, spaces are limited. Infants in carriers are free with registered siblings. Don’t forget your camera, costume, flashlight and a trick-or-treat bag for all of your goodies! Walgreen’s will be on site taking photos in front of a festive fall-themed background. All families will receive one free 4x6” print and will have the option of purchasing a photo package. Dress to impress! The family with the best costumes will win a prize.

Fall Car Bingo
Orion Center  | Fri, Oct 15  | 1 pm
All Ages  | Free Parking & Admission
Join us for some safe fun in the Orion Center Parking Lot playing Car Bingo! All participants will receive a set of bingo cards and a marker to mark their card when they hear the numbers on the radio. If you get a BINGO you’ll honk your horn and flash your lights and we will come out and give you a prize! Thank you to our Sponsor:

Pumpkin Carving Party
Orion Center  | Mon, Oct 21  | 5–7:30 pm | Ages 1–10 | $3R/$5NR
Still need to carve your jack-o-lanterns? Save time and stress with our Pumpkin Carving Party! Come and make a mess at the Orion Center, while you carve away and we clean up the pumpkin goo! BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin). All tools needed for this activity will be provided.

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

Indoor Community Garage Sale
Orion Center  | Fri, Oct 29  | 9 am–3 pm | Free Parking & Admission
Why drive from house to house dragging your kids in and out of the car, wasting valuable time and resources? Drive to one location and see it all. No entrance fee for shoppers—it’s FREE! Sellers must preregister, spaces are limited.

Antique, Toy & Comic Expo
Orion Center  | Sat, Oct 30  | 9 am–3 pm | Free Parking & Admission
Buy, sell or trade comic books, collectibles and memorabilia at our annual swap meet! Vendors must preregister to reserve a space, set up opens at 8 am. Sale opens at 9 am.

Made in the Mitten Pop Up Market
Orion Center  | Thu, Dec 2  | 3–7 pm | Free Parking & Admission
The holidays are right around the corner and so is the Made in the Mitten Pop Up Market in the Orion Center. Spend your money locally and buy handmade unique items for gift giving. Interested vendors can contact jvezina@oriontownship.org or 248–391–0304 Ext 3503 for details. Only hand made locally produced products will be considered.

Breakfast with the Grinch
Orion Center  | Sat, Dec 11  | 10–11 am or 11:30 am–12:30 pm | Ages 1–8 | $13R/$15NR
The holiday season is here! Come to the Orion Center to enjoy breakfast with the Grinch. Participants will enjoy a delicious breakfast of green eggs and ham. Have your picture taken with the Grinch and sit back while you enjoy the story of How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Remember to bring your camera for a photo opportunity you don’t want to miss. Infants in carriers are free with registered participants. Walgreens will be onsite taking photos in front of a festive background. All families will receive 1 free 4x6 print and will have the option of purchasing a photo package.

Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at ORIONPARKS.COM or call 248–391–0304, ext. 3500
Snow Dash 5K
Orion Center | Sun, Dec 19 | 9 am
$12R/$17NR
Dashing through the snow down the Polly Ann Trail for our 4th Annual Snow Dash 5K in Orion Township. Certified loop course starts and finishes at the Orion Center. Finisher medals for all participants.

Home Alone Training
Orion Center | Mon, Oct 18
6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 9+ | $17R/$20NR
Is your young teen staying home alone this fall? 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. Handouts are included.

Babysitter Training
Orion Center | Thu, Oct 21 | 6–8:30 pm
Ages 11–14 | $20R/$23NR
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 prerequisite class: Home Alone Training.

Horseback Riding Lessons
Times Square Riding Academy
Sat, Sep 11–Oct 16 | Oct 30–Dec 4
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.

Orion Snowcation
Remember last Winter when... scratch that, forget about last Winter! Join us for so much family fun you will forget it’s Winter and you’re not on vacation! We will have “Let’s Light Up Orion” light contest, Car Bingo, Duct Tape Sled Race, Snow Sculpture Contest, Sledding & Smores, Scavenger Hunt and a few other surprises. So get ready because Winter will be here before you know it. orionsnowcation.com

Better Robotics Workshop
Friendship Park Meeting Room
Sat, Sep 18 | 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Ages 5–10 | $32R/$37NR
Does your builder enjoy designing beautiful buildings and cities for their mini–figures? If so, this program is the perfect space for your young architect or city planner to sharpen their design and building skills on national clean up day! In this workshop, students will learn all about the importance of collaboration, careful planning, and skillful execution of their building plans.

Grumpy Birds Workshop
Friendship Park | Sat, Nov 6
9:30 am–12:30 pm | Ages 5–10
$32R/$37NR
Inspired by Angry Birds®, come on an epic adventure with Red, Chuck, Stella, Terence and their little Piggie friends in this super–fun program. Build, explore and create your favorite Bird Adventures while you learn about the physics behind the catapults, levers and slingshots used to make these birds fly.
Dr. Seuss Workshop
Friendship Park  |  Sat, Nov 13
10:30 am–12 pm  |  Ages 3–6
$18R/$23NR
This workshop will take your children on an adventure through the Seussical world of Dr. Seuss. Theodore Geisel is regarded as one of the greatest children’s authors of all time. He is known for his whimsical, make-believe characters and settings as well as his silly rhyming words. Your children will be challenged to “write their own” story, creating a setting and a character, using LEGO® bricks.

How the Grinch Stole Bricks Workshop
Friendship Park  |  Sat, Dec 11
9:30 am–12:30 pm  |  Ages 5–12
$35R/$40NR
In this Snapology workshop, students will immerse themselves in the town of Whoville and the story of the Grinch! They will design machines to help the Grinch with his sneaky mission to ruin Christmas, build the city of Whoville, and create sleds to get from the top of Mt. Crumpit to the city of Whoville! No matter what the Grinch says, it’s going to be a blast!

Manga Mix–Up
Orion Center  |  Mon, Sep 20–Oct 11
5–6:30 pm  |  Ages 7+  |  $60R/$62NR
Let’s explore anime characters! Students will be using a variety of mediums to develop adorable chibi artworks with an aim to incorporate proportion and originality. We will be drawing, with markers and colored pencils, painting with raw umber and contrasting bright color choices and modeling with Model Magic! Come join the fun as we create these unique cartoon cuties! $20 Material fee payable to instructor on the 1st day of class. As always siblings of any age are welcome!

A Lot of Sculpture for Kids
Orion Center  |  Thu, Sep 23–Oct 14
5–6:30 pm  |  Ages 7+  |  $60R/$62NR
Let’s get busy! Cute sleeping foxes, bunnies, and kitties will be the subject matter of our sgraffito etched pieces. We will also be using self-drying clay to make slab pots embossed with lace. Also on our agenda, Model Magic, swirly wooly lambs, as cute as can be, and while we’re at it, let’s make a bee too! $20 material fee payable to instructor on the 1st day of class. As always siblings of any age are welcome!

I Like the Way You Paint!
Orion Center  |  Mon, Oct 18–Nov 8
5–6:30 pm  |  Ages 7+  |  $60R/$62NR
Let’s try painting in a variety of methods, adding some mixed media by making marbleized backgrounds, (along with other experimental methods) and cut-out foregrounds to create beautiful paintings. Students will be working in acrylics, gouache paint and Mod Podge on canvas and linen. Subject matter will include farm and zoo animals. $20 material fee payable to instructor on the 1st day of class. As always siblings of any age are welcome!

THE ARTIST’S APPRENTICE
Taught by Artist/Instructor Pamela Palmer, BFA

Cookie Decorating with Alison Elle—Mommy & Me
Friendship Park  |  Wed, Oct 13
5–6 pm  |  Ages 6–14  |  $55R/$57NR
Learn the basics of decorating cookies with royal icing as you create 5 Halloween 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. You can add a second child for only $20, additional youth must be required age for the program.

My Sculpture Class
Orion Center  |  Mon, Nov 15–Dec 6
4:30–6 pm  |  Ages 7+  |  $60R/$62NR
Young artists will be working on traditional modeling, using clay as well as abstract sculptures, incorporating beads, wire, foam, tooth picks etc. We will be sketching out our thoughts in order to develop our plan for implementing our sculpture. So sign up your idea hamsters today for a wild adventure of actualizing our mental representations. $20 material fee payable to instructor on the 1st day of class. As always siblings of any age are welcome!

How the Grinch Stole Bricks Workshop
YOUTH FITNESS

Youth Tennis Lessons—Beginner
Jesse Decker Park  Sat, Sep 18–Oct 2 10–11:30 am  Ages 6–12 $12R/$15NR
Develop the basic technical skills of tennis within your child including fundamental balance, movement, hand–eye coordination, stroke development and live ball play through supportive instruction and games. With over 30 years of instruction and a love for the game, James Depaoli will share his knowledge with you and your young player. Parents will work together with their child to reinforce good learning skills for a lifetime. Lessons are held at Jesse Decker Park, 4100 N. Squirrel Rd. Participants need to bring a racquet, water bottle and wear lightweight comfortable clothing.

ENRICHMENT

Coffee With Chris
Orion Center  Fri, Oct 22 & Nov 19  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 barnett@oriontownship.org or schedule an appointment. No registration is necessary, discussion is held virtually when necessary.

Take & Make DIY Birdseed Ornament
Orion Center  Pick Up Mon, Dec 13  All Ages $6R/$8NR
Pick up your birdseed ornament kit at the Orion Center and make 3–5 ornaments to feed the birds during the cold winter months. Registration includes all ingredients and materials needed. Preregistration required.

ONTV CLASSES
Classes held at ONTV Studio, call 248-393-1060 to register.

ONTV Podcast Classes
ONTV Studio  Ages 13+ $25 R/NR
ONTV is offering classes providing instruction on how to record a podcast. Classes run 2–3 hours, can hold 1–4 people, and will meet at the ONTV Studio, located at 1349 Joslyn Rd. Call 248-393-1060 to schedule an appointment at your convenience.

10 Week Video Production Class
ONTV Studio  Ages 13+ Mon, Sep 13–Nov 15  7–9 pm $55R/NR
ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.

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

TaikoFit Cardio Drumming
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 2–Nov 18 | 6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 16+ | $10R/$11NR
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 spirit. No drumming experience is necessary. Instructor Cindi Carter.

Hatha Continuing Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Sep 13–Oct 4 | 6:15–7:30 pm | Ages 16+ | $44R/$47NR
Orion Center | Mon, Oct 18–Nov 22 | 6:15–7:30 pm | Ages 16+ | $66R/$69NR
In this yoga class we will review the foundational yoga poses learned in the gentle class and continue to explore some new postures and practices that include the quietness of yin yoga, where we will hold poses close to the earth for a couple of minutes. Come enjoy this practice to strengthen your body and calm your mind. Each class will include relaxation. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga. Drop-in rate: $12R/$13NR

Line Dancing
Orion Center | Thu, Oct 7–28 | 3–4 pm | Ages 16+ | $20R/$23NR
Learn to line dance, bring a friend, meet new friends and just dance! Learn with instructor Donna Martin with over 20 years experience teaching. Preregistration required. Drop in rate: $5R/$6NR

Hatha Open Yoga
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 16–30 | 10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ | $33R/$35NR
Orion Center | Thu, Oct 7–28 | 10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ | $44R/$47NR
Orion Center | Thu, Nov 4–18 | 10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ | $33R/$35NR
Open to beginning or returning students. Exploring yoga asanas, breathing and relaxation techniques to help to calm the mind and strengthen the body. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga. Drop-in rate: $12R/$13NR

Hatha Yoga Restorative/Yin
Orion Center | Mon, Dec 6 & 13 | 6:15–7:30 pm | Ages 16+ | $22R/$24NR
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 2 & 9 | 10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ | $22R/$24NR
Take time to unwind by exploring supportive yoga with the help of blankets and props to reduce muscle tension and general fatigue. In the yin portion of class we will hold poses longer to allow the connective tissue to gently stretch. Bring 2–3 blankets to class. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

Zumba Gold
Orion Center/Virtual | Mon, Sep 13–Nov 1 | 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 40+ | $64R/$67NR
Orion Center/Virtual | Mon, Nov 8–Dec 13 | 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 40+ | $48R/$51NR
Choose in person or virtual classes! 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! Instructor Cyndy DuVal. Drop-in rate: $10R/$11NR

Hatha Gentle Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Sep 13–Oct 4 | 5–6 pm | Ages 16+ | $44R/$47NR
Orion Center | Mon, Oct 18–Nov 22 | 5–6 pm | Ages 16+ | $66R/$69NR
In this class you will learn the foundational poses of yoga and begin to experience all the wonderful benefits. Gentle stretches to increase flexibility and strength in the body. Breathing and relaxation techniques to calm the mind. Please bring a yoga mat, strap and firm blanket. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga. Drop in rate: $12R/$13NR per night.
**Zumba Gold Toning**  
Orion Center/Virtual  |  Wed, Sep 15–Nov 3  |  9:30–10:30 am  |  Ages 40+  
$64R/$67NR

Choose in person or virtual classes! 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. Drop in rate: $10R/$11NR

**MELT Method Class**  
Orion Center  |  Mon, Sep 20–Oct 11-Oct 18–Nov 8  |  10:45–11:45 am  |  Ages 18+  
$45R/$48NR

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! Participants must be able to independently get on and off the floor. Roller and minball kits will be available for purchase but not necessary to buy to participate in the class. Instructor Cyndy DuVal. Drop in rate: $15R/$16NR

**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 CPR CLASSES**

**HeartSaver CPR/AED/First Aid**  
Fire Station #2  |  TBD  |  10 am–5 pm  |  Ages 12+  
$50

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

**MELT Method for Back Pain**  
Orion Center  |  Mon, Sep 13  
10:45 am–Noon  |  Ages 18+  
$15R/$18NR

Chronic back pain is exhausting and frustrating, and it can keep you from doing the things you love—or even get a good night’s sleep. No matter what brought on your back pain, you can learn how to help your body heal and rediscover pain–free living at any age. MELT is a simple self–treatment technique that boosts your body’s ability to heal by calming your nervous system and rehydrating your connective tissue. Learn how to return the body to a more ideal state and release the compression of your spine from your neck to your low back. We will be using small balls for the hands and feet and a body roller on the floor for the upper and lower body. Instructor: Cyndy DuVal.

**Pickleball Lessons—Beginner**  
Jesse Decker Park  |  TBD  
$40R/$42NR

These beginner lessons will introduce you to the basic rules, proper grip, shots, scoring, and play of pickleball. Paddles and balls will be provided. Bring your own if you have one.

**Pickleball Lessons—Intermediate**  
Jesse Decker Park  |  TBD  
$40R/$42NR

Develop and improve your pickleball skills through drills and game situations. Learn advanced playing strategies to give you the edge over your opponents. Previous experience necessary.

Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at ORIONPARKS.COM or call 248–391–0304, ext. 3500
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 1335 Joslyn Rd. or call 248-391-0304 x3500 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: Meals delivered to your home (Meals on Wheels), Medical Equipment, Caregiver Support, Dental, Housing, and many other support groups. Also, pick up a monthly newsletter at Orion Center or Township Hall to stay up to date on all senior offerings through the Parks and Recreation Department.

**ADULTS 50+**

### Financial and Medicare Counseling Services
Orion Center | appointment based Free

MRA can help with Medicare enrollment and plan reviews, Life Insurance policy reviews and provide unbiased annuity support. Schedule a one-on-one session with Chad Day from The Michigan Retirement Agency, Don’t Be Sold, Be Informed. Appointments are 30 minutes. Please call the Orion Center to let us know what day works best for you.

### Ask the Attorney
Orion Center | Mon, Sep 13 & Nov 8 1-2:30 pm | Free

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.

### Let’s Craft Together!
Orion Center | 2 pm | Thu, Sep 16, 30 Oct 14, 28 | Nov 18 | $5R/$7NR

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.

### Lake Orion History Chats
Orion Center | Wed, Sep 15 1-2:30 pm | Free

Do you “remember when”? Or know, or want to hear some good stories about Lake Orion “back in the day”? Then join the Orion Historical Society for an afternoon of informal discussion and reminiscing and learning about our community.

### Podiatrist from MetroCare Visiting Physicians
Orion Center | Thu, Oct 14 9 am-12 pm (30 min appointment) Covered by Medicare

Foot care is so important to our overall health! Schedule your visit with podiatrist Dr. Jennifer Findling here at Orion Center. Dr Findling will schedule appointments for: routine foot care, nail trimming, calluses etc., diabetes foot care, nail disorders, chronic ailments like lymphedema and wounds. This is a covered benefit through Medicare and other insurances!

### Flu Shot/Shingles
Orion Center | Tue, Oct 5 2-4 pm (10 min appointment)

Orion Center and Walgreens are teaming up together to offer Flu Shots (high dose will be available) by appointment only. Preregistration is required. All those registered must provide their insurance card prior to appointment. Pneumonia and Shingrix (shingles) shots will also be available for those interested. If you plan to get the Shingrix shot, please make sure you do not have anything major planned a couple days after receiving the shot.

### HEALTH ENRICHMENT EVENTS

### Podiatrist from MetroCare Visiting Physicians
Orion Center | Thu, Oct 14 9 am-12 pm (30 min appointment) Covered by Medicare

Foot care is so important to our overall health! Schedule your visit with podiatrist Dr. Jennifer Findling here at Orion Center. Dr Findling will schedule appointments for: routine foot care, nail trimming, calluses etc., diabetes foot care, nail disorders, chronic ailments like lymphedema and wounds. This is a covered benefit through Medicare and other insurances!

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### FIELD TRIPS

### Bowling
Cherry Hill Lanes
Tue, Sep 14 10:30 am $5R/$7NR

Enjoy a morning of bowling and socializing at the Cherry Hill Lanes. Fee will include 2 games and shoes. Transportation not provided.

### Clue On Stage
Meadowbrook Theatre | Wed, Nov 3 $25R/$40NR

The theatre is back! Enjoy an afternoon enjoying a comedy at Meadowbrook Theatre. Cost includes transportation.
SPECIAL EVENTS

Membership and preregistration are required.

Euchre Tournament
Orion Center | Thu, Sep 9 | 1 pm | $3R/NR
No partner needed and all levels welcome! Beverage and light snacks will be provided. Prizes will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place!

End of Summer Luau
Orion Center
Fri, Sep 17 | 12 pm
$5R/$7NR
Come say goodbye to summer with us at the Orion Center! Lunch and music will be provided.

Fall Lunch
Camp Agawam | Fri, Oct 1 | 12 pm
$5R/$7NR
Come join us as we celebrate the start of the beautiful fall weather. Have fun socializing with other members and eating some fall favorites, chili and cornbread!

Pumpkin Carving and Fall Treats
Orion Center
Thu, Oct 21 | 2 pm
Free
Bring out your creative side with an afternoon carving a pumpkin and indulging in some fall yummy treats.

Veterans Day Lunch
Orion Center | Thu, Nov 11 | 12 pm
Free
Veterans and one guest enjoy a free meal at the Orion Center! Music will be played by the Big Chief Chorus.

Thanksgiving Lunch
Orion Center | Wed, Nov 17 | 12 pm
$4R/$6NR
We are thankful for all of our members and want to say thank you! Enjoy a tasty Thanksgiving lunch and entertainment is provided by the OPC.

CLUBS
Membership and registration is required.

K4 Knit/Crochet
Mon | 12:30–3:30 pm

Chinese Mahjong
Mon | 12:30–3:30 pm

Ham Radio
Mon & Thu | 6–8:45 pm

Bingo
Tue | 10–11:45 am & 1–2:30 pm

Painting
Tue | 10 am–2 pm

Spanish Club
Virtual | every other Tue | 3 pm

Trail Blazers
Wed & Fri | 10 am

Pinochle/Euchre
Wed | 12:30–3:30 pm

Library Book Club
Orion Center | 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 | 10:30 am–3:30 pm
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
SILVER SNEAKERS

Circuit
Orion Center/Virtual | Every Mon
10–11 am | $3R/NR per class
*Free for Silver Sneakers Members
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

Classic
Orion Center/Virtual | Every Wed
10–11 am | $3R/NR per class
*Free for Silver Sneakers Members
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

EXERCISE ROOM AT THE ORION CENTER

Orion Center | Mon–Fri | 8:30 am–4 pm | $6R/$12NR Monthly
The Exercise Room at the Orion Center provides an opportunity for seniors age 54+ to enhance their health and wellness. You must have a current membership to use this room. Interested in an Exercise Room Membership? Please call 248-391-0304 x3500 and a staff member will guide you through the registration process.

Equipment Available for Use: 4 Treadmills, 1 Elliptical, 3 Recumbent Bikes, 1 Rowing Machine, 2 PhysioSteps (Recumbent Crosstrainer), Curves Resistance Machines

Instructor Highlight: Becki Doyle

Becki Doyle has been a Lake Orion resident since 1994. In her time in Orion, she has made a mark in the fitness community with many different ages, but has a special affinity for helping seniors get moving.

Becki has a degree in Exercise Science and has worked in corporate fitness her entire career while also doing an array of group fitness classes. She retired in 2019 from HealthQuest Physical Therapy in Lake Orion as the Community Outreach Director. During her retirement Becki has found new joy in working for Seniors Helping Seniors and leading Silver Sneakers Classes at the Orion Center on Mondays and Wednesdays. Although she has taught Silver Sneakers for nine years, she stated she has loved being able to teach at the Orion Center because she is able to reach more seniors and provide a service to get more aging adults moving, socializing, and staying independent.

Silver Sneakers is a national program that is recognized by several Medicare Advantage Plans. If an Orion Center member has Silver Sneakers, they are able to attend Becki’s classes on Monday and Wednesdays at no cost. Non Silver Sneaker members pay a nominal $3 fee per class. The Orion Center offers two different Silver Sneaker classes that Becki teaches. See Silver Sneakers to the left of the page.

Becki’s class motto is “have fun, keep moving, and stay safe.” Research shows that exercising and moving your body is key for living an independent life as long as you can. So, are you feeling unmotivated to leave your house since the pandemic? That’s ok, you are not alone! Becki stated that starting a new habit can be hard, but by joining her class you are gaining friendships and accountability buddies to keep you moving each week.
Park Highlight: Orion Trails System

Trails are Orion’s slice of heaven

Looking to escape the hustle and bustle of your everyday life? Try a quick get away by walking, running or biking the vast trail system in Orion. Our new web-based trails map will show you everything you need to know to navigate Orion’s trail system, including 75+ miles of safety paths, trails, safe routes to school, parking, fix-it-stations, public restrooms, and over 5000 acres of green space! Find your slice of heaven right here in Orion Township.

Visit OrionParks.com to see the full list of recreational amenities.
Thank you to our Sponsors!

PARK PARTNER SPONSORS

ORION GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE & LAKE ORION YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE SPONSORS

for information on how to become a sponsor contact us at:
PARK PARTNER SPONSORS: JVEZINA@ORIONTOWNSHIP.ORG
YOUTH LEAGUE SPONSORS: JHAYES@ORIONTOWNSHIP.ORG
SEPTEMBER

1  LOLive! Concert in the Park, Downtown LO, 6:30–8 pm
2  LOLive! DJ in the Street, Downtown LO, 6–8 pm
3  LOLive! Concert in the Park, Downtown LO, 6:30–8 pm
6  Labor Day, Township Offices closed
7  First day of school
7  Orion Twp. Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm
9  LOLive! DJ in the Street, Downtown LO, 6–8 pm
10 Oktoberfest & Beer Tent, Downtown LO, 5–11 pm
11 All Ages Makerspace, Orion Library, 1:30–4 pm
12 Dragon Dash 5K, Wildwood Amphitheater, 9 am
14 Curriculum Night, LOHS
15 Slow Row LO, Squaw Lake, 6 pm
16 Curriculum Night, Elementary and Middle Schools
16 LOLive! DJ in the Street, Downtown LO, 6–8 pm
17 LOHS v Oxford, Dragon Stadium, 7 pm
18 Eagle Valley Free Disposal Day
18 LO Palooza Music Festival, Wildwood Amphitheater
19–24 Michigan Small Business Week
20 Orion Twp. Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm
22–25 Friends Fall Used Book Sale, Orion Library
23 LOLive! DJ in the Street, Downtown LO, 6–8 pm
23 Bike Rodeo, Orion Center, 6–7:30 pm
24 Coffee with Chris, Orion Center, 9 am
24 Outdoor Movie Night, Children’s Park, at dusk
25 Fall Festival of Family Fun, Camp Agawam, 11 am–3 pm
26 Downtown Day
29 Storywalk: “Stellaluna,” Downtown LO
30 LOLive! DJ in the Street and Ladies Night, Downtown LO
30 Game Day Swap, Orion Center, 9 am–5 pm
30 Blood Drive, Orion Center, 2–7 pm (preregistration required, space limited)

OCTOBER

1  LOHS v Stoney Creek, Dragon Stadium, 7 pm
2  Made in the Mitten Craft Show, Orion Center, 10 am–5 pm
4  Orion Twp. Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm
7  Parent/Teacher Conferences, LOHS
7  ONTV Film Festival Challenge Kickoff, ONTV Studio, 7 pm
10 Slow Row, East Graham Lake, 12 pm
10 Homecoming Parade, Downtown LO
12 ONTV Film Festival—Films due for judging, ONTV Studio, 6 pm
13 Blood Drive, Orion Library, 10:30 am–4:30 pm
13 ONTV Film Festival Screening, GQT Oxford 7 Theater, 6 pm
14 No School, Elementary & Middle
**November**

**1** Orion Twp. Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm

**1** Friends of the Orion Library Holiday Silent Auction begins

**4** Half Day, LOHS

**5** Half Day, all schools

**6** International Games Day, Orion Library, 11 am–4 pm, All ages

**9** Parent/Teacher Conferences, Elementary/Middle

**9** Parent/Teacher Conferences, Elementary/Middle

**14** Big Chief Chorus Barbershop Concert, Orion Library, 2 pm

**15** Orion Twp. Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm

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**18** Pumpkin Party for Teens, Orion Center, 6–8:30 pm (preregistration required, space limited)

**22** Pumpkin Party for Teens, Orion Center, 6–8:30 pm (preregistration required, space limited)

**22** Coffee with Chris, Orion Center, 9 am

**22** Pumpkin Party for Teens, Orion Center, 6–8:30 pm (preregistration required, space limited)

**27** Halloween Parade/Extravaganza, Downtown LO, 6–9 pm

**27** Halloween Parade/Extravaganza, Downtown LO, 6–9 pm

**28** Ladies Night: Halloween/Fire Burn & Cauldron Bubble, Downtown LO

**29** Storywalk: “Crazy Hair Day,” Downtown LO

**29** Indoor Community Garage Sale, Orion Center, 9 am–3 pm

**30** Antique, Toy & Comic Expo, Orion Center, 9 am–3 pm

**30** Escape Room, Orion Library, 10 am–12 pm for families, 1–2 pm for teens, 2–3 pm for adults

**Dec 1** Storywalk “The Polar Express,” Downtown LO

**Dec 2** Made in the Mitten Pop Up Market, Orion Center, 3–7 pm

**Dec 4** Orion Lighted Christmas Parade, Downtown LO, 6 pm

**25-26** Thanksgiving, Township Offices, schools closed

**27** Shop Small Saturday

**20** Friends of the Orion Library Holiday Silent Auction ends at 4 pm

**27** Shop Small Saturday
Healthy Body Healthy Mind Expo

Let’s Recharge and Restore

Need to recharge and restore your physical, mental and emotional well-being? The Healthy Body Healthy Mind Expo is a great opportunity to get guidance and seek expertise on your way to achieving your health and wellness goals.

Due to the COVID pandemic the Chamber was unable to hold the annual Healthy Body Healthy Mind Expo in 2020. However, we are pleased to announce that we will be holding the Expo this year! The 6th Healthy Body Healthy Mind Expo will be held on Saturday, November 6th from 1 to 4 pm at the Orion Center.

The Healthy Body Healthy Mind Expo showcases Chamber members and organizations that promote nutritional, fitness, spiritual/behavioral, medical, environmental, financial and family health. Entry is free for the public to attend! Exhibitors will be on hand to talk about topics ranging from exercise and fitness to physical therapy and chiropractic care.

As well as exhibitors and vendors, there will be health screenings and healthy food samples. Also attending will be some of our area non-profit organizations. Take time to meet them and see the work they do in the community.

So come along, bring the family and enjoy seeing—and sampling—what our Chamber members have to offer!

THE CHAMBER’S HEALTHY BODY HEALTHY MIND EXPO IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6 FROM 1 TO 4 PM AT THE ORION CENTER. ADMISSION IS FREE.
For businesses, the Expo is a unique opportunity to connect with local residents interested in health and wellness. The Chamber is accepting registrations from Exhibitors until November 3rd. The Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Expo is open to Chamber members in good standing.

For more information, or to register your business, visit orionareachamber.com/healthy-body-mind-expo or call 248–693–6300.

Inaugural Business 2 Business Expo
Business connections build community

The Orion Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce our first Business 2 Business Expo!

As customers we are familiar with the “Business to Consumer” concept—commerce between a business and an individual consumer. We are all a part of many business-to-consumer dealings in everyday life. However, many of our Chamber members provide services for other businesses—from accountancy firms and insurance agencies to graphic designers and marketing specialists. These are “Business to Business” based businesses and are essential components of growing a thriving business.

At the heart of any business community are businesses that provide essential services to help one another succeed. The Orion Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting this event to connect these local businesses so that our local business community can grow and succeed together.

The inaugural Business to Business event will be on Thursday, September 16 from 4 to 7 pm at the Orion Center, Lake Orion. The event will provide Chamber of Commerce businesses the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow area businesses and highlight the services they have to offer. All area businesses are invited to attend—come meet fellow professionals and connect with those who may offer services that form an integral part of your own business. We hope to see you there!

Networking with the Chamber

September 9th: G’s Pizzeria
October 7th: Orion Center Catered by Italia Gardens and Nothing Bundt Cakes
November 4th: Palazzo Di Bocce
December 2nd: Impact Awards at Paint Creek Country Club

September 28th: See Chamber website for details
October 26th: White Pine Coffee
November 23rd: Golling Buick GMC

September 23rd: Buffalo Wild Wings
October 21st: Wine Social
November 18th: HomeGrown Brewing Company
December 16th: Fork N Pint Lake Orion
New and renewing members

New Members

Mid–April to mid–July 2021

PREMIER MEMBER
Orion.Events

BUSINESS BASIC MEMBERS
ETS North Oakland
Eze–Bikes
Diversified Portfolios, Inc
Food Trucks To You
Hershey Insurance
Lava Mountain Coffee Co.
LO’s Beauty Bar + Med Spa
Neighbors of Orion
Nothing Bundt Cakes—Rochester Hills
Recyclebank
Right Hook Branded Merchandise
The Locale Company

Renewing Members

Mid–April to mid–July 2021

NON–PROFIT AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
Blessings in a Backpack—Lake Orion

The Wooden Tulip. With the COVID–19 pandemic overshadowing everything last year, the Chamber was not able to celebrate the opening of The Wooden Tulip, a beautiful, unique boutique store in Canterbury Village in Lake Orion. However, that was more than made up for with a ribbon cutting and celebration of their one year business anniversary on May 13th! Not only does The Wooden Tulip have an actual store, they also have an online store—so no excuses for not perusing their beautiful women’s fashions and accessories! For more information, including their online store go to thewoodentulip.com.

First Baptist Church of Lake Orion
Friends of Tommy’s Lake and Camp Agawam
Lake Orion Lions Club
Orion Center
Orion Historical Society
Orion Neighborhood Television
Orion Township
Orion Township Firefighters Association
Orion Township Public Library

BUSINESS BASIC MEMBERS
A School for the Mind and Body
Abacus Accounting Services, Inc.
Bad Brads BBQ
Baker College of Auburn Hills
CGC Water Treatment Kinetico
Coldwell Banker Professionals
Comfort King Mechanical, Inc
Corporate Benefit Solutions
Curtis Insurance Agency
Custom Threads & Sports
DeHaan Orthodontics

2021 Impact Awards
Call for Nominations

The last year and a half has been hard, but our business community has found an incredible strength under this pressure, and we want to recognize that!

If you would like to nominate a person or a business, or learn more about these awards and categories, go to orionareachamber.com/impact-awards
LO’s Beauty Bar + Med Spa.
Located in the heart of downtown Lake Orion in the 120 S. Broadway building next to Paint Creek is LO’s Beauty Bar + Med Spa. We celebrated the opening of this beautiful space and exciting new business with a ribbon cutting on June 17th. LO’s Beauty Bar + Med Spa specializes in full-service skincare, medical spa services, makeup, hair, eyelash extensions and more! Owner Lauren Visconti’s goal is to make each client feel as comfortable and satisfied as possible. To make an appointment or to find out about the services offered, call 248-690-9907 or visit losbeautybarandmedspa.com.

For a complete list of all our Chamber members go to orionareachamber.com/list.
Treat your tastebuds to Orion’s best eateries

We’re excited to announce our inaugural Savor Orion Restaurant Week!

From October 11th through the 15th, bring your family or meet your friends to enjoy a tasty meal at one—or all—of our member restaurants. Over a dozen eateries in Lake Orion and surrounding communities are Chamber members. By showing your support to these local small businesses, you will earn a chance to win a grand prize, compliments of the Orion Chamber.

Check out the member directory on orionareachamber.com for a full list of our member restaurants. Follow us on Facebook at @orionareachamber for updates and more details about this upcoming event!
Parades have their history in military battles and political victories. According to the Farmer’s Almanac, there have been references to parades found in 10,000-year-old cave paintings. While there are many reasons for the people to take to the streets to march in procession, Orion has a few distinct celebrations that bring out the masses each year.

In the Fall, Lake Orion High School kicks off Homecoming Week with its traditional Homecoming Parade. The Court and football team and cheerleaders are featured, but squads and cheer teams from across the district also earn a spot in the procession. The LOHS Marching Band blares the fight song through downtown and the stage is set for an exciting week ahead, along with an expected win from the Dragons on Friday night. This year’s Homecoming Parade is Sunday, October 10. Check with Lake Orion High School on the specifics of this event.

Our littlest goblins and their parents come out for the annual Halloween Parade presented by the Lake Orion DDA. Businesses are ready for the onslaught of trick-or-treaters and additional fun awaits participants in Children’s Park. The 2021 Halloween Extravaganza on Wednesday, October 20. Visit downtownlakeorion.org for details.

The holiday season kicks off the first Saturday each December with the annual Orion Lighted Christmas Parade. Billed as the largest lighted Christmas Parade in Michigan, the event returns after COVID to the delight of participants and spectators alike. With a “Christmas in Toyland” theme, downtown will be twinkling on Saturday, December 4. Stay tuned to orionlightedparade.com for details.

As winter becomes spring, the Memorial Day parade honors our Veterans and America with a celebration through town. Find out more about the Memorial Day Parade and 5K Walk at downtownlakeorion.org.
An award-winning Community Media Center in the heart of Orion

Orion Neighborhood Television (ONTV) has been the “best kept secret” in Lake Orion for over 30 years. Providing valuable, hyper-local programming to residents of all ages and interests, ONTV is woven into all aspects of, well ...“Orion Living”.

If there is local news, Dragon sports, concerts, parades, or festivals, ONTV cameras are there to document and share these events. Partnerships with our local newspapers, businesses, and government agencies, help us inform, enlighten, and entertain our viewers.

ONTV’s award winning Community Media Center, located at the Orion Center on Joslyn Road, is a fully functioning modern television studio that is open to the public. Residents of all ages have taken classes, attended video camps, produced podcasts, and hosted countless television shows.

Access to media production equipment, with the necessary training, gives residents an avenue to exercise their first amendment rights. ONTV has the means to distribute these diverse points of view around the globe.

Always current and looking forward

Your information needs are always evolving and ONTV works hard to keep up with the changing times. Are you looking for accurate and reliable news feeds from state, county, and local sources? ONTV has them on our newsblog at OrionONTV.org. Are you looking for government and school board meetings that televise your elected officials in action? ONTV has those too.

Programming from ONTV is available on all current media platforms. ROKU, Apple–TV, and Amazon Fire streaming services all carry ONTV’s live streams and video on-demand files. Comcast Xfinity channels 10, 20, and 22, and AT&T U–verse channel 99, air ONTV’s three community channels 24/7.

Social media outlets are also used to distribute local information. When you follow ONTV on Facebook and Twitter, or subscribe to our Youtube channel, you will be notified when new programming is uploaded. Search “OrionONTV” to connect to all of our resources.

New technology coming online

The pandemic made ONTV retool our operations to better serve the Lake Orion community. We found areas where we could improve the viewing experience on all of our distribution platforms. Launching in late summer/early fall is our closed captioning service for the hearing impaired and hearing diminished. Live captioning of government meetings, and captioning of all ONTV edited programming, was made possible by the CARES Act through Oakland County. Without this grant, captioning would have been years away.

Expanding our reach into the community is important to us. With technology grants provided through the Orion Community Cable Communications Commission (OCCCC) who oversees ONTV’s operations, the new Orion Township Hall facility will have modern media and communications connections to reduce critical network connectivity outages.

ONTV has also worked with the Lake Orion Schools to update the sound systems in their performing arts center and helped them expand network connections to their sports facilities. This will
allow ONTV to better televise games, and student musical performances.

The Orion Cable Commission and ONTV in the last eight years have helped facilitate over $560,000 in technology grants to the Orion Township Public Library, Lake Orion High School, Orion Township, and the Village of Lake Orion. These grants keep residents informed and connected to their government agencies. They also help high school students learn a trade and excel in college media programs.

Thirty years of community television and community service. Stop in and tour the station at 1349 Joslyn Rd. at the Orion Center. We’ll help you Create, Communicate, and Connect with not only Lake Orion, but the world.

By Ian Locke, Executive Director, ONTV

Getting to know ONTV

How long has Lake Orion had a Community Media Station?
Lake Orion’s Community Media Center located at the Orion Center on Joslyn Rd, has been serving our community for over 30 years. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization.

How can I watch programming from ONTV?
Social Media: Programming is found on Youtube, Facebook, and Twitter. Search “OrionONTV” and subscribe!

ONTV Website: ONTV’s website hosts links to all of our programming. 24/7 channel live streams, Video On-demand, and programming guides are all available at OrionONTV.org.

Streaming Services: ROKU, AppleTV, and Amazon Fire host ONTV live-streams and our Videos On-demand. Add the “Cablecast” channel to your lineup!

Cable TV: ONTV programming airs on AT&T U-verse Channel 99, and on Comcast/Xfinity Channels 10 (Public Access), 20 (Government Access), and 22 (Educational Access).

Is the ONTV studio open to the public?
YES! ONTV’s main Television studio, podcast studio, and portable video production equipment, are here for our residents to use! After completing a training course, residents can use these resources free of charge. Ever want to make your own podcast, cooking show, or call sports play-by-play? ONTV staff are here to help you make it happen.

How is this possible? Are my tax dollars used to fund ONTV?
No tax dollars are used to fund ONTV’s operations. Cable companies who operate in Orion Township sign a contract with our local government to pay 5% of all cable TV revenues back to the community for commercial use of our public right-of-ways. ONTV also generates revenue through paid video production services, classes/workshops, underwriting sponsorships, and grants.

What our volunteers say

Lauren Creighton, CMU Student Intern
“Interning with Orion Neighborhood Television has given me opportunities that I never thought I would be offered as a college student. They teach everything hands-on and encourage you to get out in the field as much as possible. I also love that I can serve as a reporter in my own hometown—a place that I love and know so well.”

Alana Hart, Volunteer Host
“Volunteering for me is a way I can give back to my community and make a difference. ONTV allows me to share information and amazing things happening around town.”

Amanda Pordon, OU Student Intern
“ONTV has given me the opportunity to cover many local news events. I hosted a few episodes of ONTV’S Orion Outreach, and I had the opportunity to work on live productions at DTE Music Theater for Lake Orion High School’s graduation ceremonies. If you have any interest in videography, editing, or starting your own podcast, I highly recommend looking into ONTV. I wouldn’t be where I am today without them!”
From the Director

Turning the page to the next chapter

By the time this goes to print, I will no longer be the Director of the Orion Township Public Library. My last day is August 7, 2021, after which I am moving to St. Charles County in Missouri to start my next chapter.

However, so many great things are coming your way for the fall season from the library!

We will be replacing the front entry and staff entry doors. We will be adding hold lockers to the front vestibule to allow for 24/7 pickup of items on hold. We are working on a better solution for our 32–year–old roof (which leaks). We are going to be upgrading our online catalog to something new and improved. And we are planning to launch a Library App for your smart phone/tablet.

Are you on social media? If so, follow the Orion Library there, as we share all sorts of timely news on social media.

In closing, I just want to thank all of the library patrons in Orion Township (which includes the Village of Lake Orion) for your support over the past 9.5 years that I have had the honor of leading the efforts to provide library services in your community. Your library staff work tirelessly to provide amazing collections, programs, and services for all of you to enjoy, and I am grateful to them for all that they continue to do! Governed by an elected six–member board of trustees (who are not paid), Orion Township residents are well–positioned with incredible public library services. If you are reading this and you haven’t visited the library lately, you are missing out, so stop by! If you frequent the library, bring a friend next time.

I wish you all the very best and if you have any questions please contact our Interim Director, Kathleen Kwiatkowski at kkwiatkowski@orionlibrary.org or 248-693-3000 X412.

Karen

General Info

Notary Services available
Notary Services by appointment only. Contact James at jpugh@orionlibrary.org or at 248–693–3000 x425.

Upcoming Library Closings

Labor Day: Sat, Sept 4, Sun, Sept 5, Mon, Sept 6
Staff In–Service: Mon, Oct 11
Thanksgiving: Wed, Nov 24 (closed at 5 pm), Thu, Nov 25, Fri, Nov 26

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

Library Blood Drive

Wed, Oct 13
10:30 am–4:30 pm
Be a Lifesaver! Donate Blood @ the Orion Library. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: orionlibrary. Walk–ins are also welcome. If you have any questions please contact Becky at bbolin@orionlibrary.org or at 248-693-3000 x434.

Welcome back, Volunteers! We missed you!

Over the summer we started to slowly bring back members of our volunteer team to help in limited capacities. As we go forward, we hope to be able to expand our volunteer opportunities again, so keep an eye out for updates. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please complete our Volunteer Application on our website at orionlibrary.org or contact our Volunteer Engagement Specialist Lori Morris at lmorris@orionlibrary.org or 248–693–3000 x435.

Library Wishlist

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.

Welcome back, Volunteers! We missed you!
Library Service Updates

We’ve reached Phase 5!

Thank you for your patience as we work through this challenging time and all of its changes. As of June 28, there are no restrictions from MDHHS anymore which means:

- There is no capacity limit at the library at this time.
- Masks are not required for vaccinated or unvaccinated patrons, however, we have them available for anyone who would like one.
- All are encouraged to use hand sanitizer and wash hands frequently.
- Our fully vaccinated staff will also have the option to work without a mask.
- Please do not enter the library if you are feeling sick.
- Small groups can now use the study rooms.
- Appointments are available to use the Makerspace equipment or to be trained on how to use the equipment.
- We are also still offering limited Curbside Service. Please check the library website or call 248-693-3000 for availability.
- As a reminder, current library hours are:
  - Monday–Thursday 9:30 am to 9 pm
  - Friday & Saturday 9:30 am to 5 pm
  - Sundays 1 pm to 5 pm (during the school year)
- Self-checkout is available inside the library and returns are accepted at our indoor book drop in addition to our outdoor book drops. Payments are accepted by our staff in the lobby (cash, credit cards, and checks accepted for fine and fee payments).
- The Orion Center Branch library is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 3 pm.
- Our meeting rooms are now available for public use. Please contact Joyce at jbecker@orionlibrary.org or 248-693-3000 x431.

Library Board of Trustees

The interests of the Orion Community are represented by an elected six-member Library Board of Trustees. The Board governs the library and is responsible for its annual operations and upkeep. Current trustees were re-elected in November 2020, and we are so grateful for their support!

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

Our Library BookBike was out and about this summer at events throughout Lake Orion.

SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH.

Celebrate with Honorary Chair Marley Dias.

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

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

Pumpkin Decorating Contest
Mon, Oct 4
A fun contest for all ages! Pick up your pie pumpkin at the library on Oct 4, submit your design to the link provided on our events calendar by Oct 12, and vote on your favorite design Oct 18–22 by visiting orion-library.org. The pumpkin with the most votes will win a gift card to the Yates Cider Mill Store in Lake Orion.

Halloween Escape Room
Sat, Oct 30 | Register online
Family K–5 | 10–11am | 11–12 pm
Teen | 1–2 pm
Adult | 2–3 pm
You must figure out all of the clues and unlock the locks before the monster mayhem and witches spell locks you in the room on All Hollow's Eve! Each escape room and the level of difficulty is different based on age. Please register for your appropriate age group. Escape Rooms start on the hour exactly.

International Games Day
Sat, Nov 6 | 11 am–4 pm
Join libraries across the world for a day of tabletop gaming. Bring your friends and family and choose one of over 100 board games and video games to play. Refreshments will be provided.

Reading Challenges for all ages

Adult
50 Books in 52 Weeks program
The Orion Township Public Library challenges adults to read 50 books in 52 weeks in 2021. This online 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 that has a one-word title, read a book recommended by a librarian, or read a book based on a true story. You can also listen to audiobooks to complete any of the 50 reading challenges throughout the year.

If you are a child or a teen, please look at the other reading programs we have for you.

For more information about this program and to register visit orionlibrary.org/50-books-in-52-weeks.

Teen
75 Books Before High School
Challenging all 6–8th graders to read 75 BOOKS BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL! Sign up at any time, and read at your own pace. Read whatever you want, whenever you want! There will be random raffles for books logged to receive a local business gift card, and when you reach 37 books you receive a free book of your choice. For the courageous who complete all 75 books before you start high school, you win a grand prize After School Survival Kit, full of supplies to get you ready for your post high school years. Please register by signing up on orionlibrary.org/teens/75-books.

Youth
1000 Books Before Kindergarten and 500 Books By 5th Grade
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
ADULT SERVICES

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

MAKERSPACE

ION USB Turntable/Vinyl Archiver

It’s been a long time since vinyl records have been the preferred medium for music. 8–tracks, cassettes, CD’s, mp3’s, and streaming music have come and gone over the years, but 45 RPM records have made a strong comeback with collectors and music aficionados. A generous patron recently donated an ION Vinyl Record Archiver to the library’s makerspace. With easy–to–use software, this machine digitizes and preserves records in real time. Our makerspace also has software to edit sound files and save them in a variety of formats. Coupled with our cassette converter, you can preserve your entire audio collection in any number of ways. Check out orionlibrary.org/makerspace for more information about media conversion in the makerspace and other creative technology.

All Ages Makerspace

Sat, Sept 11 | 1:30–4 pm

Come experiment with a variety of creative and technology projects including Sphero, Glowforge, Little Bits, Lego, 3-D printing, and more!

3-D Printed Cookie Cutters

Sat, Sept 25
2 pm and 3:30 pm
Using Tinkercad, learn to design and print your own customized cookie cutters.

Glowforge: Engraved Slate Coasters

Sat, Nov 20
2 pm and 3:30 pm
Get a head start on holiday gifts by learning to make a custom engraved slate coaster.

Makerspace Office Hours

Thursdays | Sept 23, Oct 7, Nov 11
6–8 pm
Interested in learning about makerspace equipment? Have a question? Need some guidance or inspiration for your project? Drop in and meet with our makerspace librarian and start creating.

Writer’s Workshop

Wednesdays | Sept 8, Oct 13, Nov 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.

Take and Make: Solar Printing

Sun, Sept 12
Pick up this kit for all of the supplies to make a botanical-inspired solar print.

Maximizing Social Security Learning Lunch

Mon, Sept 13 | 1 pm | Register online
Social Security claiming strategies can vary dramatically, and claiming Social Security at the wrong age can affect your lifetime benefits. Learn more at this group presentation hosted by local retirement specialist, Oliver Lee. This educational event will cover the basics of Social Security and reveal the latest strategies for maximizing your benefits. A light lunch will be provided.

Orion Historical Society

Mondays | Sept 13, Oct 4, Nov 8 | 7 pm
Come to an OHS meeting to learn about our township’s history and work on projects to preserve the past. Newcomers are always welcome!

Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group

Tuesdays | Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9 | 10:30 am
This monthly support group for individuals who care for those with Alzheimer’s disease and other related dementia is led by a trained facilitator and sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association Michigan Chapter.

caregivers to provide positive, literacy enriched 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 encouraging 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 on our website 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. Drop by the library to pick up all your prizes at the Youth Services desk.

Many of our programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Orion Library
Michigan Works @ Your Library
Tuesdays | Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9
9:30 am–12:30 pm
Drop in and Oakland County Michigan Works will assist you with upcoming workshops, youth and adult programs, resume ideas, job searches, interview skills and more. They can point you in the right direction for inquiries about local resources, Department of Health & Human Services and much more.

North Oakland Genealogical Society (NOGS)
Thursdays | Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18
7 pm
Anyone with an interest in genealogy and family history research is encouraged to attend!

Vintage Book Preservation with the Tessmer Book Bindery
Thu, Oct 14 | 7 pm
Join Colleen Dickey of the Tessmer Book Bindery as she shares the tools, techniques, and tricks of the trade of book binding and preservation. The Tessmer Bindery repairs and restores rare books as well as binding new custom books for groups like the Detroit Athletic Club, the Mexican Consulate, and even individual genealogy projects.

Local History Chat
Mon, Oct 18 | 7 pm
Presented by the Orion Historical Society, stop by, learn about the history of Lake Orion, and share your personal stories about historic homes and locations in the community.

Book Discussions
New members are always welcome to our book discussions!

Book Bunch Book Club
1 pm | Orion Center
Wed, Sept 8: The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes
Wed, Oct 13: This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger
Wed, Nov 10: Women of the Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell

Thursday Afternoon Book Club
1 pm | James Ingram Room
Thu, Sept 16: Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo
Thu, Oct 21: The Sanatorium by Sarah Pearse
Thu, Nov 18: The 7/12 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle by Stuart Turton

Monday Evening Book Discussion
7 pm | James Ingram Room
Mon, Sept 20: The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes
Mon, Oct 18: The Push by Ashley Audrain
Mon, Nov 15: Women of the Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell

Dine, Drink & Discuss
7 pm | Johnny Black’s Lakehouse in Downtown Lake Orion, 21 W Flint St
Mon, Sept 27: The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner
Mon, Oct 25: The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
Mon, Nov 22: Instructions for Dancing by Nicola Yoon

Cook the Book
Thurs, Sept 30 | 7 pm
The Art of Simple Food or The Art of Simple Food II by Alice Waters
You select and prepare a recipe from the cookbook chosen, and we meet to sample and 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.

Oat Soda: What is Craft Beer?
Mon, Oct 25 | 7 pm | Register online
Join us at local restaurant Oat Soda, 197 S Broadway St, for this fun and educational program! From ABVs to IPAs, all aspects of craft beer will be discussed, including the history of craft beer, the brewing process, and the many different categories and flavors. Owner Jason Peltier will emphasize Michigan craft beers, as well as important breweries from all over the country and world. Snacks will be provided. As Jason explains the different beers, samples will be available to purchase for those 21 and over.
**Take and Make: Yarn Banners**
Sat, Oct 30
You will find all the supplies and instructions to create a unique and colorful yarn banner wall hanging in this take home kit.

**Lost Restaurants of Detroit**
Wed, Nov 3 | 7 pm
The library is excited to welcome Detroit author Paul Vachon for a presentation about the lost restaurants of Detroit which is based on his book by the same name. This presentation will share the stories behind some of Detroit's storied eateries including Carl's Chop House, Little Harry's, and Topinka's. He will also share information about a few existing bistros and watering holes. After the presentation, Paul will stick around to sign and sell copies of any of his six published titles including his new book, *Becoming the Motor City: A Timeline of Detroit's Auto Industry*.

**Starbucks Coffee Tastings**
Sat, Nov 6 | 10:30 am | Traditional Coffees
Sat, Nov 13 | 10:30 am | Holiday Coffees
Join us at the Starbucks at 590 S Lapeer Rd to learn about coffee from Starbucks baristas. Taste a variety of Starbucks coffee, get recommendations for food pairings, and learn about the different roasting and brewing processes.

**Big Chief Chorus Barbershop Concert**
Sun, Nov 14 | 2 pm
The Pontiac–Waterford Big Chief Chorus is an organization of men that has been sharing the joy of song throughout the Oakland County area since 1943. Bring the whole family to enjoy their unique barbershop style harmony!

**Gemstone Charm Bracelets**
Wed, Nov 17 | 7 pm | Register online
Learn about different semi-precious gemstones, crystals, and minerals and create a unique charm bracelet out of the stone of your choice.

**Outreach**

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

**English Language Learning Conversation Group (ELL)**
Wednesdays | 10:30 am | No meeting Oct 20 or Nov 24
The group is open to all who wish to practice their English language skills in a relaxed and informal setting. The topics vary widely, and it is a great learning experience as well as an opportunity to meet people.

**Special Needs Adult Programming (SNAP)**
Wed, Nov 3 | 12:30 pm
Adults with special needs and their caregivers can join us for stories, songs, movement and activities.

**Home Delivery Services & Books by Mail**
If you or someone you know lives in Orion Township and is unable to physically visit the library (even short term) let us know. We offer delivery services for books, audiobooks and music—give us specific titles or let us know what you like and we can introduce you to new authors. We have also started a new ‘Books by Mail’ program for homebound patrons; your books will be delivered and returned by the United States Postal Service if you qualify. Call 248-693-3000 x441 for more information.

**OTPL Little Free Libraries**
Our Little Libraries are spread all over the Orion community; on trails, at parks, and downtown Lake Orion. Little Libraries are stocked with books available for you to take and read; bring them back when you’re done or add some more great books to share with others. Our Little Libraries provide a great way to grab a quick book to read when you can’t make it all the way to the library, and are fun opportunities for children to discover books! A list of Little Library locations can be found at orionlibrary.org/locations.

Sign up for Library Programs at orionlibrary.org/calendar or call 248-693-3000
**Think Link After School is back!**

This is a program special to middle school students looking for something to do after school. Select Mondays per month during the school year, the Orion Library and the Lake Orion Community Schools have teamed up to provide a fun and easy way for middle school students to hang out with their friends, meet students from the other middle schools, and have a safe place to socialize. When the bell rings, a bus will drop off registered students at the library where students can socialize, study or play video games. The Teen Librarian is awaiting the students with snacks and either a planned activity, an outside vendor coming in for a STEM program, or just a lazy day playing board games. Special registration is required through your student’s middle school. Middle school secretaries will hand out permission slips to be filled out a couple weeks before each date, and slips are to be turned back in to each school secretary. We are so excited to start this program back up, and cannot wait to meet our new middle school students! Any questions, please contact the Teen Librarian, Sabrina Halsey at shalsey@orionlibrary.org.

**Teen Tuesday**

Tuesdays | 6:30–8 pm

Teen Tuesday is a casual hang-out for teens who enjoy anything from anime, comics, video games, board and card games, D&D, crazy YouTube clips, crafts and more! If you’re looking for something to do with some friends, crash with us for a bit. Snacks always provided and new faces always welcome!

**SAT/ACT Prep Class**

Mon, Sep 13

6:30–8 pm

Parents and students, get ready for test day! If it’s your turn to take the SAT or ACT, let the Orion Library guide you in preparation with tips and techniques from Carson Academic Consultants. Karen Carson will provide strategies for improving test taking skills and reviewing required knowledge. This class is recommended for both students and parents to attend. Bring your questions, and Karen will provide the answers!

**Get Lit: Autumn Subscription Box**

September | Register by Sept 15
Grades 7-12

Register for your own subscription box which contains a checked out library book hand-selected for you, a packaged snack, STEAM activity, and novelties pertaining to that month’s theme. Funding is provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan.

**Ring of Steel: S.H.I.E.L.D. Combat Training**

Sat, Nov 20 | 2–4 pm

Captain America, the Winter Soldier, and combat specialists prepare S.H.I.E.L.D operatives for the Avengers’ next enemies—Hydra, Chitauri, Thanos, or even your average supervillain. This stage combat panel covers hand-to-hand, movement, weapon disarms, and everything you need to help save the world! Join Ring of Steel: Action Theater and Stunt Troupe, at the Orion Library as they prepare you for the next enemy.

**Teen Taste Test Challenge**

Sat, Nov 27 | 2–3 pm

Do you know how many different flavors there are of Oreo cookies? You think you know all the Oreo flavors by taste alone? If you’re up for the challenge, test your taste buds with ‘America’s Favorite Cookie!’

Many of our programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Orion Library.

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

If schools are closed due to inclement weather, youth library programs are canceled.
All Take and Make supplies will be available on a first come, first served basis starting at 9:30 am on the day of the program.

Many of our programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Orion Library

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

Bright by Text
Children don’t come with instructions, and we’re here to help! Bright by Text is a texting service that provides parents and caregivers of children ages 0–8 with fun and informative text messages about child development. Messages are targeted to your child’s age and have information on development, language and early literacy, health and safety, behavioral tips, social–emotional wellbeing, and more. Also included are links to games and activities, as well as information about upcoming library events and weekly information about local community fun and resources. To sign up for Bright by Text, simply text FAMILYPLACE to 274448.

Sensory Kits
In early 2020, the library was awarded an LSTA grant to purchase Sensory Kits for a more welcoming environment for patrons with special needs. What is a Sensory Kit? A sensory kit holds a variety of sensory tools that can be used to both calm and stimulate sensory systems. These tools can help improve concentration and attention to tasks. The first kit is located in the Youth Area and contains objects such as a wobbly cushion, visual timers, noise-canceling headphones, fidgets, and more. These kits are available for patrons to use while they are visiting the library, allowing a welcome space for all types of library patrons. Other sensory kits will be available throughout the library soon. This project is funded in part with a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Library of Michigan.

5th Grade Battle of the Books
Battle of the Books, our yearly reading competition for local Lake Orion 5th graders was at risk of cancellation last year because of the COVID–19 pandemic. Luckily, the creativity of our youth department brought us a highly successful virtual Battle. In the end, over 80 students participated on 27 different teams for a unique experience last year that was definitely like no other. We implemented new challenges to make the competition more interactive while still remaining virtual, including team costume videos and online video debates about Battle books!

The youth department found that students loved participating in these virtual video challenges, so we plan to incorporate them into Battles to come. So mark your calendars, 5th grade families, because Battle is coming back in 2022 better than ever, kicking off in early November and culminating in early March 2022 with our IN PERSON Battle and Finale Party! This competition promotes reading for fun and is a great way to practice much needed literacy skills for students.

5th Grade Battle of the Books Kickoff
Thu, Nov 4 | 5:30 pm and 7 pm | 5th Grade
Register for Battle of the Books 2022 and find out more information including how to form teams, who can mentor, new 2022 activities and more. Our 2022 featured author will also be revealed!

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

Fall Fun Scavenger Hunt
September
Drop in any time in September to participate in one of our kid–favorite scavenger hunts! Pick up a sheet at the Youth Services desk and find the characters hidden throughout the Youth department. Participants will earn a small prize for completing the scavenger hunt.

Outside: Pirate Treasure Hunt
Sun, Sep 19 | 1–4:30 pm | All ages
Shiver me timbers, it’s Talk like a Pirate Day! Stop by the Youth Services desk for ye treasure map and solve clues to find a Pirate’s Booty.

OpenSpot Theatre
Sun, Oct 17 | 2 pm
Families, K–5
Join us for a fun workshop with OpenSpot Theatre! Children of all ages and abilities will learn about theatre, including singing, acting, and dancing through theatre games and activities, and put on a live performance for family and friends!

Take and Make: Create with Your Crew
Sat, Oct 23 | All Ages
Get your crew together and make a silhouette town all your own.

Bad Art Night
Tue, Nov 16 | 6:30 pm | All ages
This night is about all of us who don’t have an artistic interest. Come and create an awful piece of art. No rules (besides not trashing the library), but lots of fun materials to use.

BABY, TODDLER, AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

SENSEsational Storytime
Fridays | Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 12 | 11 am | All ages
A welcoming, interactive environment designed for children with special needs and sensory seeking kids.

Bounce and Boogie
Saturdays | Sep 11, Oct 2, Nov 13 | 11 am | Ages 0–5
Join us as we dance, groove, jump, and move to our favorite songs and rhymes! Oct 2 is a special Sesame Street edition!

Little Lit
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays | Sep 13–Oct 6, Oct 18–Nov 17 | 10 am, 11 am | Ages 0–5 | Limit 20
Children ages 0–5 and their families are invited for stories, songs, and activities that promote the five staple early literacy practices: reading, writing, singing, talking, and playing!

Take and Make: Fall Frenzy
Tue, Sep 14 | Ages 3–5
Get in the autumn spirit with seasonal crafts and learning activities.

New Parent Social Hour
Fridays | Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 5 | 10 am | Ages 0–18 months
Join other local parents for an hour of socializing. You may even learn a few early literacy tips and parenting strategies while you’re here! Babies and children welcome and encouraged.

Outside: Pete the Cat Button Hunt
Sat, Sep 18 | 10 am | Ages 3–5
Enjoy some Pete the Cat stories and then help Pete find his missing buttons.

Outside: Sesame Street Fair
Sat, Oct 2 | 10 am | Families
Join us on the library lawn for some fun Sesame Street themed activities and games, including a special Sesame Street edition of Bounce and Boogie at 11 am.

All Aboard for Train Fun
Tue, Oct 12 | 10 am | Ages 3–5
Get your engineer hat on and join us aboard the Library Express. We will have fun train stories, songs, and activities.

Get Lit: Autumn Subscription Box
September | Register by Sept 15 | Grades 3-6
Register for your own subscription box which contains a checked out library book hand-selected for you, a packaged snack, STEAM activity, and novelties pertaining to that month’s theme. Funding is provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan.

Sign up for Library Programs at orionlibrary.org/calendar or call 248-693-3000
Take and Make: Monster Tissue Boxes
Sat, Oct 16 | Ages 0–5
Just in time for Halloween! Create fun and creepy monsters with this take and make project!

Halloween Storytime
Fri, Oct 29 | 10 am | Ages 0–5
Join all of your favorite youth librarians in costume as they lead you in a Halloween themed storytime with music, dancing, stories, and fun. A costume parade through the library follows this fun filled event!

Take and Make: Building Motor Skills
Thu, Nov 11 | Ages 3–5
Help your preschooler work on their motor skills with these fun activities!

Sleepy Storytime and Stuffed Animal Sleepover
Mon, Nov 15 | 6:30 pm | Ages 0–5
Bring your blanky and stuffed animal for a warm and cozy pajama storytime! Then your stuffed animals get to have a slumber party at the library!

Press Here...No, Don’t Touch the Button a Fun Interactive Storytime
Tue, Nov 23 | 10 am | Ages 3–5
Hear some great interactive stories and then make an interactive story book of your own.

Take and Make: Tiny Art Show
Sat, Sep 18 | Gr K–5
Come and pick up a mini–canvas and some clay to create your own unique work of art. Return your masterpiece to the library by Oct 1 to be displayed in our youth showcase for the month of October.

Take and Make: Play with Your Food
Sat, Oct 9 | Gr K–5
Edible slime, candy bracelets, and other food–related crafts make it okay to play with your food!

Creepy Concoctions
Sat, Oct 30 | 2 pm and 3 pm | Gr 3–5
Register online
Create some delicious and spooky treats to scare up some fun at your house. Registration is required.

Take and Make: Break in Bags
Sat, Nov 6 | Gr 3–5
Use your detective and puzzle solving skills to break into this goodie bag.

Cake Day Creations
Sat, Nov 27 | 11 am | K–5
Celebrate National Cake Day with cake–themed crafts and a delicious cupcake to decorate.

Friends
Fall Used Book Sale
Tue, Sept 21
10 AM–8:30 PM
Friends of the Library Member Day & Teacher Day
(Membership will be available for purchase at the door)
Open to the Public
4:30–8:30 pm
Wed, Sept 22 & Thu, Sept 23
10 AM–8:30 PM
Open to the Public
Fri, Sept 24
10 AM–4:30 PM
Open to the Public
1/2 off books day
Sat, Sept 25
9:30 AM–1:30 PM
Open to the Public
$5 bag day
(fill a bag supplied by the Friends for $5)

Anouncing our 2021–23 Board of Directors
Elections were held at the Friends annual meeting on April 13. The following individuals will be serving their elected and/or appointed position for a 2–year term which began May 1.

Don Walker, President
Michelle Jerome, Vice President & Membership Chair
Carla Tousley, Treasurer
Shae Smith, Secretary
Dale Bell, Book Sale Chair
Mary Duenow, Fundraising Chair
Friends Holiday Silent Auction

The Friends will be hosting its annual Holiday Silent Auction at the Orion Township Public Library from Monday, November 1 through Saturday, November 20, 2021. Items will be displayed in the Friends Reading Room with bid sheets throughout the three week silent auction.

“Our holiday silent auction is a key fundraiser that helps the Friends support library programs,” said Mary Duenow, fundraising chairperson for the Friends. “It’s a great way for library patrons to start their holiday shopping and at the same time help raise critical funds for the library.”

Winning bidders will be contacted by phone and may pay with cash, check or credit card at the library service desk beginning at 4 pm on Saturday, November 20 once bidding closes. Baskets must be claimed by Friday, December 3. There is no admission fee to the Friends Holiday Silent Auction.

“We presented more than 70 baskets for bidding at our 2019 holiday auction,” said Duenow. “We are so thankful for our local businesses, patrons and Friends who so generously give and partner with us to help us help the library.”

If you have an item, basket or service to donate to the Friends Holiday Silent Auction, please contact the Friends at 248–693–3000 x470 or friends@orionlibrary.org. Donations should be delivered to the library by Friday, October 15.

Five ways to help the Friends help the Library

1. Become a Friends Member
Join the Friends of the Library! Senior memberships are $5, individuals $10 and families $20. Stop by the service desk at the library or visit our website to join.

2. Get Involved
Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity? The Friends are always looking for help on our board, committees and events. It’s a great way to meet new people, pitch in and also have some fun. If you, your family or service groups have an interest, please reach out to the Friends at friends@orionlibrary.org.

3. Show Your Support with Friends Merchandise
Proceeds from ‘Friends’ merchandise support the funding of library programming. Samples are on display at the library’s front desk. Book Bags $2—$15.

4. Designate the Friends for Amazon Smile & Kroger Rewards
Designate the Friends of the Orion Township Library as your designated charity for Amazon Smile and Kroger Rewards. It’s a great way to support the library through your everyday shopping!

5. Make a Donation
If you’re looking for an organization to support with your charitable contributions, consider supporting the Friends with financial contributions or items we can use for our holiday basket auctions.

About the Friends

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

Sing and dance so all can swing and play!

Our community is at its best when everyone is included. That is what motivated Kristi and Shannon Schons—with other local moms of children with special needs—to start The Daisy Project.

The local nonprofit is passionate about helping special needs children and their families enjoy life at its fullest and provides them with the tools to do just that. Kristi’s son Zander is the driving force behind everything she does.

“Every project that we do to make the world more inclusive for special needs individuals are near and dear to all of us on The Daisy Project Board and to all of our supporters,” Kristi says. “We have watched our mission grow and become recognized by other communities. Inclusive playgrounds are being built in so many other places, and we love to think that we started that movement. Playgrounds, baseball fields, and beaches are now more accessible than ever because we had a dream for our children, and we won’t stop until they are accessible for everyone.”

The Orion–based group holds the LO Palooza Music Festival each year to help raise funds for special needs projects in the community. In the past, the group has helped fund the inclusive whirl, a first-of-its-kind merry-go-round in Michigan for kids in wheelchairs and their able-bodied siblings and friends, and the Miracle Field, an all–inclusive baseball field that removes the barriers which keep children with disabilities off the field and let’s them finally enjoy America’s favorite pastime.

The 2021 LO Palooza is on Saturday, September 18 from noon to 11 pm at the Wildwood Amphitheater. The proceeds from this joint effort between Orion Township and The Daisy Project—MI will go toward the expansion of special needs recreational spaces in Orion.

“LO Palooza is for everyone,” Shannon says. “We strive to create an event that is fun for all ages with some of the most talented artists around with a variety of genres from Classic Rock and Pop to Bluegrass and Funk.

“We have a cornhole tournament for all skill levels, food trucks from local eateries, a beer tent and spirits, local vendors and artisans, face painting, henna art, caricatures, and a gaming trailer,” Shannon added. “So, whether you want a family fun day, friend’s night out, or date night, we’ve got you covered!”

LO Palooza will include live music all day, with an amazing line up of local artists. Tickets for this all–day festival are only $25, kids 12 and under are free! Tickets purchased the day of the event are $30.

EVERY child deserves to swing and play!

To purchase LO Palooza tickets and for more information, visit LOPalooza.org.

All photos by Lee Smith
Fall in Lake Orion is a sight to behold. Leaves changing, boats cruising, football revving.

But in 2020, one of the great fall Lake Orion traditions was missing.

For years, Homecoming has centered the community. A parade, a football game, a dance and extraordinary spirit at all levels of the district embracing Dragon Pride.

With just one high school in the community and all schools sharing a single mascot, there’s a unity within the boundaries that is uncommon in Metro Detroit.

That unity has built over nearly 130 years of school in the area.

Which made the missing memories, the absent moments, more noticeable in the fall of 2020.

With the COVID clouds breaking up and a more traditional school year in 2021–22, Lake Orion High School is planning a full return to the week for the community to embrace.

**History**

Homecoming has thrived for as long as Dragons can recall and continues to grow, involving as many as possible.

With such a small school community for the first 50 years of the district, the idea of an organized return for alumni and a single fall celebration for the students was not a major event. Yet the term “Homecoming” began to appear in the Lake Orion High School yearbook in 1955, with photos of a Homecoming Court and girls dressed up. As the court and football game became staples, the events began to expand, with an emphasis on the float-building and the parades as the years went on. For a long stretch there was football Homecoming and basketball Homecoming, two signature events. Moving into the 1970s, spirit week and dress-up days expanded and, even when budget cuts paused many district programs, including football, in the early 1980s, there was a commitment to at least have a giant assembly for the students to celebrate.

The current Homecoming week kickoff reinforces the importance of the entire community with the parade.

On Sunday, October 10 in the afternoon, more than a dozen groups will gather behind Blanche Sims Elementary, preparing to wind through the streets of downtown Lake Orion.

Emerging from the west side of the school, the LOHS Board of Education and Administration will pull in front, followed by cheerleaders from all ages. Each school, plus athletic teams, clubs and groups will walk down Florence Street, making a right on Flint Street, through downtown, taking another...
right on Broadway and concluding at Elizabeth Street, just in front of the original Lake Orion High School which opened in 1927.

With the marching band echoing throughout, each group will carry a banner, celebrating its connection to the community.

Holding the parade on Sunday afternoon became a new tradition about a decade ago after the previous practice of holding it before the Friday football game became too rushed.

Now the football players, band and cheerleaders can participate, the elementary students can attend, and the downtown Lake Orion businesses can be open and benefit as well.

“It turned out to be a beautiful thing,” said LOHS Leadership class co-advisor Lori Hogan, who has guided the Homecoming festivities for 19 years. “The parade is a big deal because everyone gets invited, Kindergarten through 12th grade, to attend and be in the parade.”

Now, the enjoyment is shared by all and hundreds of residents line the streets to wave and cheer the students walking by.

“It’s definitely a super public event,” said LOHS senior quarterback Kyler Carson, who has grown up as a parade participant with his youth football teams, now into his senior year. “Everybody talks about it, everybody knows about it...Even now, I look forward to it. I miss how communities (elsewhere) used to come behind not only football teams but the high school. I do enjoy it now. When we get to walk in the parade, everybody's cheering for you and everybody's united.”

Leadership class

Early in the summer of 2021, Carson traveled the East Coast on a nine-day bus tour, state to state with other high school football players visiting colleges for camps and tours.

While most of the players were singular focused on football and where their future would be, Carson’s mind continued to spin.

His special role this fall will not only be the quarterback on the field, but Leadership class president. With an older sister who also enjoyed the Leadership class, Carson has focused for years on helping create the best experience for his fellow Dragons.

Though many aspects of the 2020–21 school year were unusual—students only returned for in-person for classes consistently in mid-January—the planning began in the spring for the Homecoming festivities.

Carson and the next executive board established Leadership groups and each created displays with potential themes for the fall. After weeks of students and staff voting, the “haunted” theme emerged.

For Carson, this was exciting and thrilling, but also simply part of his world. Talking to another Oakland County football player—who is also a student council president—on their bus trip, he realized LOHS is an outlier.

“He’s a great guy and I asked him what
they do, trying to get some ideas that we can use,” Carson said. “He said, ‘we don’t do any of that.’ We are blessed with what we can do with our community behind us.”

A large part of implementing activities comes from the LOCS Administration allowing students to take Leadership as a class each quarter. With over 300 students each year taking the Leadership class in some form, there’s a connection running through many parts of the 2,400-student school.

The Leadership class events run throughout the school year, with signature events, such as the holiday food drive and assistance for local families, the Cell Out for Soldiers in January and the winter spirit week fundraisers for local charities.

“It is really a neat and unique way of including your students in the governance of a school building,” LOHS principal Steve Hawley said. “Lake Orion does it better than anybody. We’re sought out by schools not only in Michigan but across the country for our model and how we do school governance here. I’m really proud of our leaders, Lori Hogan and Amy Redman and others who built this program in the past. But, by and large, the credit goes to our students.”

“We couldn’t do what we do without having the kids in the class every day,” said Hogan, who joins fellow Leadership co-advisor Amy Redman sharing the LOHS process to state and national colleagues interested in following the blueprint. “The creativity, the work. That opportunity comes from our school board, a critical piece of letting it be a class.”

Carson is a perfect example. His time and devotion to football before and after school would prevent him from participating if Leadership was only a club/afterschool program. Having a Leadership class allows students to participate in activities outside the school day as well.

Part of this coming school year will be about rebuilding the school culture after two school years severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“For most of us, the pandemic put a magnifying glass over our society and culture that focused on the many parts
we once took for granted or didn’t know about,” Redman said. “Student activities was no different. I’ve realized more than ever that student activities in our building are the key to unite our school and build a sense of belonging and community and is truly more vital and valuable than I once realized. Of course, academics at our school are the foundation, but it’s the events like Homecoming parades, dances, and fun social activities that build peer relationships and lasting memories for students and a sense of belonging to LOHS.”

Carson and the executive board are brimming with ideas that were on hold over the past two years because of the circumstances and returning to some normalcy will allow some of them to be implemented in 2021–22.

That passion will be critical in the first few weeks as Homecoming rapidly approaches.

“It’s an important event for us at Lake Orion High School,” Hawley said. “We put a lot of time in to preparing and planning for the event each year. And much of that work we have given to our students, which I think is appropriate because they will be alumni, they will be coming back, and have even a greater tie to the event because of their efforts to prepare and plan for Homecoming each year.”

A full week

Part of the expanding mission is to unify the grades and levels across Lake Orion Community Schools.

The high school students will have theme dress-up days during that week, with each one allowing all students to show their participation.

As the lower levels connect with the high school week, those students will also embrace theme days in their schools and classrooms.

The high school events continue through the week, including a hypnotist for the students in the middle of the week.

While the Homecoming Friday night football game has long been a centerpiece of the week, the past few decades have allowed the LOHS junior and senior girls to get in on their own football that week.

For the first few days of the week, the juniors and senior girls interested in playing in Thursday’s “Powder Puff” football game go through practices, run by high school staff members.
They learn about football, how to throw, catch, run plays and prep for their own big event.

Their game is also played at Dragon Stadium with officials and uniforms with the Juniors and Seniors facing off to see which team can pull out a win. And the LOHS football players who star on Friday nights are in the stands rooting for the girls during the Powder Puff game.

Friday afternoon may take the most work for the Leadership class of any aspect of the entire week.

The Homecoming assembly is one of the most passionate events of the school year, with each class sitting in one section of the gym bleachers and spending an hour competing in gym floor games as the Leadership class guides them and keeps score.

With staff members also squeezing their way into the competition, it is a full school event.

Through the week, LOHS students vote for a Homecoming court and those students are introduced by grade at halftime of the Friday night football game. The members of the court enter with a smoke entrance, as well as crowns, followed by a car trip around the track for the king and queen.

By the time the Saturday night dance concludes—an event that has expanded in recent years beyond the dance floor, with video game trucks and other activities—the Leadership class is worn out, but thrilled at pulling off a signature event.

“‘There’s definitely a different mood in the high school and the community. Everybody’s preparing for the week,’” Carson said. “‘Everyone (in Leadership) knows it’s going to be a tough week, but everyone looks forward to it.’

Keeping all the events sustained and progressing each year is a massive undertaking involving many moving parts. Hawley hopes that the community understands the effort taken to plan and produce all of these events.

“Pulling that off and doing that as well as we do, is no simple task,” Hawley said. But to have this event symbolize the community creates a pride within the school.

“High School Homecomings are such an ingrained, important part of high schools across our country that they’ll continue to endure forever,” Hawley said. “The idea simply being that we all have a tie to the schools that we went to and the high school that we graduated from. Being able to go back and re-live that, even in a small way, through the Homecoming experience is something that everyone in our country holds dear to their heart.”
Tell us what you think!

The community survey is coming soon!

We truly value your opinion. By participating, you make your voice heard and will help shape the future of Orion Township. This survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. The survey will be posted to our Facebook page and our website.

Email jbhatti@oriontownship.org for submission guidelines and instructions.

Orion Living is always on the lookout for great photos that depict life in Orion. Earn notoriety and a photo credit by sharing your work, and help us tell Orion’s story!

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Friday Night Lights

Varsity Football Coach John Blackstock is ready to lead his team into a new and victorious season. The bleachers at Dragon Stadium will be full of fans looking forward to resuming our Friday night tradition.