There's no snow place like Orion

What's Inside

Come play in the snow at Orion Snowcation and Downtown ice festivities

Cure the winter blues with programs from the Orion Library, Parks & Recreation

Chamber celebrates Impact Award winners

LOCS toots its horn about school music programs

Your quarterly guide to life in Orion
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: Owen F., Payton S. and Mikah F. participated in the first Sledding & S'mores fun at Jesse Decker Park as part of the Township’s Orion Snowcation event last winter. Many similar activities are planned for this winter.

Background photo by K. Gedda Smith
In October, we experienced a 1000-year rain event, with six to eight inches of rainfall in two hours. Hundreds of homes were effected as well as eight commercial buildings, including some of our schools. As in the past, the Township staff and our residents stepped up immediately to help each other out. Due to the damage from the storm, I declared a State of Emergency. If you are still asking for assistance from the State and Federal Governments, and are in need of assistance, check out our Community Support Services page under the Community tab on our website. I want to thank our residents and businesses for their patience and assistance. Coretta Scott King once said, “The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members,” and that couldn’t ring truer for Orion. No matter the event or what we are up against, the Orion family always goes out of our way to help others.

We’ve Moved!
By the time this is published, we should be settling nicely into our new facility, located at 2323 Joslyn Road, just north of our previous location. If you haven’t stopped by yet, we can’t wait for you to see it! We will be hosting an open house soon, where you will have a chance to tour the facility. Keep an eye on our social media pages for the date.

We Want Your Input!
You can help shape the future of Orion Township by completing this years’ community survey. The survey provides feedback to staff and officials to help us improve the quality of services, amenities, and recreational opportunities that we provide to the community. We are always here to assist you, and your investment in this survey will allow us to provide you with the highest level of service. The survey is coming to a close soon—on December 31st—so if you haven’t taken it, now is your chance. Scan the QR code in this edition to complete the survey today.

Hope you enjoy this edition of Orion Living Magazine and can’t wait to see during the eight weeks of Orion Snowcation this winter!

Chris Barnett
Orion Township Supervisor

What’s Inside

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The community survey is live!

Orion Township is conducting a community survey to gather information about how we are doing and how we can better serve our residents. Your input will help us deliver the best possible services and help us make important decisions over the next few years.

We appreciate your time. We realize your time is valuable and expect it should take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete this survey. Every question is important and the time you invest will help shape the future of Orion Township.

The survey closes on December 31, 2021. Thank you for your input!

Grand Square of Orion
This exciting new development is located on eight existing lots on Brown Road between Baldwin and Joslyn Roads. It will be constructed in two phases, with two restaurants in the first phase and three 4-story hotels in phase two.

Stadium Ridge Commercial
Located on the northeast corner of Stadium Drive and Lapeer Road, construction has begun on two retail buildings, with the westernmost building containing a drive-thru. The driveway to access both buildings will be on Stadium Drive.

Stadium Ridge Residential
Located to the east of Stadium Ridge Commercial, with the entrance off of Stadium Drive, will be a new residential neighborhood consisting of 53 detached single-family homes.

Ponds of Orion
Located on the south side of Clarkston Road, between M-24 and Bald Mountain Road, tucked behind the old K-mart (soon to be Meijer, see below for details), is the start of a multi-family development. This townhome condominium development consists of nine 4-unit buildings and one 8-unit building, along with a clubhouse and outdoor pool, for a total of 44 residential units.
FedEx Parking Lot Expansion

Located at the southern end of Liberty Drive, northwest of the Giddings and Brown Road intersection. The project includes purchasing four lots to be combined with their current site, located at 1601 Brown Road, to construct an additional parking lot.

Orion Self–Storage Addition

The existing self–storage site, located at 1007 Brown Road, featuring traditional individual entry units. The addition will include the construction of an approximately 29,500-square–foot building with interior access and additional paved parking.

Meijer Grocery Store

Located in the former K–mart building on Lapeer Road will be the addition of a Meijer. The approved plan involves the demolition of the old K–mart building and constructing an approximately 90,000-square-foot Meijer Grocery Store with a drive–thru pharmacy. The other store in the plaza will remain, and the Meijer will be built as a stand–alone building. The size of the store is considerably smaller than a typical Meijer Supercenter, as this store will focus on food offerings.

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.

Oakland County Parks vehicle permits

Oakland County seniors (62+), active military, veterans, and persons with permanent disabilities can receive a free Oakland County Parks Annual Vehicle Permit (AVP). For 2022, Orion Township has been set up as a pilot location for Oakland County residents to obtain their free AVP. Residents no longer need to go to one of the park locations to get their AVP.

In addition to the free passes, Orion Township Hall and the Orion Center will also be selling the Oakland County Parks Pass and the Combo Pass (Oakland County/Huron-Clinton Metroparks) to all other residents and non-residents. This pass will allow you to enjoy Orion Oaks County Park, including our “famous” Dog Park located on Joslyn Road. Please scan the QR code above for more information.


For more information on each park, visit oakgov.com/parks.

These snowshoes were made for walkin’

Orion Oaks Park is the perfect place for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing this winter. If you haven’t tried either yet, snowshoeing is generally easier for beginners to pick up and learn more quickly. Snowshoeing, for the most part, uses the already strong, stabilizing muscles in your legs that you use while walking. Winter hiking is also available. Either way, take some time to explore the trails this winter.
Water Safety

Be prepared for winter water emergencies

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

Safe, potable water

It is suggested that at least one gallon of water, per person, per day, be stored for emergency purposes. It is also suggested that a 2-week supply of water be stored. Water should be stored in clean plastic, glass, fiberglass, or enamel-lined metal containers. Never use a container that has had a toxic substance in it. Seal the containers tightly, and store them in a cool, dark place. You should also rotate your water every 6 months.

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

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

In the event that water service is completely lost, there are sources of water within your home that are safe for consumption. You can access the water stored in the pipes of your home by turning the faucet on at the highest place in your home, and draining it from the faucet at the lowest place in your home. The water in your hot water tank can be accessed if the electricity and gas are shut off. Begin by opening the drain in the bottom of the tank, and then turn off the cold-water intake at the top of the tank. If there is a hot water faucet, turn it on, and the water should begin draining. Remember: do not turn the electricity or gas on when the tank is empty. Rainwater or snow could also be used in an emergency, but should be brought to a rolling boil for 5 minutes before consuming.

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

Prevent pipes from freezing

If you have had problems with lines freezing in the past, inspect the lines before the winter hits. If pipes are exposed to outside walls, in crawl or attic spaces wrap them in insulation or heat tape.

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.

Schedule a final water bill before your move

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

Shovel ready?

Some consider it a dreaded chore, some consider it their exercise for the day. Either way, when that snow falls, it’s time to get the shovel out. It’s more than that though, it can lead to aches, pains, and even some serious health problems, so before that first big snowfall comes, take some time to read these snow shoveling safety tips.

Be heart-conscious. If you have a history of heart problems and are currently inactive, it’s best to speak with your healthcare provider before the snow season arrives. Additionally, don’t shovel while smoking, eating, or after consuming caffeine; this may place extra stress on your heart. Cold temperatures cause your arteries to constrict, making your heart work harder; this, combined with physical exertion, makes some individuals...
If you are going out of town during the cold winter months, leave your heat on to prevent pipes from freezing while you are gone.

To prevent pipes from freezing if power to your home is lost due to a storm, and you are staying there or will be monitoring your home frequently, allow a faucet to drip cold water slowly. At a minimum, the dripping faucet should be the one that is the greatest distance from your main water cutoff valve. Also, consider allowing a slow drip in areas that are least protected from the cold, such as basements, crawl spaces, attics, and the garage.

**Water meter frozen?**

If you suspect you have a frozen water meter, call us for help. Do not attempt to thaw the water meter yourself as this can result in extensive damage. Please call 248–391–0304 ext. 8500.

If you are going out of town during the cold winter months, leave your heat on to prevent pipes from freezing while you are gone.

If a water or sewer emergency occurs

Call Orion Township
Monday through Friday during Township hours
248–391–0304
Ext. 8500

or call Oakland County Emergency Dispatch during non–business hours
248–858–4911

Dress in layers. Layer your clothing. You can always remove a layer if needed.

Stay hydrated. It’s just as important in cold weather as it is in hot weather to stay hydrated.

Pace yourself. Warm-up your arms and legs by stretching. You are less likely to injure muscles when they are warm. Listen to your body and take breaks when you need to. Safety is more important than speed.

Use the right equipment. Using the right equipment can help reduce the chance of injury and make your snow removal job a little easier. Ergonomically-designed shovels can help reduce the amount of bending you have to do. Wear shoes or boots with slip-resistant soles or add traction with slip-on ice cleats.

Work smart. Work in sections; shoveling lighter amounts of snow for twice as long can be less strenuous and more effective than heaving heavy scoops. Shovel while the snow is fresh. Freshly fallen snow is lighter than snow that has started melting.

Plan your attack. Leave the area where the driveway meets the street for last because passing snowplows might cover the space that you’ve just cleared around the curb. Remove snow from around a fire hydrant, storm drains along your curb, and from around your mailbox. You’ll also want to check for and remove any drifting snow that has reached the height of the dryer vent on the side of your home.

Use proper technique. Bend your knees and lift with your legs. Lift with your legs bent, stand with your feet hip-width apart for balance. Grip near the shovel blade to keep it close to you when lifting the snow to reduce strain on your back. Work different muscles by switching between a right-hand and left-hand stance. Also, don’t pick up too much snow at once; use a small shovel or fill up a large shovel no more than halfway.

Heading south this winter?

To cease billing while you are away, please contact the Department of Public Services at 248–391–0304 ext. 8500 to schedule a time to turn your water off.

Prior to returning home, be sure to call us to schedule a time to turn your water back on. It is required to have either the homeowner or a designated representative on site to turn water on in case of an unforeseen water leak.

The minimum billing for water and sewer is $39.14 per month.

more susceptible to a heart attack. If you experience any discomfort in your chest, shortness of breath, or other signs of a heart attack, seek medical attention immediately.
What comes to mind when you hear “mental health?”

What thoughts or images come to mind when you hear the words ‘mental health?’ Does your mind immediately think of mental health disorders like clinical depression, bipolar disorder, or post-traumatic stress? If so, you are not alone.

However, take a moment and think of the words ‘physical health’. Does your mind immediately think of chronic health conditions like diabetes and hypertension? Do you think of acute infections such as bronchitis or the flu? For most people, hearing the words ‘physical health’ invokes a much healthier image such as exercise, eating a nutritious diet, or visiting your family doctor for routine care.

We are raised to understand that our bodies require effort to work efficiently. We learn from an early age that we need to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. We are taught the importance of eating plenty of fruits and vegetables and getting enough sleep. While these habits contribute to a healthy lifestyle, physical illness still occurs. Knowing how to care for your body when dealing with a physical illness and having access to proper medical care when necessary are all part of maintaining your physical health.

A normal part of everyone’s life

So why don’t we take the same approach to our mental health? What if, rather than thinking of mental health as a problem, we remember that mental health is a normal part of everyone’s life? Just like our physical health, our mental health can fall anywhere on the spectrum of being ‘easy to balance’ to ‘needing help to balance,’ and it can move back and forth across that spectrum through our lifetime. We can learn plenty of coping skills to help us keep a healthy balance, such as journaling, walking, or listening to soothing music. We must also be prepared for times when we need additional help to balance, so just as we would see our doctor if we had bronchitis, we all need access to care providers who can support us when needed.

NOCC is here to help

The North Oakland Community Coalition (NOCC) website has beneficial information for your own mental health journey. If you are interested in trying new coping skills, you can find plenty of ideas at noccmi.org. You will also find a link to a free confidential screening tool. If you or someone you love is struggling and you’re unsure whether what you are experiencing requires care from a professional, this screening tool is a great resource. If you are thinking of adding a mental health professional to your healthcare team, check out our local provider database!

The NOCC has formed a new Mental Health Task Force. This group of dedicated community leaders has come together to strengthen the mental health support system in Orion Township. Their goal is to make Orion Township a shining example of a connected community that supports mental health education and access to care for all.

For more information about the Mental Health Task Force, visit noccmi.org. If this is the kind of project you would be interested in being a part of, email Thamilton@noccmi.org or contact any NOCC Board of Directors or Mental Health Task Force members listed on the website.
The importance of selecting a loan officer

Whether you are considering selling your home or condo or interested in purchasing one, the first piece of advice I give to all of my clients is to gather your information so you can make informed decisions. Informed decisions start with gathering some key information and your realtor can help to guide you throughout the entire process.

Prepare in advance

Many times purchasers start the home shopping experience backwards.

Have you ever found a home online when looking ‘for fun’ or stumbled upon an open house and fell in love with that home? You knew the home was ‘the one’ and you had to have it? So you quickly call your bank to get a rush on a pre-approval letter in the hopes of securing your dream home.

While there are rare cases, in the right market, that you may end up with that particular ‘dream home’, most of the time it is the buyer who is pre-qualified and positioned to purchase even before that home hits the market that secures the home. Preparing in advance positions you to secure your ‘dream home’ even before it hits the market.

You need a seasoned professional

After your initial call to your realtor, your next step is to contact a qualified loan officer. You want a seasoned professional who will guide you through the loan process, answer all of your questions and provide you with information that you may not have even considered.

A loan officer is more than just a dispenser of interest rates and not all loan officers, similar to real estate agents, are of the same caliber. A loan officer that will educate you on the loan process, help to better position you for a purchase, and make themselves available outside of traditional banking hours will be an asset to you throughout your home purchase experience.

Keep in mind that there are about 40 different variables that contribute to your interest rate so it’s important to select your lender based on their qualifications and your working relationship and not generic ‘rate shopping’. It’s also important to provide all of the requested documentation after that initial call to your loan officer so he or she can provide scenarios that are specific to your needs.

If you also have a home to sell, your loan officer will be able to help you determine whether or not you need to have that home sold prior to purchasing a new home. This is a key piece of information that will help you and your realtor determine the timing of listing your existing home throughout the new home shopping process.

As we have been in a competitive seller’s market, the loan officer you select can have a bearing on how well your offer is received. If you are working with a reputable lender they will be able to effectively communicate to a listing agent your financial strengths, as well as, give the seller (through their listing agent) confidence that he/she will get the loan processed smoothly so that you will indeed be able to close on the home.

If you are considering a new home purchase and need a referral for a loan officer, reach out to your trusted real estate agent.

Looking for a cute holiday décor idea?

Spruce up your porch with a wooden pallet tree. Pallets are easy to find, and most of the time inexpensive, and sometimes even free. Stain the wood a dark color (or leave plain for a lighter look). Paint a tree design on the front and then embellish the slats with pom-poms, via hot glue. You can even add string lights to make it feel more festive. It’s easy, fun, a perfect rustic aesthetic.

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

Photo by David Hillegas. Source: countryliving.com
Dog Licenses

Orion Township sells one-year and three-year Oakland County Dog Licenses year-round at the Treasurer’s Office. Make sure to bring your dog’s proof of rabies vaccination and proof of being spayed or neutered when coming in to get your license.

2022 County Dog License Rates
(Effective December 1, 2021)

One-Year
Spayed/Neutered ..................... $15
Male/Female .......................... $25
Senior (65) Spayed/Neutered ...... $14
Senior (65) Male/Female .......... $23

Three-Year
Spayed/Neutered ..................... $40
Male/Female .......................... $70
Senior (65) Spayed/Neutered ...... $37
Senior (65) Male/Female .......... $64

Delinquent after June 1, 2022
1 yr—Fixed, Unfixed, Senior ...... $40
3 yr—Fixed ............................ $55
3 yr—Unfixed ......................... $85
3 yr—Senior (65) Fixed ............. $52
3 yr—Senior (65) Unfixed ......... $79

For more information regarding dog licenses or the new fee schedule, please go to oakgov.com/petadoptions or call 248-858-1070.

2021 Winter Tax Bills

The 2021 winter tax bills have been mailed out and will be arriving in your mailboxes soon. Tax bills are payable from December 1, 2021, to February 14, 2022. Beginning February 15, 2022, a fine of 3% will be added to any unpaid summer or winter tax bill balance. The last day the Treasurer’s office can accept any 2021 tax payments will be February 28, 2022. Beginning March 1st, all unpaid balances will be collected by the Oakland County Treasurer’s Office.
Don’t be afraid of the dark
Stay safe if you’re out in the winter night.

It’s that time of year when it just feels dark and cold all the time. It’s dark when we wake up and need to leave the house, and it’s already dark by the time we get home. That means that kids are walking to school in the dark, people are walking their dogs in the dark, and people are exercising in the dark.

Here are some tips if you’re going to be outside when it’s dark.

Be visible. The best way to do that is with lights, and the more, the better. For walkers/joggers, you may be able to get by with a flashlight or two, but subtlety is not your friend. Consider wearing a headlamp and/or a reflective or light-up vest in addition to the flashlights. For cyclists, you should use a handlebar light, helmet light, and rear light. Remember, some lights are for seeing, and some are to help others see you. The rule of thumb is white lights up front, red lights in the back, and know that flashing lights draw more attention than a continuous, steady light. Another way to be seen is by wearing brightly colored, reflective clothing and gear (including backpacks). There are many accessories that will help you be seen in the dark.

Stay alert. All the things you shouldn’t do during the day, you also shouldn’t be doing at night, like being distracted, wearing headphones, darting into traffic. It is always important to be aware of your surroundings. Go slower than you would during the day, keep your eyes open for unexpected obstacles, bumps in the road, and the movement of others on the path and the road. It is essential only to cross the street in well-lit areas at designated crosswalks. Do not assume cars will stop because the signal has turned. Wait to ensure the vehicle has stopped, look both ways, and make eye contact with the driver.

Dress in layers. Dressing too warmly is a big mistake when exercising in the cold. Exercise generates a considerable amount of heat, making you think it’s much warmer than it is. The evaporation of sweat pulls heat from your body, making you feel chilled. The best way to address this is to dress in layers. Remove layers as you start to sweat and then put it back on when needed. Don’t forget about your extremities! When it’s cold, blood flow is concentrated in your core, often leaving your head, hands, and feet vulnerable. Consider wearing glove liners with heavier mittens or gloves lined with wool or fleece on top, thermal socks, and a hat or headband to protect your ears.

Stay hydrated. Staying hydrated is just as important during the cold weather as it is in the heat. Drink water (or a sports drink) before, during, and after your workout, even if you’re not thirsty. It may be harder to notice when you’re becoming dehydrated in the cold weather.

Check the weather. Check the temperature before heading outdoors. Wind can penetrate clothing, removing the insulating barrier of warm air surrounding your body, making any exposed skin vulnerable to frostbite.

Know the signs of frostbite. Frostbite is most common on exposed skin; early warning signs include numbness, loss of feeling, or a stinging sensation. Immediately get out of the cold if you suspect frostbite, slowly warm the affected area (don’t rub the site). Seek emergency care if the early warning signs don't go away.

Beware of hypothermia, an abnormally low body temperature. Your body loses heat faster than it can be produced when exposed to cold temperatures. Signs and symptoms include intense shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination, and fatigue. Seek emergency help right away for possible hypothermia.

These tips can help you safely navigate the outdoors when it’s dark. Remember always to be safe and concentrate on what you (and others around you) are doing.
The newest kid on the block

Orion welcomes Lt. Darren Ofiara to the Oakland County Sheriff’s Orion Substation

When former Oakland County Sheriff’s Office Orion Substation Commander Lieutenant Toth retired recently, everyone knew his would be big shoes to fill. This position is critical, not only to the Township and the Department but also to the entire community. After thoroughly interviewing several candidates, Lieutenant Darren Ofiara stood out as the right fit for Orion, even if he is a Clarkston Wolf.

Huge shoes to fill

“Coming into the community, I realize I have huge shoes to fill!” Lt. Ofiara said. The knowledge Lt. Toth has accumulated means I have a lot of homework to catch up on and need to get caught up to speed as quickly as possible. I know I will require the assistance of my fellow Deputies who currently work in Orion and are very committed to the Township and helping me along the way.”

Lt. Ofiara is thankful for the wonderful and dedicated co-workers he’s had the privilege of working with over the years; he couldn’t imagine doing this with a better group of people. “The work they do every day is very inspiring and often goes unnoticed,” stated Ofiara. He knows that Orion will be no different and is looking forward to joining an incredible team.

Lt. Ofiara has always been drawn to the outdoors, especially the water, and there’s no better place to enjoy the outdoors than Orion! When thinking back to his childhood, he imagined that he would be a marine biologist and was even accepted into the University of South Florida. Thankfully he ended up staying in Michigan and was hired into the Sheriff’s Office while still in school. “Seeing so many members of my family serve, I couldn’t get away with anything and was always reminded to give back whenever you can,” Lt. Ofiara stated.

Now in his 26th year, it’s no surprise that he ended up in a service career. Being a multigenerational police officer, he has always had an innate desire to help others.

Giving back by getting out and helping the community is essential, “whether that’s helping someone in need during a call, or just stopping by to say hi to someone,” Ofiara said. “We aren’t here just when you are having your worst day, we are here each and every day to lend a hand.”

Throughout his career, Ofiara has worked in many areas of the Sheriff’s Office, including road patrol, the Oakland County Jail, as a school liaison officer, and most recently in the Computer Crime Unit (CCU) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC). While in the EOC, he was a liaison to Oakland County’s Emergency Management and Homeland Security representatives.

Applied knowledge benefits all

When he worked in the jails, Lt. Ofiara learned communication techniques that helped prevent unneeded issues from arising and to be a great partner and community servant. While in computer crimes, he learned how dark the world could truly be. Seeing that drove him to work harder to protect not only children and our most vulnerable, but all citizens. During this time, he received the Investigator of the Year Award.

“I had many large cases and was nominated by my peers for the award, all of whom I respect very much,” Ofiara said.

In 2012, Ofiara was on the Board for Defeat the Label, helping expose the troubles that bullying and cyber-bullying cause with youth in our communities. His experience and knowledge will be such an asset to our community.

There is little that surprises Lt. Ofiara
anymore, but as we know, members of law enforcement often encounter some of the most tragic and bizarre situations imaginable. Lt. Ofiara recalls a story from his earlier patrol days:

“I had just picked up a new patrol car. It was on an Ash Wednesday evening, and I headed to my church for a quick day of their life and make it a little easier for them.”

He wants to continue that same mantra here in Orion. He looks forward to meeting with residents and interacting with the community. He wants to continue the practices that have made Orion Township the safe and vibrant community that it is now and as it moves to the future.

“Orion Township was the first substation I was assigned to as a new Patrol Deputy. Being able to return is really a satisfying career circle,” Ofiara said. “It feels like I’m coming back home, only that home has been built up a lot more!”

Lt. Ofiara enjoys spending his spare time with his girlfriend, whom he met at the Sheriff’s Office. They have known each other for 20 years and have a black lab puppy named Lucy. Lucy keeps them on their toes and has already learned that nothing beats a nice swim on a hot summer’s day. Additionally, he enjoys anything outdoors—biking, swimming, or just walking the dog. He especially enjoys traveling to national and state parks to hike.

With all our lakes and parks, it seems that Orion will be a natural fit and is the perfect place to call home. Welcome to "Where Living is a Vacation," Lt. Ofiara!

Recycle, upcycle holiday remnants

The holidays will be here and gone before we know it. Then it will be time to get the house back in order, which means taking down decorations and storing them for next year, and finding homes for all the new toys and goodies. But what do you do with the items you’re not saving for next year?

**Live Christmas Tree:** Recycle your greeting cards, as long as there is no glitter, foil, or metallic on them. Or send them to St. Jude’s Ranch for Children, where children and volunteers will transform them into brand new cards, which helps support their various programs. You can also upcycle them for crafts, including ornaments, gift tags, and garland.

**Greeting Cards:** Recycle your greeting cards, as long as there is no glitter, foil, or metallic on them. Or send them to St. Jude’s Ranch for Children, where children and volunteers will transform them into brand new cards, which helps support their various programs. You can also upcycle them for crafts, including ornaments, gift tags, and garland.

**Wrapping Paper:** Recycle your wrapping paper as long as it’s not metallic or has glitter on it. Also, no bows, ribbons, or tissue paper. If you carefully unwrap the gifts, the paper can be upcycled by covering small boxes for future decorations, by weaving strips of it in decorative baskets, or decoupageing a wooden tray or tabletop. The possibilities are endless.
Lake Orion History

Orion’s winters of the past

What were winters like in Lake Orion? Vacations ended, visitors left, and the infamous dragon has finally hibernated under the ice for a long winter’s nap. For the residents that lived here all year long there was still fun to be had on the surface of Lake Orion.

In the 1930s, during The Great Depression, Park Island was in a decline. The amusements, games, and rides were in the process of a tear down. Even the large “Thriller” roller coaster was in the process of being torn down. Luckily, the lumber from it was re-purposed and a huge toboggan slide was created! This toboggan run would propel someone down onto the ice and slide almost to Green’s Park. At least the “Thriller” name could still be applied to this toboggan ride.

Other activities in and around Park Island on Lake Orion were car races and ice skating. Yes you read that right, car races. In the 1940s people would race there cars on the lake! The ice was said to be smooth as glass which made it perfect for ice skating. Orion resident Livingston “Bud” Schaar said ice skating on Lake Orion was considered “big time” when the whole lake was iced over. Park Island even had a bar which was the only establishment at the time on the island.

Another advantage of lake access were ice houses. In the early 1900s there were two major ice companies that harvested huge slabs of ice from Long Lake (Pittman & Dean Ice Co.) as well as Lake Orion (Hacker and Mackrodt Company). The ice houses were centered in the middle of the village of Orion. Horse-drawn sleds were used to transfer these huge slabs of ice which were then cut down and transported to Detroit to be used throughout the year. Surprisingly, the blocks of ice were stored in sawdust until summer and were sold to people for their iceboxes.

What winter activity would you bring back from the past?


Ingram Collection, and the Lake Orion Library.
Orion saves the earth, 183 tons at a time

As a collective community, Orion residents have recycled a total of 183 tons during the month of August! That’s the equivalent weight of two airplanes—amazing!

By recycling in our community, we:

- Conserve natural resources such as timber, water and minerals
- Increase economic security by tapping a domestic source of materials
- Prevent pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials
- Save energy
- Support American manufacturing and conserve valuable resources
- Helps create job in the recycling and manufacturing industries in the United States (source: epa.gov/recycle/recycling-basics)

Our goal is to encourage you, an Orion Township resident, to earn points for doing what you already do, recycling.

**Recycling with benefits**

Recyclebank is a free online platform to encourage and reward Orion Township residents to participate in curbside recycling.

Residents earn points just by curbside recycling. You then can use your points to obtain discounts and special offers from participating area businesses.

Benefits of enrolling in the program are:

- Earn exclusive discounts and offers
- Support local businesses
- Engage in bettering the community

The Recyclebank program is a win for residents, area businesses, and the planet! Registering your household is quick and simple.

Visit recyclebank.com to sign up today.

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**IN ORION TOWNSHIP**

IT PAYS TO RECYCLE!

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!

- **Mr. Brettz Confectioners**
  - Spend $15.00 or more and get a free 6oz bag of pretzels in any flavor
  - 100 POINTS

- **Nothing Basket Cakes**
  - Free Bundlet
  - 100 POINTS

- **Skeens On Main**
  - Choose from: $15 off a 4-week class, 20% off your yarn purchase, or 1/2 off a one-hour private lesson
  - 150 points

- **Funky Monkey Toys**
  - 10% Off Entire Purchase
  - 150 Points

- **Gutter Quality**
  - 50% Off Professional Hardwood Floor Deep Cleaning
  - 150 points

- **Gold & Grills**
  - $15 off one custom virtual or in-person 60 min 1-on-1 lesson (Values at $90, $75 with the discount)
  - 100 points

- **Air Spas**
  - Free Shipping with $35 purchase
  - 200 POINTS

- **Spa For You**
  - $10 off any purchase of $50 or more!
  - 100 POINTS

- **PKBA Salon**
  - Complimentary Eyebrow Style with any $50 purchase
  - 75 POINTS

- **City Bike**
  - $5 off any purchase including rental
  - 75 POINTS

Recyclebank

To redeem your rewards or sign up for free, visit www.recyclebank.com

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Winter 2022  |  Orion Living
As the frigid days of the season near closer and we anticipate being holed up in our cozy houses until the spring thaw, there’s a whole lot of Lake Orion folks who are eager for the snow, and even more, for the ice!

**Nine icy holes**
Take the good people from the Sunrise Rotary Club, for instance. They are geared up and excited to present their 8th Annual Ice Cup Golf Challenge on February 5. Bring your golf club downtown to take part in a 9-hole team scramble that winds its way through downtown and on even atop the frozen lake at Green’s Park. A swag bag and afterglow party complete the event. Tickets for golf and the afterglow are $80 per person and $300 per foursome. Registration is required.

This is the Rotary’s largest fundraising event. Even during last year’s restrictions, the Ice Cup Challenge raised over $20,000 for local and international Rotary service projects. Become an event sponsor, adopt a hole or just come down to partake in the wintery fun that only a lake community can appreciate. Proceeds benefit the Rotary’s pet projects: Beds for Kids in the Lake Orion area, Napoleon Franco Pareja Children’s Hospital in Cartegena, Colombia, and the Lake Orion Schools Lamp of Learning academic awards program.

Frozen blocks of carved art
The DDA doesn’t want to miss out on the ice fun either. They will present their second annual Ice Sculpture Festival throughout the month of February. A local artisan will hone a big, frozen block of water into a beautiful work of art, right before your eyes in a live demonstration each Thursday night. The artist will also place three to five smaller sculptures throughout downtown each week. Weather permitting, a number of carvings will be available for viewing as the month progresses.
Come downtown to enjoy a warm beverage, or a cold one, and admire the carvings. The DDA will also provide warming stations with firepits and marshmallows for residents of all ages to keep warm. The Social District is open and allows for adult beverages to be consumed on the streets in a defined area downtown.

**Cold room with a view**

Since outdoor winter dining became a thing in 2020, many downtown eateries will erect their igloos to accommodate guests again this year. Check with your favorites and make your reservations early to enjoy this unique way to take in the winter splendor.

For details about the Rotary’s Ice Cup Challenge, email losunriserotary@gmail.com or call the Haney Farm Bureau Agency at 248-464-5219. For more about the DDA’s Ice Sculpture Festival, visit DowntownLakeOrion.org or follow them at facebook.com/LakeOrionDDA.
SPECIAL EVENTS

Blood Drive with Versiti Blood Center
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 9 | Thu, Mar 31 | 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 Pop Up Market
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 2 | 4–8 pm
Free Admission
The holidays are right around the corner and so is the Made in the Mitten Pop Up Market. Spend your money locally and buy handmade unique items for gift giving. Admission & parking is free!

Indoor Community Garage Sale
Orion Center | Fri, Jan 21 | 9 am–3 pm | Free 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, Jan 22 | 9 am–3 pm | Free 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.

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.

ONTV 12th Annual FISH Food Drive
ONTV Studio | Feb 7–11
Join ONTV for a week-long telethon benefiting the Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry. Tune in Monday–Friday from 7–9 pm for the LIVE segments. The cupboards are bare at this time of year, so any gifts of cash and grocery gift cards are accepted. We will also have our ONTV van here on site, and open to the public to stop by and drop off any food donations. You can also donate by going to our web page at orionontv.org. For more information call ONTV at 248–393–1060.

Made in the Mitten Mother’s Day Market
Orion Center | Sat, Apr 30 | 10 am–5 pm | Free Admission
#BuyNearBy and Shop Local! Start your Mother’s Day 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 exclusive Mother’s Day gifts for all the mom’s in your life! 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 handmade products will be considered.
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! So get ready because winter will be here before you know it. Check out these activities for the entire family at orionsnowcation.com.

Light Up Orion
Orion Parks and Recreation Facebook Page | Voting Mon, Dec 20 | Free
Do you have the brightest or most Griswoldiest Christmas lights? Sign up for our Light Up Orion to see how you rank. Registration is required. Submissions will be due December 13th. Multiple categories to choose from, so when you register please select the category you would like to qualify for.

Snow Sculpture
Mon, Dec 27 | Free
Frosty the Snowman? Lake Orion Dragon? Put your creativity and snow building skills to the test and see what you can create. Event starts December 27th, and runs through February. Make sure to submit your photos on our Facebook page.

Duct Tape Sled Challenge
Jesse Decker Park | Submissions due Jan 3 | Free
Don’t throw out your boxes from Christmas— instead use them (and duct tape) to build a sled! Register for the course and submit photos of your sled to see if you win “Most Creative”. Once the snow falls we will race your creation for the fastest sled!

Snow Dash 5K
Orion Center | Sun, Dec 19 | 9 am | $13
Wear your ugly Holiday sweater dashing through the snow down the Polly Ann Trail for our annual Snow Dash 5K in Orion Township. Certified loop course starts and finishes at the Orion Center. Finisher medals for all participants. Register now at runsignup.com/Race/MI/LakeOrion/SnowDash5K or in person, drop box or mail at the Orion Center.

Game Day Swap
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 20 | 9 am–5 pm | Free Admission
Game Day swap will have puzzles, books, DVDs and board games for anyone to swap from 9 am–5 pm in the Orion Center, 1335 Joslyn Rd. Event is free. Registration is not necessary to participate.

Sledding & S’mores
Jesse Decker Park | Fri, Jan 21 (weather depending) | 1–3 pm | Free
Join us at the Jesse Decker Park Sledding Hill for some sledding fun! Warm up by the fire and enjoy a s’more. Registration preferred but not required. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for date changes due to weather.

Picture This Scavenger Hunt
Orion Parks | Feb 1–6 | Free
Solve the riddles, find the locations and share your pictures! Post a pic collage of all the locations on the Picture This Scavenger Hunt Event page and then stop into the Parks & Recreation office at 1335 Joslyn Rd to claim your prize! You’re welcome to complete the hunt without registering, but only registered participants will receive a small prize. Register at orionparks.com or by calling 248-391-0304 x3500 (one goodie bag per family). Happy Hunting!

Night Tree
Orion Center | Thu, Feb 10 | 5–5:30 pm | Free
Create a new family tradition and join us in making Winter treats for the outdoor animals to snack on during the coldest winter months. Follow along the Link for YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/gw5GWvHzuo as OTPL Youth Librarian reads us the story Night Tree by Eve Bunting. *This activity includes the use of peanut butter.

Mid–Winter Break Car Bingo
Orion Center Parking Lot | Tue, Feb 22 | 1–3 pm | Free
Join us for some safe fun in the Orion Center Parking Lot! All Participants will receive a set of Bingo Cards and a marker to mark their card when they hear the numbers over 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!
ENRICHMENT

Take & Make DIY Birdseed Ornament
Orion Center | Pick Up Mon, Dec 13
Ages 7–12 | $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. 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, Jan 10–Mar 21 | 7–9 pm
$55R/NR
Do you want to make a TV show? ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.

YOUTH

FITNESS & WELLNESS

Kid Fit
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 13–Feb 17 | 4:45–5:45 pm
Ages 5–12 | $36R/$39NR
This class is designed to keep our kids moving and strong all while having fun! Games will be the focus with exercise included. Please provide a mat for your children. Instructor Dawn Stema. Drop in rate: $8R/$9R

ENRICHMENT

Home Alone Training
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 10 | 6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 9+
$17R/$20NR
Is your young teen staying home alone after school? Instructor Merry Lowis presents the skills your child will need to be home alone safely. Includes walking home, key responsibility, securing the house, answering the phone, safe choices, and emergency procedures. Training follows the American Red Cross Curriculum. Certificate is presented upon completion of the workshop. Handouts are included.

Babysitter Training
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 13 | 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.

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SNAPOLOLGY

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!

How to Train Your Dragon Workshop
Friendship Park | Sat, Feb 5 | 9 am–12 pm
Ages 5–10 | $32R/$37NR
Enter the world of Vikings and dragons in Snapology's Training Dragons Workshop inspired by How to Train Your Dragon™! Throughout this workshop, students will explore the Isle of Berk and the dragons a small Viking village has come to love.
Helping Toothless fly, creating a map, and becoming certified dragon riders await your student in this dragon-run fantasy land!

**Game Bots Workshop**
Friendship Park | Sat, Feb 26 | 9 am–12 pm | Ages 7–14 | $32R/$37NR
Calling all gamers! Have a blast creating games while learning about robotics. Students will learn about gear ratio, sensors, programming, and pulleys as they create fun to play games. Whether creating a pinball machine, duck hunt or a go-cart, your child is sure to have fun building, learning and playing.

**Cookie Decoration with Alison Elle—Mommy & Me**
Friendship Park | Tue, Feb 8 | 5–6 pm | Ages 6–14 | $55R/$57NR
Learn the basics of decorating cookies with royal icing as you create holiday-themed designs to take home. All materials provided; cookies are made in a home kitchen not inspected by the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development. *Allergen info: contains wheat, dairy, egg and possible trace amounts of tree nuts and peanuts.* Add a second child for $20, additional youth must be required age for the program.

**Sculpture Anyone?**
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 31–Feb 28 | 5–6:30 pm | Ages 7+ | $60R/$62NR
Let’s get creative with all new sculpture projects! We will create jellyfish with Model Magic, yarn and plastic. On Valentine’s Day we will create and paint a little love bird using aluminum foil, wire, tissue paper and acrylics. Innovative abstract, topographical line art with foam and colored paper will be explored. No class Feb 21.

**Manga Thumbnails & Storyboards**
Orion Center | Thu, Feb 17–Mar 10 | 5–6:30 pm | Ages 7+ | $60R/$62NR
Hey Manga fans, I know you have a lot of ideas, so let’s sort them out and put them down on paper! Manga cartoonists spend hour upon hour working up characters and a storyline. Let’s do this in the short version. Are you up for the challenge? Young artists will be working in graphite and colored pencils, along with some marker sketches. Proportion instructor and guidance in design will be provided along the way, so let’s see what we can come up with!

**Fashion Extravaganza**
Orion Center | Thu, May 5–May 26 | 5:30–7 pm | Ages 7+ | $60R/$62NR
Interested in fashion? Let’s hit the runway with a fashion flash! Students will explore various aspects of fashion, design outfits in numerous sketches using ink washes and graphite. Other projects include paper cut, using white on black card paper and creating faerie gowns from nature elements.

Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at ORIONPARKS.COM or call 248-391-0304, ext. 3500
Rocket League Tournament
Gametime—Auburn Hills | Sat, Dec 18
Time TBD | $30R/NR
Join us for Orion Parks and Recreation’s first Esports event. Grab your friends and show off your video game skills with professional setups and a day filled with Rocket league, ages 6–18 can join. All equipment will be provided at the facility. Event will be held at Gametime in Auburn Hills, home to the Oakland University Esports team and the professional team “Renegades”. You do not need to be a resident to enter, but preregistration is required. Schedule will be finalized once registration is closed.

International Kids Baking Series
Camp Agawam | Sat, Jan 15, 22, Feb 12, 19 Mar 12, 19 | 2–4 pm
Ages 8+ | $160R/$163NR
Teach your child the love of cooking desserts! Each child should bring their own hand held mixer, 8-inch cake pan, mixing bowl, spatula, and large plate for transporting the dessert. All classes will have an educational component to enrich your child’s multicultural knowledge. An additional $10 material fee is due to the instructor the night of each class. Register for the series or pick and choose which classes to experience. Instructor Paula Kotrba. Drop in $28R/$31NR

Week 1: French Layer Cake with Berries
Week 2: Italian Tiramisu and Crepes
Week 3: American Cake Pops and Red Velvet Cupcakes
Week 4: Romanian Donuts and “no bake” cake
Week 5: Czech Cheesecake Pastries
Week 6: European Apple Pie

Coffee With Chris
Orion Center | Fri, Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25 | 9:30–10:30 am
Stop in the Orion Center for an informal meeting with Supervisor Barnett. Feel free to come with questions or join in on the discussion. Topics will include current events in the Township and other matters of interest. If you have a request that may take some research, submit it in advance to cbarnett@oriontownship.org or schedule an appointment. No registration is necessary, discussion is held virtually when/if necessary.

TaikoFit Cardio Drumming
Orion Center
Thu, Dec 2–Feb 24
6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 16+ | $10R/$11NR Drop in rate
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 Gentle Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 24–Feb 14
4:45–5:45 pm | Ages 16+ | $44R/$47NR
In this yoga class you will review the foundational poses of yoga and begin to explore 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

Hatha Continuing Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 24–Feb 14
6–7:15 pm | Ages 16+ | $44R/$47NR
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

Hatha Open Yoga
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 20–Feb 24
10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ | $66R/$69NR
Orion Center | Tue, Feb 1–15
10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ | $33R/$36NR
Open to beginner 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

Keep an eye out for Amazing Athlete classes coming in March!
**Hatha Yoga Restorative/Yin**  
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, Jan 10–Mar 14 | 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 40+  
$64R/$67NR

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! No class Jan 17 & Feb 21 Instructor Cyndy DuVal. Drop in rate: $10R/$11NR

**Zumba Gold Toning**  
Orion Center/Virtual | Wed, Jan 12–Mar 2 | 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

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**The Heartfulness Meditation Program**  
Virtual | Tue, Mar 8–29 | 7–8 pm | Ages 13+ | Free

This class offers a simple set of relaxation and meditation exercises, which when practiced daily, help restore balance in life, manage stress, better your health, and most of all will lead you to inner calm and peace. Each class covers both the conceptual framework as well as practical meditation and relaxation sessions. As classes progress, we add other techniques to help you go into a deep meditative state, faster. Participants will be meditating in chairs. Those wishing to meditate while sitting on the floor may bring their own floor cushions. The entire program will be conducted by certified Heartfulness trainers, who have been meditating and training for several years. Class is free, but registration is required.

1st week—Introduction to Heartfulness Relaxation and Meditation  
2nd week—Introduction to Heartfulness Cleansing  
3rd week—Goal and Maintaining the condition  
4th week—Incorporating meditation in Daily life and Next Steps

**MELT Method Class**  
Orion Center | Wed, Jan 12–26  
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. Zoom available upon request. Instructor Cyndy DuVal. Drop in rate: $15R/$16NR

**Intro to MELT**  
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 10  
10:45 am– Noon | Ages 18+  
$15R/$18NR

A self -treatment technique to help get rid of pain and move better! Simple compression techniques will be introduced using the small balls for the hands & feet and using the soft body roller for the neck, back and lower body. Discover something to do at home to slow down the aging process and feel great! For more information visit meltmethod.com. Must be able to independently get down on the floor. Zoom available upon request. Instructor: Dawn Stema.

**Core & More**  
Orion Center | Fri, Jan 14–Feb 18  
9:30–10:30 am | Ages 18+  
$36R/$39NR

Bringing together your two most fundamental and essential parts of fitness, Core & More will focus on core strength and cardio infused training. This class is for all fitness levels with modifications provided for those who need it. You will need to bring a mat and a medium to heavier set of weights to class. Take advantage of this introductory price! Instructor: Dawn Stema.

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Winter 2022 | Orion Living
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.

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, Dec 13, Jan 24, Mar 7 | 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, Dec 9, Jan 6, 27, Feb 10, Feb 24 | $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.

AARP Income Tax Preparation Service
Starting Mon, Feb 7, 2022 through Mon, Apr 11, 2022
AARP trained volunteers will prepare your federal and state returns. Appointments will be scheduled beginning Mon, Jan 4, 2022. There is no charge for this service: however, a donation to the Orion Center is appreciated.

Genealogy Series
Orion Center | Wed, Jan 12, Feb 9 and Mar 9 | 2-3 pm Free, thanks to our sponsor: American House of Elmwood
Derek J. Blount is a professional genealogist with his own business, “Lost Branches”. He holds a B.S. degree from Oakland University and has completed coursework at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh. This series starts with how to begin your ancestor search and find the records to support family stories. The second program in the series will show you how your ancestors came to America and how to find records to verify the voyage and become citizens. The final program will show you how to trace your family across the country and determine how they traveled.

Clarity of Cognition
Brain Health Lecture Series
Orion Center | Jan 20, Feb 10, Mar 4 | 1-2 pm | Free
Join Kathleen Housey from Clarity of Cognition as she discusses the importance of brain health and ways to strengthen and protect yourself as you age.

Session 1: Exercising to Preserve Brain Health, Even from Home!
Session 2: Sleep does more than you think; it cleans and rewire your brain!
Session 3: Brain Drills

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.

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.
SPECIAL EVENTS

Membership and registration required.

Holly Holiday Luncheon
Orion Center | Wed, Dec 15
12–1:30 pm | $6R/$8NR
A wonderful tradition at the Orion Center, ring in the Holidays with a delicious meal provided by the OPC and some festive entertainment.

Celebrate Elvis’s Birthday at the Orion Center
Orion Center | Fri, Jan 7 | 12–1:30 pm
$7R/$9NR
Elvis will be turning 86 on January 8 and we want to celebrate The King of Rock n Roll! Entertainment will be provided by “the King” himself and some of Elvis’s favorite foods will be provided for lunch.

Valentine’s Day Lunch and Line Dancing
Orion Center | Mon, Feb 14
12–1:30 pm | $5R/$7NR
Boot, Scoot, and Boogie and come celebrate Valentine’s Day with us! The event will start with a soup/salad lunch and end with a lesson on how to line dance. This will be a Valentine's Day event you don't want to miss!

FIELD TRIPS

Membership and registration required

Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit in Downtown Detroit
Thu, Feb 24 | Bus will leave Orion Center at 1 pm | $40R/$60NR
At Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit Detroit, you will be immersed in Van Gogh’s works—from his sunny landscapes and night scenes to his portraits and still life paintings. The installation includes the Mangeurs de pommes de terre (The Potato Eaters, 1885), the Nuit étoilée (Starry Night, 1889), Les Tournesols (Sunflowers, 1888), and La Chambre à coucher (The Bedroom, 1889), and so much more.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra—The Best of Rodgers & Hammerstein
Fri, Mar 25 | Bus will leave Orion Center at 9:30 am | $40R/$60NR
Showstopper after showstopper, it’s more than a few of your “favorite things” as the DSO performs the very best of Rodgers and Hammerstein on Broadway. Hear the “sweet, silver songs” from Carousel, The Sound of Music, Oklahoma!, The King and I, Cinderella, South Pacific, and more. You'll be “whistling a happy tune” well before intermission.

CLUBS

Membership and registration required.

K4 Knit/Crochet
Mon | 12:30–3:30 pm

Chinese Mahjong
Mon | 12–3:30 pm

Ham Radio
Mon & Thu | 6–8:45 pm

Bingo
Tue | 10 & 12:45 pm

Painting
Tue | 10 am–12 pm

Spanish Club
Virtual | Tue & Thur | 3:30 pm

Hand and Foot/Cards
Wed | 12:30–3:30 pm

Orion Center Library Book Club
Wed, 2nd of the month | 1–2 pm
Ages 30+

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

Euchre
Thu | 1–4 pm

Movies
Fri | 1–3 pm

Quilting
Fri | 9 am–12 pm

American Mahjong
Fri | 10:30 am | You must bring your own 2022 Official Standard Hands and Rules card.

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

Euchre
Thu | 1–4 pm

Movies
Fri | 1–3 pm

Quilting
Fri | 9 am–12 pm

American Mahjong
Fri | 10:30 am | You must bring your own 2022 Official Standard Hands and Rules card.

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

Winter 2022 | Orion Living
**SILVER SNEAKERS**

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

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

*Free for Silver Sneakers Members

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**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 50+ to enhance their 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

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**YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL**

**Youth Baseball & Softball**
Apr 4–Jun 19 | $20 Multi–Child Discount (excluding T-Ball)
$30 Late Registration Fee after Feb 28
Registration Deadline Mar 14
League schedules finalized in March
Tee Ball | Ages 4–6 | $90R/$100NR

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

8U Clinic Division | Coach Pitch
10U Intermediate Division | Player Pitch
14U Junior Division | Player Pitch

**Lake Orion Youth Baseball League (LOYBL)**
$130R/$140NR per player
The Spring season will consist of two nights during the week and Saturday mornings.

**Silversneakers.org Activity Calendar**

**LOYBL Umpire Program**
Apr–Jun | Ages 14+ | $10
Classroom Training
Orion Center
Time TBD
On–Field Training
Friendship Park
Time TBD
Are you interested in becoming a paid baseball umpire? LOYBL is seeking new and returning umpires for the 2022 Spring season. A $10 registration fee will get you an umpire shirt, hat, indicator, use of umpiring equipment, on–field training, and online certification. Game fees start at $30 per game! We will provide everything you need to get out on the field and start making calls and money!
**YOUTH SOCCER**

**Orion/Oxford Soccer League (OOSL)**

*Online registration available at orionparks.com*

Apr 4–Jun 18 | $95R/$105NR per player | $35 Jersey if new player or replacement needed | $30 Late Fee after Feb 28
Registration Deadline Mar 14 | League schedules finalized in March

Any child born between Jan 1, 2008 and Dec 31, 2018 is eligible and encouraged to play soccer in the OOSL Spring 2022 season. The season will consist of one practice during the week with games on Saturdays *(weekday games if necessary based on number of teams in division).*

- U-4 | Coed | 2018
- U-5 | Coed | 2017
- U-6 | Coed | 2016
- U-8 | Coed or Girls | 2015 & 2014
- U-10 | Coed or Girls | 2013 & 2012
- U-12 | Coed or Girls | 2011 & 2010
- U-14 | Coed or Girls | 2009 & 2008

**Snow much fun at Jesse Decker Park**

Join us Friday, Jan 21 at Jesse Decker Park *(weather depending)* for two annual winter events. **Sledding & S’mores** runs from 1–3 pm. Challenge your creativity and engineering skills with the **Duct Tape Sled Race**.

Built in 2009, Jesse Decker Park offers year round activities for the entire family including the ever popular sledding hill. The Park is located at 4100 N. Squirrel Road.

See page 19 for additional information and follow us on Facebook for up to date weather and snow conditions!
Sometimes it’s better to be late

Over thirty years ago the leaders around the Lake Orion community made an amazing decision. They recognized a once in a lifetime opportunity offered up by companies wanting to install a new and exciting form of television called Cable TV!

Cities to our south were ahead of Lake Orion and Orion Township in adopting cable television. Being “late to the game” in this case was a blessing that secured a solid future for community television in our community. The cities that were first to adopt cable and community television negotiated with the cable companies as a group. We went it alone.

Going it alone allowed Lake Orion to have full control over how community television would be created and administered in our Township. This decision was key to establishing the mechanism from which community television would be able to thrive for decades to come for all of its residents.

When cable television was first made available to Orion in 1986, the biggest selling point was the huge number of channels to watch. But in addition to all those channels, the franchise agreement required three PEG (Public, Education, Government) access channels and a community television studio, including staff and equipment.

Little was known about PEG access channels at the time, but then Village of Lake Orion Council President Beth Dumala and Orion Township Supervisor JoAnn Van Tassel could see the potential value of the PEG channels to the community.

It was through their foresight that it was agreed that all franchise fees paid by the cable company would be transferred to the Orion Community Cable Communications Commission (OCCCC).

“We knew that the funds collected from the cable company should be used for its intended purpose. To establish community access television in Orion Township.” JoAnn Van Tassel, former Orion Township Supervisor.

Without the Commission, there would be no community television in Lake Orion. The visual record of our local history, graduations, sporting events, and resident-produced shows would have been lost to time. Not to mention the loss of future broadcasting and media arts internships and training for local students.

Foresight in the 80s led to a thriving community treasure

Thirty plus years later, community television is now viewed by thousands of Orion residents weekly. The station’s programming is on 24/7/365. Local news, sports, government, and school board meetings are all accessible not only on Comcast or AT&T Uverse, but at your fingertips on-demand!

JoAnn Van Tassel, above, along with Beth Dumala, was instrumental in launching community television in Orion Township in 1986. Ralph Painter and Pat Belanger have served on the ONTV Board of Directors, the Cable Commission, and as volunteer producers for over 20 years.

Doug Corliss is the former OCCCC Chair.
“We had no clue that Lake Orion community television would evolve into what it is today. It truly is astounding at how it’s grown and advanced with the times.” Doug Corliss, former OCCCC Chairman, and current voice of ONTV Dragon Football.

Lake Orion has always had a strong sense of community. We love being Dragons and showing that Dragon pride. This pride is what keeps residents Ralph Painter, Pat Belanger, Sarah Paine, Randy Timms, Tom Watson, and JoAnn Van Tassel serving on the ONTV Board of Directors and Cable Commission for decades. Their community service is not readily seen or celebrated, but without them, and those that served before, community television in Lake Orion would have disappeared long ago.

Tom Watson, above, is the current Vice Chair of OCCCC and on the ONTV Board of Directors. He is in his second decade of service. Randy Timms, left, is in his third decade volunteering with ONTV and serving on the ONTV Board.

On behalf of the ONTV staff, and the residents of Lake Orion, we say thank you to those who had the vision and foresight to support community television then, as well as today.

Ian Locke, Executive Director, ONTV
Diane Griffiths, Administrator, OCCCC

Did you know?

To sell cable TV services to Lake Orion residents, cable companies must pay a negotiated fee (5% of your cable bill) to our local government as “rent” for using the public’s rights of way. These Franchise Fees are ONTV’s primary funding source.

Ontv 12th Annual Food Drive for Fish

February 7 through 11, 10 am to 9 pm daily at the ONTV Studios, 1349 Joslyn Road.

Fill the ONTV Production Van and GoFundMe Drive. Due to the continued concern with COVID, this drive will be taking GoFundMe donations, as well as food drop-offs right into our TV Production Van. Join the ONTV staff, volunteers, and local sponsors, as we support the Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry. ONTV and local residents have collected over 100,000 pounds of food for those in need in the Orion area since 2009.

Studio and Field Class

10 week class starts January 10th at 7 pm. $55 per person.

Call 248-393-1060 or visit OrionONTV.org for more information.

How to watch ONTV programming

Social Media: Follow and subscribe: YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. Search OrionONTV.

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

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

Cable TV: AT&T U-Verse Channel 99 and Comcast/Xfinity Channels 10 (Public Access), 20 (Government Access) and 22 (Educational Access)

Take our quick survey to be entered to win a $100 Visa gift card from ONTV!
DECEMBER

1–31 Passport Contest, Downtown LO
2 Made in the Mitten Pop Up Market, 4–8 pm, Orion Center
4 Orion Lighted Christmas Parade, 6 pm, Downtown LO
5–18 Orion Area Chamber’s Keep the Cheer Here
6 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm, Township Hall
7 LOHS Winter Band Concert
9 Blood Drive with Versiti Blood Center, 2–7 pm, appointment suggested, Orion Center
11 Winter Workshop, starting at 10 am, all ages, Orion Library
14 LOHS Winter Choir Concert
16 Winter Wonderland Concert
19 Orion Snowcation Snow Sculpture Challenge
20 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm, Township Hall
21 Orion Snowcation Light Up Orion

JANUARY

1 New Year’s Day
1 Hanson’s New Years Resolution Run, 9 am, Downtown LO
1–31 Downtown Lake Orion Photo Contest
3 Township Hall closed
3 Orion Snowcation Duct Tape Sled Challenge
3 Classes Resume
4 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm, Township Hall
11 Vocal Choir Solo and Ensemble Concert
17 Martin Luther King Day—No School
18 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm, Township Hall
18–22 Friends Used Book Sale, Times vary, Orion Library
20 Orion Snowcation Game Day & Puzzle Swap, 9 am–5 pm, Orion Center
21 Orion Snowcation Sledding & S’mores, 1–3 pm, (weather dependent), Jesse Decker Park
22 Antique, Toy & Comic Expo, 9 am–3 pm, Orion Center

Background Photo by Ajit Makhecha
Chinese New Year
1–28 Ice Sculpture Festival, Downtown LO
1–6 Orion Snowcation Picture This Scavenger Hunt
1 Band Pre–Solo & Ensemble Recital
3 Live Ice Carving, Downtown LO
5 LO Sunrise Rotary’s 8th Annual Lake Orion Ice Golf Cup Challenge, Downtown LO
7 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm, Township Hall
7–11 ONTV 12th Annual FISH Food Drive
8 Band Pre–Festival Concert
9 Preschool and Childcare Open House, 4–7 pm, Orion Library
10 Live Ice Carving, Downtown LO
10 Orion Snowcation Night Tree, 5 pm, Orion Center
14 Valentine’s Day
16 Symphonic Celebrations
17 Live Ice Carving, Downtown LO
21 President’s Day
21–22 No School—Mid–Winter Break
22 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 pm, Township Hall
22 Orion Snowcation Car Bingo, 1–3 pm, Orion Center
24 Live Ice Carving, Downtown LO
**2021 Impact Award Winners**

Standout members earn highest Chamber accolades

The Orion Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021 Impact Awards. The Impact Awards celebrate those in our community who have gone above and beyond to improve the quality of life in Orion Township and make an impact on the well-being of our community.

**Business Person of the Year**

The Business Person of the Year is **Wayne Haney**, owner of Haney Farm Bureau in Downtown Lake Orion. Wayne cares deeply for Lake Orion and is constantly involved in the community. Wayne has made a business out of caring for his clients, the residents of the Orion Area. He is an active member of the Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary, the Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority and the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce.

Wayne can often be found attending ribbon cuttings for local businesses with a gift in hand to make new businesses feel welcome. He is always positive and loves what he does. His workers are just as friendly and love working for him.

Wayne has created a beautiful, award-winning storefront in Downtown Lake Orion at 18 S. Broadway. In 2021 his office was awarded the Blue Ribbon Office of Excellence.

*This year’s Business Person of the Year Award is sponsored by Golling Buick GMC.*

**Community Beautification Award**

The Community Beautification award goes to **DeHaan Orthodontics**. When DeHaan Orthodontics needed room to expand their business, they could have looked for another rental location or constructed a simple structure. Instead DeHaan Orthodontics, led by Dr. Andrew DeHaan, invested in the continuing development of the Baldwin Road corridor and constructed a beautiful new building with unique and eye-catching architecture. Dr. DeHaan took a vacant lot and made significant beautification updates to the exterior landscaping and ground cover along the perimeter.

*This year’s Community Beautification Award is sponsored by Redwood Living.*

**Economic Impact Award**

The Economic Impact Award goes to **The Boutrous Companies**. The Boutrous Companies owns two large commercial centers in Lake Orion—Shops at the Shores, at 500–620 N. Lapeer Road and the Lake Orion Plaza at 1025–1101 S. Lapeer Road.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, the father-and-son team of Edward and Thomas Boutrous worked diligently with local businesses to ensure that financial hardships did not mean the loss of their storefronts. Behind the scenes they negotiated the contract to bring a brand new Meijer to the Lake Orion Plaza that will replace the old K-Mart building, creating new jobs and supporting existing businesses in that plaza.

*This year’s Economic Impact Award is sponsored by Consumers Energy.*

**Entrepreneur of the Year Award**

The Entrepreneur of the Year award goes to **Becky Pastor**, owner of The Wooden Tulip Boutique. Becky started The Wooden Tulip Boutique in August 2019 with a dream to follow her passion for fashion and a desire to own an online boutique that brings the latest fashions to women at great prices.

Becky quickly realized that she needed to figure out how to reach more potential customers outside of her network, so she took her online boutique “on the road”, starting pop-up shops at festivals and events across lower Michigan. With increased sales and a social media following coming from the pop-up shop events, she was still looking to tap into other potential revenue streams.

After touring Canterbury Village she was immediately sold and had the vision for
how to turn the former Christmas store into a rustic-styled women’s boutique. On March 1, 2020, she signed the lease and decided to get to work, little knowing everything that was to come. Even with this curveball, Becky didn’t waver. Her positive attitude and focus on ensuring the store was ready to go once Michigan started to open back up was amazing. At the end of May 2020, when limited indoor shopping was once again allowed, she provided an outlet for those comfortable with a safe boutique shopping experience.

The support of Lake Orion and surrounding communities made the shop an instant hit. As support grew, Becky realized that the boutique also needed to grow. She quickly decided in July 2020 to double the size of the boutique. Throughout 2021 she has developed her storefront and online presence as well as creating a delightful shopping experience for her customers.

This year’s Entrepreneur of the Year Award is sponsored by Capocore Professional Advisors.

Gals & Ghouls. The Chamber was finally able to hold a ribbon cutting for Gals & Ghouls in August after several postponements and rescheduling, thanks to the COVID pandemic. We celebrated the four year business anniversary of Gals & Ghouls with owners Meghan Martin and Dayna Green at Bitter Tom’s Distillery. Professionally trained, Gals & Ghouls offers versatile, passionate, and creative make-up services. Whether it be bridal, film effects, beauty or editorial shoots they aim to provide the highest quality makeup services in the industry with personalized, on-location artistry. For more information, and to see some of the spectacular make up works and effects from Gals & Ghouls, go to galsandghouls.com.

Youth Impact Award

The Youth Impact Awards goes to Tonya Hamilton. As the Executive Director of the North Oakland Community Coalition Tonya has been an essential part of a network to support youth in Orion area.

In 2021 Tonya went above and beyond her typical work requirements to work with other local community organizations to provide resources to children and families. She is constantly vigilant on how to help the youth maintain strong mental health while abstaining from drugs and alcohol.

Tonya rebranded the organization, recruited new kids, and has had them actively participate in the narrative of the organization. She is intent on getting the message out there that there is help and support in the community for our young generation.

This year’s Youth Impact Award is sponsored by The Counelis Agency—Farm Bureau Insurance.

RE/MAX Eclipse. With offices already in Bloomfield Hills, Sterling Heights, Waterford Township, Troy and Rochester Hills, RE/MAX Eclipse has expanded into Lake Orion with a new office at 425 N Park Blvd. The office space has been completely remodeled into a spacious, welcoming area. The Chamber welcomed the RE/MAX Eclipse team to Lake Orion and celebrated their new office space with a ribbon cutting on October 14th. Reach out to agent Victoria Safran at RE/MAX Eclipse Lake Orion for any real estate questions or needs by calling 248-494-0041.

The Impact Awards Ceremony will take place at Paint Creek Country Club on Thursday, December 2nd. The luncheon is sponsored by Michigan United Credit Union.
The Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority (LODDA) and the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce (OACC) are two small organizations with big names! Both organizations work to make Orion Township and the Village of Orion better places to live, work and play. But it can be confusing what place each organization holds in our community and how they function. In this joint article, Executive Directors from both the LODDA and the OACC explain how their different missions make for one vibrant community.

**How is each formed?**

LODDA was formed by the Village of Lake Orion, which passed an ordinance creating the Authority along with a list of properties which would be included.

The OACC was founded in 1950 by a group of local business owners and community stakeholders. Its membership consists of businesses located primarily in Orion and Oxford as well as the surrounding areas that would like to be active in the Orion business community.

**What businesses belong to each organization?**

All businesses located in a property from the authority list created by the Village of Lake Orion are part of the DDA district—in this case, Downtown Lake Orion, the M–24 corridor from Fogler’s to Eva’s and parts of the neighborhoods.

Chamber members span Orion, Oxford, Clarkston, Auburn Hills and beyond, including many downtown businesses. To be a member of the Chamber, a business must simply want a presence in the Orion area and apply for membership. Businesses inside the DDA district can also belong to the Chamber. The LODDA is a member of the Chamber, but because the OACC is not located in the footprint ordained by the Village, the Chamber is unable to be a part of the DDA.

**How is each funded?**

A DDA is funded primarily by the growth of taxes within the district. It does not require extra tax and it does not take all the taxes within a district. The DDA also obtains funds through sponsorship, event fees, and merchandise sales.

The OACC is primarily funded by membership dues. Members pay a yearly
fee to stay active in the Chamber. Dues are supplemented by sponsorships and events. The Chamber receives no funding from the US Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce or local government entities other than traditional membership dues and sponsorships.

What is the main focus of each organization?

LODDA is “place-focused”, focusing on what the downtown looks like, how to attract people there, what is needed to help businesses stay, and recruit volunteers to get it all done.

OACC is “member-focused.” They support the businesses that support your community. They engage the business community through networking events and educational workshops. Their members are their volunteers and work together to promote their businesses.

Who can be members of each organization?

The LODDA represents businesses within their district. They cannot, by law, expend money for purposes not related to downtown development.

The OACC accepts memberships from any type of business. It is comprised of businesses small and large, non-profit organizations, state and local government entities and individual members at large.

How is each governed?

The LODDA Board of Directors is composed of nine people. By law, at least five members must have a business or property located within the district (majority), one must be a district resident (this role can overlap with other roles), and the Village Council President must be on the board. A DDA is governed by state law, the municipality in which it was formed, and the Board of Directors.

A Chamber is governed by their Board of Directors. The OACC Board of Directors is made up of 11 Chamber members. They can be business owners or employees, municipal staff, or non-profit staff.

Both organizations are operated day-to-day by an Executive Director with the help of additional staff members.

What documents are used to plan the work?

By law, a DDA has a development plan that is used to guide the work of the DDA. The development plan is updated periodically through a process of public participation, public hearings and formal adoption by the Village of Lake Orion. The purpose of the LODDA is to create an environment in which businesses, people, and organizations can thrive.

The mission of the OACC is dictated by a strategic plan developed by the Board of Directors and staff. The plan is guided by the bylaws and policies & procedures of the OACC. The strategic plan is updated on a revolving basis to accommodate changes in the world (think 2020!) and in our local community. The core tenant is always to support the business community and help it to prosper.

Each organization has the option to create a strategic plan and each organization makes an annual work plan of all the projects and events they wish to accomplish.

How is the budget created?

The DDA receives a forecast from the County Treasurer for earnings based upon the growth of the property values within the district.

The Chamber makes a budget forecast based upon current membership dues, the growth they expect, and other factors that involve annual predictable income.

Both organizations factor in expected sponsorship, grants, fees, and sales to complete their revenue forecast. Expenses for both organizations are based upon their project focus. For the Chamber it is member-focused events, for the DDA it is downtown development and promotion-based project and events. Neither the DDA nor the Chamber try to make a profit; instead all the resources they receive are planned to be used.

All businesses can benefit by being a member of the Chamber. Businesses who do not yet have an established home may benefit from the additional support offered within the DDA district.

The Chamber’s Women In Business Conference held in August, provided empowering messages for working women.
New and renewing members

New Members

Mid-July 2021 to mid-Oct 2021

SIGNATURE MEMBER
The Red Oak Refillery

BUSINESS BASIC MEMBERS
Jake Asbury State Farm
Main Street Bicycles
Malie Therapeutic, LLC
RE/MAX Eclipse
Sawdust & Cider Trading Co.
Your Food Dude

Renewing Members

Mid-July 2021 to mid-Oct 2021

ELITE MEMBERS

Capocore Professional Advisors
46 W. Shadbolt, Suite A
Lake Orion, MI 48362

Counelis Agency—Farm Bureau Insurance
14 S Washington St
Oxford, MI 48371

SIGNATURE MEMBER
Orion Oaks Dental

PREMIER MEMBER
The Wooden Tulip Boutique

NON-PROFIT MEMBERS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Dutton Farm
Freedom Road
Transportation
Friends of the Orion Township Public Library
General Federation of Women’s Clubs—Lake Orion
Orion Area Parade Group
Orion Art Center
Village of Lake Orion

BUSINESS BASIC MEMBERS

925 Social & Axe Social
Alibi Express
Apothecary & Co
Auger Klein Aller Architects, Inc.
Boulder Pointe Golf Club & Banquet Center
Broadway Embroidery
Buckhorn Services Inc.

Michigan Eye Institute. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic over the last eighteen months, the Chamber was unable to celebrate the Michigan Eye Institute’s new Lake Orion location when it opened last year. We were finally able to celebrate the new location on August 26th with a Chamber ribbon cutting. The Lake Orion location includes the following services: comprehensive eye exams, premium cataract treatment, glaucoma treatment, Lasik surgery, oculoplastic surgery and retinal treatment. For more information about Michigan Eye Institute and the Lake Orion location go to mieye.com/lake-orion. The Lake Orion location is at 1240 S Lapeer Rd Suite 100A, Lake Orion or call 248-236-9379.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Preschool.

For over 50 years Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has worshiped in the Orion area; first in Carpenter School, then, since 1973, at their Baldwin Road location. New Pastor Ben Oelschlaeger and his congregation welcomed the Chamber as we celebrated with a ribbon cutting on September 23. The ribbon was cut by the oldest and youngest congregation members! To find out more about Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Preschool, go to goodshepherdlakeorion.net or call 248-391-1170.
Davis Home Improvement, Inc
Edward Jones Investments—Grant Fodor
EpoxyMaster Floor Coatings
Firehouse Subs
Gals & Ghouls
Gardening by Sindy
Grace Senior Living
H & R Block
Heartfelt Impressions Learning Center
Heartland Payment Systems
HomeGrown Brewing Co
Independence Village of Waterstone
ITC Michigan
Johnny Blacks Lake House
Johnny Blacks Public House
K1 Speed
Kapala Heating & Air Conditioning
Lake Orion Assisted Living
Legacy 925
Lucky’s Natural Foods LLC
Michigan Eye Institute
Mills Real Estate Ventures
Neighborhood Primary Care
North Oakland Community Coalition
Nuview Nutrition LLC
Oat Soda Lake Orion
Orion Family Spinal Center
Orion Kennel Club
Orion Oaks Animal Hospital
Practically Perfect Vacations with Christa
Redwood Lake Orion
Royal Oak Heating & Cooling
Shores Fireplace Heating & Cooling
Skalnek Ford
The Lake Orion Review
The Peardon Team—Keller Williams Realty
Tutor Doctor
Urban Air
Wally Edgar Chevrolet
Waste Management
Woodside Bible Church

For a complete list of all our Chamber members go to orionareachamber.com/list

Counelis Agency—Farm Bureau Insurance. Although Melisa Counelis and her insurance agency have been in business for some time, they just recently moved into a new premises in a historic building at 14 S Washington St in downtown Oxford. To celebrate the new space, there was a joint ribbon cutting with the Orion Area, Oxford and Metamora Chambers of Commerce! The occasion was complemented by food from local establishments, a local magician and entertainment for families and kids. Counelis Agency—Farm Bureau Insurance is a multi-line insurance agency which can meet all your personal and business insurance needs. For more information go to InsuranceMomMI.com, call 248-929-5896 or email m.counelis@fbinsmi.com.
From the Interim Director

Great things coming during our transition

By the time this goes to print, the Orion Township Public Library will soon have a new Library Director. Even during this transition period we have so many great things coming to the library for the winter season!

We are currently offering a first look at a new version of our online public catalog to make your browsing experience easier called Vega Discover. You can test out the new catalog on our website at orion-na.iiivega.com. Please consider filling out the brief feedback survey so we can continue to improve this new feature.

This fall, we replaced our front entry and staff entry doors. We also added 24/7 hold lockers to our vestibule to better serve you! Some other projects in the works include a library app for your smartphone/tablet and we are working on a better solution for our 32-year-old roof.

Aside from all of these great projects, we have some program favorites returning for the winter including our annual Winter Workshop on Saturday, December 11. We will have snacks and hot chocolate to warm you up, fun photo booth opportunities, and take home activities for all ages.

The Youth Battle of the Books kicked off last month with high interest, and staff are excitedly planning for the return of this in-person event.

Please take a look at department news for youth, teen, and adult to get some “best read” recommendations for 2021. Whether you like science fiction, mysteries, biographies, or something in between, staff put together a great list of titles and you’re sure to find something you will enjoy. As a reminder, we have several ways you can access digital library material through cloudLibrary, Hoopla, Kanopy, and Libby.

Finally, if you’re not on social media, follow us! We’re active on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and always have something new to share about library happenings and services.

In closing, I would like to thank our library donors including the Friends of the Orion Township Public Library for their continued support. With your support we are able to add new items to our shelves and new technology to our Makerspace.

You can reach the library at 248–693–3000 with any questions and the most recent information about the library will be posted on our website at orionlibrary.org.

Kathleen

Library Blood Drive

Wed, Mar 30
10:30 am–4:30 pm
Be a Lifesaver! Donate blood at the Orion Library.
Appointments encouraged at redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: orionlibrary.

Check out our library Wishlist at orionlibrary.org/library-wishlist! This webpage lists some of the many things that the library would like to purchase, but they are beyond the scope of our budget. If any of the items on the list are of interest to you, perhaps you could donate to the cause. Donating is easy and can be done right online.

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
Christmas: Fri, Dec 24; Sat, Dec 25; Sun, Dec 26; Mon, Dec 27
New Year’s: Fri, Dec 31; Sat, Jan 1; Sun, Jan 2; Mon, Jan 3

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

Department Numbers

Adult 248–693–3001
Outreach 248–693–3000 x411
Teen 248–693–3000 x414
Youth 248–693–3002

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

This fall we added 24/7 hold lockers to the library vestibule. This new service will allow the library to better serve our patrons on their schedule. It also offers a contactless/self-service option as a replacement for our curbside pickup. When picking up items, patrons will simply scan their library card, follow the prompts on the screen, and collect their items from the locker. Not every library item will be available for 24/7 locker pickup; patrons can pick up books, audiobooks, DVDs, music, and video games. For some of our larger items, patrons will continue to have to pick those up inside the library on our self-service hold shelf. If you haven’t already, stop by and try out our new hold lockers!

Donor Appreciation

The Library Board of Trustees is extremely grateful to all those who support our library through various forms of donations. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we were unable to celebrate with our annual Donor Appreciation Reception this year. However, in 2021 alone we were able to add shelving to our makerspace, calligraphy pens to our Cricut Explore Air 2, a bat house to our Reading Garden, new material to our shelves, and new programs to our calendar for all-ages. Between 2020 and 2021 the library has received over $145,000 in donations to improve our services and we wanted to say thank you! If you’re interested in contributing to the library so we can continue to improve our programs and services please visit orionlibrary.org/donations or contact the Library Director at 248-693-3000 x430.
50 Books in 52 Weeks program
Ending at the end of December! 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 on the youth and teen pages of the newsletter. For more information about this program and to register visit orionlibrary.org/50-books-in-52-weeks.

Writer’s Workshop
Wednesdays  | Dec 8, Jan 12, Feb 9  | 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.

Holiday Cookie Exchange
and Tea
Wed, Dec 8 3–4:30 pm
Register online
Join us for a relaxing afternoon amid the holiday rush. Sample and share cookies of all kinds as you mingle and gather new recipes for your recipe coff er. Dust off your recipe box and bring in your Great Grandma’s favorite holiday treat or your own original recipe.

- Participants need to bring at least four dozen homemade cookies to share at the exchange.
- Please bring a copy of your recipe that staff will reproduce to share.
- Bring a container to carry your cookies home!

Best Books of 2021

Fiction: Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead. Ray Carney, a seemingly earnest businessman, owns a furniture store in Harlem. But after being an accomplice of a botched heist, Ray struggles to maintain the balance of his double life.

Memoir: Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner. In this memoir based on an essay in The New Yorker, author and musician Michelle Zauner explores her family and racial identity by way of a Korean supermarket.

Historical Fiction: The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah. Set during the Great Depression, a family struggles with the decision to either fight for survival in the Dust Bowl region, or travel to California for a better life.

Fantasy: Under the Whispering Door by TJ Klune. A workaholic finds himself picked up by the Grim Reaper at his own funeral. He is ushered to a tea shop in the afterlife where he must come to terms with his mortality and unfinished business before passing through the final door.

Graphic Novel: Lore Olympus by Rachel Smythe. The first print volume of a wildly popular web comic. This title is a chicly stylized retelling of the story of Persephone and Hades.

Mystery: The Maidens by Alex Michaelides. Heavily influenced by Greek tragedies and full of twists and turns, a psychiatrist is called to Cambridge University by her niece as an unknown serial killer terrorizes the school.

Romance: People We Meet on Vacation by Emily Henry. Two wildly different personalities form an unlikely friendship during a road trip. Several years later, after a falling out, they decide to take one last vacation together and realize their friendship may mean something more.

Sci-Fi: Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro. This dystopian novel follows Klara, an android with artificial intelligence as she is chosen to be a companion to a young student named Josie, who has undergone a dangerous medical procedure to enhance her own intelligence.

History: Four Hundred Souls by Ibram X. Kendi. A variety of historians, artists, journalists, and novelists contributed to this historical account of the first African people in North America who arrived as slaves on “The White Lion” in 1619 and their lineages since then.
Winter Workshop
Sat, Dec 11 | 10 am
Drop in to this outdoor open house to celebrate the start of winter! Activities include fun photo ops, hot chocolate, snacks, and take home crafts.

Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group
Tuesdays | Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8 | 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. If you can’t make the meeting in person, see the event calendar on our website for a zoom link to join virtually.

Makerspace Office Hours
Thursdays | Jan 6, Feb 3 | 6 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. Assistance will be available on a first-come–first-served basis.

3-D Printed Phone Cases
Sat, Jan 15 | 2 pm and 3:30 pm
Register online
Using a template for your phone and 3-D design software, Tinkercad, learn to design your own phone case.

Glowforge: Wood Stickers
Sat, Feb 19 | 2 pm and 3:30 pm
Register online
Learn to use the library’s Glowforge laser cutter with this easy and fun project.

Custom Holiday Mugs
Sat, Dec 4 | 2 pm and 3:30 pm
Register online
Using our Cricut Press, print a custom design on a coffee mug. Perfect for holiday gifting!

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

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

Monday Evening Book Discussion
Mondays | 7 pm
Mon, Dec 20: Bring your 2021 favorite read
Mon, Jan 24: Between Two Kingdoms by Suleika Jaouad
Mon Feb 28: Be Frank with Me by Julia Claiborne Johnson

Thursday Afternoon Book Club
Thursdays | 1:30 pm
Thu, Dec 16: Bring your 2021 favorite read
Thu, Jan 20: The Maidens by Alex Michaelides
Thu, Feb 17: The Women of Copper Country by Mary Doria Russel

Cook the Book
Mondays | 7 pm
Mon, Dec 6: Cravings, or Cravings: Hungry for More by Chrissy Teigen
Mon, Feb 7: Everything Chocolate by America’s Test Kitchen

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–library loan your own copy of the cookbook for each meeting; call 248–693–3001 if you need assistance acquiring a cookbook.
**Michigan Works @ Your Library**

Tuesdays | Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8 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.

**Virtual: ASL Night with the Library: Sign Language Rocks!**

Mon, Jan 10 | 6 pm | Register online

This virtual program is designed to engage patrons through games and activities that are fun, while learning various signs. An excellent class for beginners and intermediate learners, it can also be enjoyed by individuals that have more advanced skills. Class is taught in ASL. Registered participants will be emailed the Zoom link the day of the program.

**Orion Historical Society**

Mondays | Jan 10, Feb 14 | 7 pm

No December meeting

Come to a meeting to learn about our township's history and work on projects to preserve the past. OHS is accepting donations! If you have local history documents, images, or memorabilia that you want to get rid of, donate them. Please use the contact form on orionhistoricalsociety.org to get your donation approved. Due to limited storage space we may not be able to accept all donations.

**Meet an Olympian**

Thu, Jan 27 | 7 pm

Join members of various Olympic teams from the Detroit Skating Club as they share their personal stories, photos, videos, and artifacts from the Winter Olympics.

**Defining Moments: A True Story of War**

Mon, Jan 31 | 7 pm

Join former Oakland County chief spokesman Robert Dustman as he discusses his book *Defining Moments*, based on the gripping story of his father's life during WWII. Dustman had plenty of resource material—the more than 300 detailed letters his father had written to his family in rural Ohio from 1940–45. Copies of the book will be available for sale and to be signed by the author.

**Take and Make: Valentine’s Day Cards**

Tue, Feb 1

Come to the library or our Orion Center Branch and pick up the materials and directions to make custom Valentine’s Day cards. Staff will also deliver the Valentine’s kits to homebound Outreach patrons. 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.

**Estate Planning**

Wed, Feb 2 | 2 pm

Do I really have enough assets to bother planning for? Where are all my important papers? Will it be difficult for my spouse or children to access my assets? What is probate? Join local retirement specialist Oliver Lee to learn more about Estate Planning and get the answers to these and many more questions!

**Murder Mystery**

Fri, Feb 11 | 6 pm | Register online

Will you be lucky at Casino Fatale? Patrons will be assigned rolls from a cast list and work together to figure out who—dun— it. Light refreshments will be provided at this after–hours event.

**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.

**Snow is Falling and Books are Calling**

**Senior Winter Reading Program at the Orion Center Library**

Tue, Jan 4–Mon, Feb 28

Record your winter reads at the Orion Center; every book you read during this program earns you an entry into the Grand Prize drawing. The more you read, the greater your chance of winning! Stop in at the Orion Center Library Branch to register this winter beginning in January 2022!

**English Language Learning Conversation Group (ELL)**

Wednesdays | 10:30 am

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. No meeting Dec 22 or 29.

**Home Delivery Services and 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 also have a ‘Books by Mail’ program for homebound patrons. Call 248–693–3000 x441 for more information.
JUST FOR TEENS

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.

Teen Books Before...Challenges!

Do you like to read? Can you read 75 books? How about 100 Books? Join this multi-year, personal reading challenge and enjoy fun perks, such as random raffles, a grand prize upon completion, expert book recommendations from our Teen Librarian, and major bragging rights! Read below for more information.

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. Middle school is an exciting time that comes with new responsibilities, and sometimes that can feel like a lot to handle. Taking some time for yourself by reading books that you enjoy can help keep things from becoming too overwhelming. With this program, there are no assigned books, no deadlines (other than finishing before you start high school!), and no reports to write. 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 High School Survival Kit, full of supplies to get you ready for high school. Please register by signing up on our website, orionlibrary.org/teens/75-books/

100 Books Before Graduation
Challenging all high school students in grades 9–12 to read 100 BOOKS BEFORE GRADUATION! High school can be a busy time, and school work and activities can take over your life. However, reading books for fun (not just for classes) is a great way to slow down, escape real–life pressures, and recharge by stepping outside yourself for a bit. Read at your own pace and you will get there! There will be random raffles for books logged to receive a local business gift card, and when you reach 50 books you receive a free book of your choice. For the courageous who complete all 100 books before graduation, 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 our website, orionlibrary.org/teens/100-books/.

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! No meeting Feb 15.

Think Link After School
Mondays | Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 7, Feb 28 | 3–5 pm
LOCs 6th–8th graders can register with their school and receive a special bus pass to come to the library select Mondays after school. Students can socialize, study, use the library, and participate in the day’s planned activity like art projects, board games, video games, makerspace projects and more! Special registration with school required.

Cookies for Krampus
Sun | Dec 19 | 2–4 pm
Celebrate the holidays with Krampus, as we decorate Krampus cookies and watch the movie, pizza also provided for lunch!

Take and Make:
Waterless Snowglobes
Sat, Jan 22
Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Create a wintery scene with a mason jar, fake snow and winter wonderland accessories!

Sign up for Library Programs at orionlibrary.org/calendar or call 248–693–3000
Teen Favorites of 2021

*Firekeeper’s Daughter* by Angeline Boulley. Murder, Scandal and Romance equal a coming of age story that straddles the line for 18-year-old Daunis to accept her strength as an Ojibwe woman.

*The Gilded Ones* by Namina Forna. On the day of the ceremony, her blood runs gold, the color of impurity—and Deka knows she will face a consequence worse than death.

*Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas. Taking place 17 years prior to the award winning book *The Hate You Give*, a gang leader’s son finds his effort to go straight, for the sake of his child, but murder still follows his footsteps.


*Rule of Wolves* by Leigh Bardugo (King of Scars #2). The Demon King, The Stormwitch and the Queen of Mourning must work together to forge their future in the darkness, or watch the kingdom fall.


*Love is a Revolution* by Renee Watson. Nala attends an open mic night and falls for the MC, but when their paths don’t cross, Nala tells a few white lies. Trying to keep up with her lies and herself, Nala learns how hard love is, and how revolutionary self-love is.

*The Beautiful Struggle* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. A memoir about a father-son relationship that tests the reality, support and love of raising a boy into a man in black America.

New Community Little Library

We have added a new Little Library in Atwater Park, thanks to a patron donation! This is number 12 throughout our Orion community! Our 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. They 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.

Murder Mystery

Sat, Feb 5 | 2–4 pm

There was a murder in Casino Fatale! Bring your detective skills and sixth sense as we try to uncover a list of suspects. Teens will be assigned roles from a cast list and work together to figure out who–dun–it. Pizza lunch will be provided at the Casino Royale!

Take and Make: Chocolate Covered Pretzels

Sat, Feb 12

Chocolate is the official flavor of Valentine’s Day. Make a homemade chocolate treat to give your favorite valentine!

SAT/ACT Prep Class

Tues, Feb 15 | 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!

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

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

Project Kidsight
Saturdays | Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 5
10 am—12 pm
We are partnering with the Lake Orion Lions Club to offer free vision screenings for children over 5 months old. The test is quick and painless. If caught early, 95% of vision issues can be corrected.

Preschool and Childcare Open House
Wed, Feb 9 | 4–7 pm | Adults
Local childcare and preschool programs will be available to answer questions and share resources.

Youth Favorites of 2021

We know patrons of all ages are always looking for the next great book—best of lists aren’t just for adults! We asked all of our youth services team to share their favorite reads of 2021, so parents and kids can be on the lookout for these recommended new titles:

Ms. Halli’s favorite middle grade graphic novels
The Sprite and the Gardener by Rii Abrego
Twins by Varian Johnson
Allergic by Megan Wagner Lloyd
The Pathfinders Society series by Francesco Sedita
Katie the Catsitter by Colleen A.F. Venable

Ms. Ashley’s favorite picture books
The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess by Tom Gauld
The Longest Storm by Dan Yaccarino
Fred Gets Dressed by Peter Brown
Have You Ever Seen a Flower by Shawn Harris
The Lost Package by Richard Ho

Ms. Suzanne’s favorites
Picture Book: T Rexes Can’t Tie Their Shoes by Anna Lazowski
Picture Book: The More the Merrier by David Martin
Early Reader Nonfiction: Name that Feeling by Cari Meister
Youth Fiction: Mysterious Disappearance of Aidan S by David Levithan
Youth Fiction: Clean Getaway by Nic Stone

Mr. James’ favorites
Youth Fiction: The Last Last–Day–of–Summer by Lamar Giles
Youth Fiction: American as Paneer Pie by Supriya Kelkar
Picture Book: Have You Seen Gordon? by Adam Jay Epstein and Ruth Chan
Picture Book: No Pants! by Jacob Grant
Youth Nonfiction: World Passport Series

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Winter Reading Bookmark Challenge
Sat, Dec 4—Sun, Jan 2
Read with us during the month of December! Pick up a bookmark to mark off time spent reading during the month of December. Once complete, stop by the library during the last week of December for a prize and other in–library craft activities.

Winter Workshop
Sat, Dec 11 | 10 am | All Ages
Drop in to this outdoor open house to celebrate the start of winter! Activities include fun photo ops, hot chocolate, snacks, and take home crafts.

Take and Make: Pet Picassos
Sat, Dec 18 | All Ages
We provide the supplies, but your pet is the artist with this fun art project! Return your pet’s masterpiece by December 30 for it to be featured on our January Artist of the Month wall!
**BABY, TODDLER, AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**SENSEsational Storytime**  
Fridays  |  Dec 3, Jan 7, Feb 11  
11 am  |  All Ages  
A welcoming, interactive environment designed for children with special needs and sensory seeking kids.

**Mickey Mouse Storytime**  
Tue, Dec 7  |  10 am  |  Ages 2–5  
M–I–C–K–E–Y  
M–O–U–S–E!  
There is no better mouse to celebrate with some songs, activities, and stories.

**Bounce and Boogie**  
Saturdays  |  Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 5  
11 am  |  Ages 0–5  
A music and movement–based program just for ages 0–5! Join us as we dance, groove, jump, and move to our favorite songs and rhymes! Dec 11 is a special winter edition!

**Pete the Cat Storytime**  
Mon, Dec 13  |  10 am  |  Ages 2–5  
Join us for some songs, stories, and activities based on this groovy cat.

**Eric Carle Storytime**  
Wed, Dec 22  |  10 am  |  Ages 2–5  
Celebrate author/illustrator Eric Carle with stories, art, and other fun activities.

**LEAP INTO SCIENCE: LIGHT & SHADOW**  
Tue, Feb 22  |  2 pm  |  Families  
Learn about and explore light & shadow in this fun STEM based program for children ages 3–10 and their families.

**LEAP INTO SCIENCE**  
Leap into Science is a nationwide program developed by The Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia that integrates open–ended science activities with children's books, designed for children ages 3–10 and their families. Look for more programs coming this spring!

**Take and Make: Create with your Crew**  
Sat, Jan 29  |  All Ages  
Work together to create a fun 3D paper project.

**Take and Make: Football Party in a Bag**  
Sat, Feb 5  |  All Ages  
Get ready for the big game with these fun football–themed activities.

**Lego Challenge**  
Mon, Feb 21  |  2 pm  |  All Ages  
Can you build something that floats? The tallest tower? The longest bridge? Come test yourself with some Lego build challenges.

**Duck Hunt**  
Starts Jan 9  |  All Ages  
In celebration of National Rubber Ducky Day (Jan 13), patrons can participate in our month long Duck Hunt, kicking off this Sunday, where we will have in library duck themed activities and fun!

**Take and Make: Holiday Fun**  
Thu, Dec 23  
All Ages  
Need something to get in the holiday spirit? Grab this kit with a variety of holiday fun activities.

**Take and Make: Football Party in a Bag**  
Sat, Feb 5  |  All Ages  
Get ready for the big game with these fun football–themed activities.

**Take and Make: Lego Challenge**  
Mon, Feb 21  |  2 pm  |  All Ages  
Can you build something that floats? The tallest tower? The longest bridge? Come test yourself with some Lego build challenges.

**Take and Make: Holiday Fun**  
Thu, Dec 23  
All Ages  
Need something to get in the holiday spirit? Grab this kit with a variety of holiday fun activities.

Sign up for Library Programs at orionlibrary.org/calendar or call 248–693–3000
5th Grade Battle of the Books

There is still time to form a team for Battle of the Books! Online registrations for individual participants accepted until Friday, January 21. Battle of the Books is open to all 5th graders who reside in the Lake Orion area. Register and join us for the following events:

Mentors’ Meeting
Thu, Dec 9 | 6:30 pm | Parents
Battle team Mentors and all involved parents are invited to this informative session where librarians will present best practices and answer questions about this year’s 5th Grade Battle of the Books.

Virtual: Halfway Meetup
Thu, Jan 20 | 6:30 pm
Register online
Let’s meet up and chat about Battle! We will play a few book related games with chances to win prizes, go over all things battle, and answer any questions at this online Zoom.

Save the Date
Virtual: Final All Team Meetup
Thu, Mar 17 | 6:30 pm
Battle of the Books
Sat, Mar 19 | 10 am
Victory Party
Mon, Mar 21 | 6:30 pm

Write On! Short Story Contest
Write On! is a short story contest for students in Grades 3–5. Story submissions should be between 150–500 words and are due by March 1. Young writers are encouraged to attend the writing workshops offered by the library in January and February. Submissions will be judged by the Youth Librarians with the help from a surprise guest author! Winners will be announced at the 5th Grade Battle Victory Party in March.

Write On! Writing Workshops
Thursdays, Jan 27, Feb 24 | 6:30–7:30 pm | Grade 3–5
Have a story to tell and don’t know where to begin? Are you participating in the Write On! Short Story Contest? Join us for writing tips, discussion, and fun with your peers.

Take and Make: Beaded Keychains
Sat, Dec 4 | Grades K–5
Pick up your supplies to make a unique beaded keychain, perfect for hanging on your backpack.

Take and Make: Cool Kaleidoscopes
Sat, Jan 22 | Grades K–5
Create two different types of kaleidoscopes with this kit that combines science and art.

Take and Make: Tin Foil Art
Sat, Feb 19 | Grades K–5
Pick up your supplies to create your own shiny work of art.

Take and Make: Grow Your Own Snowflake
Sat, Jan 15 | Grades 3–5
Even if there is no snow outside, you can make your own crystal snowflake. This take and make contains Borax and is intended for older children.

Take and Make: Polar Bear Day
Sat, Feb 26 | Grades K–5
Celebrate International Polar Bear Day with these fun polar bear crafts and activities.
The primary fundraising effort of the Friends is reselling donated books. It is a team effort to sort, store, stock, and sell. We thank our volunteers for their support of the labor-intensive process. The proceeds from book sales go back to the library to fund key programs not captured in our tax dollars. For the last several years, the Friends have granted on average $20,000 per year for programming. Here’s how we do it:

**Used Book Sales**
Offered in January, May and September, our book sales offer over 40,000 books for sale. Our fall sale was testament to how much our community has missed books. Thanks to patron donations, we sold a record 16,000 books in five days! Our new cash register is able to accept credit cards; 18% of our patrons took advantage of this. Our January sale will offer the same selection. Plan to cure your winter doldrums with a good book!

**Twice Told Tales**
For over six years, the Friends have operated a store in the library lobby. Recently published books and popular authors are available for purchase. Fiction, non-fiction, sci-fi, fantasy, history, and biography books are $2, and new releases are $5. Pick up children's books (*including chapter and I Can Read*), pre-teen, teen and young adult for $1. DVDs are a bargain at $2 each or 3 for $5. There is also a healthy collection of cookbooks, gardening and other collections that are specially priced. Browse during your next trip to the library and support the Friends.

**Book Donations**
Gently used books from patrons are stocked in our store and at our seasonal sales, and provide income needed to support the library. Book donations are accepted all year in the bins by Twice Told Tales in the library lobby. We do not accept encyclopedias, magazines, VHS tapes or old textbooks, or moldy books and books without covers.

**Volunteers**
We can only continue our important work with the support of community volunteers. It takes a small army to execute a book sale. Have a few hours to spare? Get involved! For information about opportunities, contact the Friends at friends@orionlibrary.org.

**Help the Friends help the Library**

**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.

**Visit Goodwill Industries in Oxford**
During January and February, visit the Goodwill store in Oxford and round-up to support the Friends.

**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!

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“A room without books is like a body without a soul.” – Cicero

**Winter Used Book Sale**

**Tue, Jan 18**
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, Jan 19 & Thu, Jan 20**
10 AM–8:30 PM
Open to the Public

**Fri, Jan 21**
10 AM–4:30 PM
Open to the Public  
1/2 off books day

**Sat, Jan 22**
9:30 AM–1:30 PM
Open to the Public  
$5 bag day  
*fill a bag supplied by the Friends for $5*
The holiday shopping season is upon us once again. Another year in the books; and what a year it has been. Businesses have struggled to stay afloat this year with shutdowns, employee shortages and supply chain issues. Let’s do what we can to offer support to our local businesses in these final weeks of the holiday shopping season.

According to MintLife, there are many benefits to shopping local. Obviously, local purchases benefit the community. For every $100 spent at small businesses, $48 is put back into the local economy! Service may be better in a local establishment as you are dealing with a business who values each and every customer. You may find more unique items than the often mass produced merchandise at big box stores. You may find fresher merchandise as well.

Keep the Cheer Here
To encourage you to shop local, the Orion Chamber is holding their annual Keep the Cheer Here promotion. From December 5 through 18, the Chamber will advertise specials offered by participating business members. Some members will also offer high value Deals of The Day throughout that period. Follow the Chamber at facebook.com/OrionAreaChamber or visit orionareachamber.com/keep-the-cheer-here for details about this promotion and to see which businesses are participating. You’ll find some great values offered by Chamber member businesses.

Downtown Passport Contest
The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is holding a Passport Contest throughout the month of December to help you spend your dollars in Downtown Lake Orion. Passports are available at local businesses or the DDA Office. Make a minimum $25 purchase at a downtown store or eatery and collect your receipts in the Passport envelope provided. Complete four squares on the Passport to earn a prize, and continue earning prizes as you complete more squares. Details are noted on the Passport and at downtownlakeorion.org/events/small-business-saturday.

While online shopping from big retailers offers convenience, visit one of the strip centers along Baldwin Road, or even to our neighbors to the north, to see what these small local shops and eateries have to offer for the people on your gift list. Local craft shows and boutiques are replete with unique, handmade and hard-to-find treasures.

As you see our business community recover from a tough year, you will be pleased and proud that you shopped local to help make that happen.
A musical connection

For as ingrained as Lake Orion Community Schools is within the physical aspect of the Orion community... the direct connection to the non–school community often comes through the music program.

Lake Orion has a long, proud history of military service and veterans who treat each holiday and remembrance with great detail and appreciation.

So when they invite local participants, it is a meaningful experience.

For the Lake Orion High School students, it often begins as another stop to follow the music and move on.

Yet by the time they finish, the community impact connects in a deeper way.

“The (veterans) hear the beauty and support the students, but they have a deeper personal connection to it because of the experiences they had when they were younger,” Lake Orion High School choir director Matthew Smith said. “To see them get choked up and very appreciative and shaking every student’s hand and thanking them for being there, it really gives a strong sense of what it really means. You can tell them ‘til you’re blue in the face, but until they can experience that one–on–one it’s amazing.”

For as ingrained as Lake Orion Community Schools is within the physical aspect of the Orion community—from the students, to the buildings, to the buses—the direct connection to the non–school community often comes through the music program.

Performances of all types and all levels (the band’s annual summer concert at Wildwood, the appearances by the choir to sing and even elementary students singing holiday songs at the local senior centers) resonate within all residents.

From the Developmental Kindergarten students bouncing around a elementary music room to the LOHS senior marching in their final performance routine at the state finals, music becomes a major part of the curriculum at each level, creating a base and experiences, often for a lifetime.

Elementary School

When students arrive at the LOCS elementary schools, the music mission is simple: to build a foundation of musicianship while making it fun.

“The goal of elementary music is to give students the opportunity to explore music through a variety of activities,” LOCS elementary music teacher Beth Simms said. “It’s an exploratory experience. We do a lot of singing, instrument playing, movement, musical composition, and performance opportunities.

“We give students the ability to work as a team to create a musical ensemble that’s working toward the common goal of creating music.”

Students arrive at their first music class with a variety of different backgrounds. Some students have parents who have immersed them in toddler music classes, some have just overheard music playing in their homes and others have simply experienced it through osmosis.

But each arrival hits students in a different way and coming together gives Simms and the other four LOCS elementary music teachers a chance to mold their formative experiences.

“Most kids when they come in and when we’re moving around to a piece of music, are automatically moving with a steady beat,” she said. “They don’t know it’s a steady beat, yet so we give that a name and explore the concept further.”

As the students move through their first year and through the following
five, the curriculum grows with them, with the lessons building upon one another. As the students get older, the concepts being taught get more complex. Musicians do more advanced music making with instruments such as recorders, and ukuleles and singing longer pieces of music. There are several ways students share their learning including in class performances, videos, and smaller performance opportunities throughout the year at the building level.

“What’s great about the elementary music program is that we’re lucky to have these students for 6–7 years which enables us to create a strong relationship between teacher and student,” Simms said. “We don’t only get to support their musical growth, but we get to support their social–emotional growth and social needs as well.”

The teachers understand what those years mean to the students. The elementary grades are the only ones that require the music education. Once the students enter middle school, music becomes an elective for students. That ability to steer each class in a certain way is a major asset when they’re in front of the teacher. But, when COVID–19 hit and the students were home, the elementary music staff had to reimagine everything.

“I’m so proud to be a member of the elementary music team. Our goal was to keep a quality music program going, no matter the format,” she said. “It was start from scratch, we had to take all of our music curriculum and recreate it to fit an online platform. We were on Zoom for a good part of the year and the lag created some challenges for making music. Thankfully we work in district that provides the resources for us to do that. I know there’s other districts that are not as supportive of the arts as Lake Orion is. We were able to receive a new music curriculum Quaver Music that helped us in the transition.”

Middle School

As LOCS students move into middle school, the opportunities expand as well.

There are musical performances, there are choir opportunities and students venture into the area of individual musical instruments. It’s a significant step up in tone and responsibility entering sixth grade.

“The biggest thing in middle school is, the students are accountable for doing everything correctly,” Scripps Middle School band director Eric Crimmins said. “In elementary school, they try recorders and other instruments, they sing and they and are exposed to musical concepts in various ways. Middle school is a time to try new things, but because they’re playing in a group along with other people at the same time, accuracy is important. So, the students are more accountable for playing and singing correctly. That would include putting the fingers in the right spot at the right time, playing the right notes, holding the instrument correctly, doing all the things to produce the right sound, using the right part of the tongue, striking the percussion instruments correctly to get the right sound.”

Students who choose music in middle school are there because they are interested and want to learn, which creates an engaging experience for the teachers and other students. While sixth grade involves mostly introductory elements, seventh and eighth grade have complete bands at each middle school, learning to harmonize and blend their sounds together into one homogeneous band sound. The students combine into a larger band, which performs at MSBOA District Band Festival and other events. There is also the opportunity for motivated students to excel individually by performing at Solo and Ensemble Festival. They perform before a judge who offers feedback and a rating, which could result in a medal. Students also have access to local Honors Bands and may audition for the All–State Band.

The middle school music teachers have created a program that has become the envy of many districts around. Consistency is key, having with the same teachers in each building for years. Another contributing factor is the trust instilled by LOCS administration to allow them to tailor the curriculum and programs to the middle level. The teachers’ strong knowledge of every instrument, a supportive community of parents and significant funding (when possible) combine to allow LOCS to provide equipment and opportunities which contribute to a highly successful program.

Synergy with the other levels is a valuable component as well. Each winter the band programs hold Symphonic Celebrations, where the eighth graders play with the high school band. A
university professor rehearses with them, refining their skills during the day and then they produce a joint performance at night. There’s also a joint opportunity in early Fall where the eighth-grade students perform with the Lake Orion High School marching band at a football game. “That’s a huge draw for them,” Crimmins said. “Most of my students are going to play in the marching band now because of that one activity we did with them.” The excitement of that evening was a rush, especially as they recalled the previous year, where being in and out of school hampered their musical development and ability to perform. But even then, as COVID–19 limited the personal interaction, the middle school teachers found a way. Oakview music teacher Alyssa Jeris created individual videos for the beginner students to learn their instruments at home. Crimmins helped incorporate a program called FlipGrid, so students could record their individual performance, submit it virtually, and receive individual video feedback from the music teachers. This also helped develop the teacher–student rapport that was missing from in-person instruction.

This year, LOCS provided large tents in the fall which allowed the band students to learn and rehearse outdoors, where there was no mask requirement and COVID–19 was less impactful since the students can spread apart outside.

These are the reasons band directors statewide reach out to the LOCS staff for advice on how to bring their programs to grow and perform like the Dragons.

High School

The Lake Orion High School music programs are known far and wide for their success.

Consistently, the Dragon Marching Band places among the state’s best at the Michigan Competing Band Association competition at Ford Field in Detroit and represents the district as a standard for others.

But what makes the high school band program shine is director Michael Steele’s ability to create options for the students.

His mission? “Throughout the course of a year what I’d like to do is have the students learn and experience as many different skills as possible that would allow them to perform more music and more advanced music at a higher level,” Steele said, “so they would get an advanced experience and learn to love performing.”

As much as he loves his job and the unquestionable passion for a band program that essentially operates year–round, the focus remains on the students.

Though he has a pretty good sales pitch. To the freshmen, he explains if they join marching band in the summer, it will ease their transition to LOHS. Instead of entering the school with a few friends, they’ll start the school year with 150. Instead of looking for a group at lunch, they’ll see welcoming faces at multiple tables. Instead of looking for their place in the array of school sports and activities, they’ll be comfortable even before Freshman First Day.

The feeling of community is an essential part of the program and that has little to do with your ability to play.

There are so many options: A concert band program. The marching program. The winter program with winter color guard, winter percussion, and the musical pit orchestra.

Within the concert program are four different bands: campus band, concert band, symphonic band and wind ensemble.

“We have as many different types of experiences as we can fit in our schedule,” Steele said.

His approach is because he knows all students are different. Some embrace the rush of performing in front of the football crowds, while some are shy. And while that may not be the best fit for those students, the butterflies he has seen emerge from those cocoons over
four years are enough to reinforce his view that the time invested is important.

“I’ve seen amazing transformations over two, three and four years in the program,” Steele said. “As they become more self-confident and more aware of their worth to a team. They’re able to look at their mistakes as not a negative but an opportunity to get better.”

During the COVID period, Steele also faced a challenge. The delay with online lessons, lacking the essential component of real time, forced him to improvise. It was never as good as in person, but instead of trying to listen and fit into the group online, each student muted the group and played along with the music through their headphones.

They made progress and found a way to adapt.

For choir director Matthew Smith, the experiences are wide-ranging.

“What I like is the curriculum isn’t so specific that it limits our opportunities, but it’s just general enough and applicable in so many different angles,” Smith said. “Not only is it the literature that we’re teaching them every day, but the music theory skills of reading music, the music history, and the music theory skills, all things that tie into being literate in music. All the skills they’re learning are skills they’re able to use cross curricular — math, science, history, interpersonal skills, problem solving skills, communication. It covers all the bases. That doesn’t happen easily in other classes.”

The mobility of the choir—their instrument travels easily—allows them to connect with the community on a deeper level as shared earlier.

It’s the performance at a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration or the Detroit Tigers game or the school Homecoming pep rally. It’s the national anthem at the Lamp of Learning event and or one of the students performing at the LOCS staff’s return to work this fall.

It’s the opportunity to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for a run of their holiday shows, learning from some of the world’s best musicians and creating experiences and memories for a lifetime.

“We have a very diverse student population come through our music program,” Smith said. “Just so much support that stems from early on that gives the kids all these opportunities. (Normally,) we get to travel, we get to bring in professionals, we get to work with the band programs and the middle schools. Having the support that we have is not something that’s very common and found in most (other school district) populations. When we’re able to do that in this district and do it so well, it shows the kids how much this means to the school and the district as well.”

The common thread through all of the music programs is the passion. From the staff and the students.

From one level to the next, the growth with music expands.

Many find an outlet, a home, a place within the schools for their expression.

Which is the goal, to learn and enjoy the experience.
The LOCS Board of Education is undergoing a strategic planning process to determine the future of the district. Strategic planning is the process of determining what an organization wants to be at some point in the future and how it will get there. As it pertains to LOCS, the end result will set the district’s path for the next three-to-five years.

The process will include input from all stakeholders, both at in-person sessions and in a virtual format. Those community members interested in offering input can take the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/LakeOrionSP2021 or by scanning this QR code.

Paint the Future with a Beautiful Smile!

The American Association of Orthodontists Recommends First Orthodontic Exam by Age 7.

Early detection of orthodontic issues may prevent more serious problems and may make treatment shorter or less complex. It is also important to find a specialist who has the right mix of experience, knowledge and leading edge technology to detect and treat your child.

Although, most children will not need orthodontic treatment. Why not give your child the best opportunity for a happy, healthy, beautiful smile!
For experience that produces results, Stacy is the Lake Orion real estate expert. Successfully SOLD 176 homes in 2020.

Stacy Peardon | 248-494-4400 | LakeOrionLiving.com
120 S Broadway Ste 301, Lake Orion MI 48362
Our quarterly magazine combines publications from Orion Township, Parks & Recreation, Orion Township Public Library, Orion Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority and special features from Lake Orion Community Schools.

It’s a dog’s life

If we could all love the snow as much as our furry friends do. The 24-acre fenced Orion Oaks Dog Park on Joslyn Road provides pup entertainment year round with trails, picnic shelter, access to Lake Sixteen and restrooms.