Toot your own horn

What’s Inside

Winter safety and sustainability
Keep moving this winter with indoor and outdoor programs for all
Lake Orion history hits the wall
Meet those who make an impact in our community
LOCS athletics has a place for everyone

Your quarterly guide to life in Orion
COVER: No parade is complete without the triumphant sounds of a marching band. Maddie D represents the Lake Orion Marching Band, which is a regular and necessary part of the annual Orion Lighted Christmas Parade. Watch this year’s parade weave through Downtown Lake Orion on Saturday, December 3 starting at 6 pm.

Background photo by Ajit Makhecha
As the winter season starts to unfold, there’s no denying that “it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas.” With that being said, how’s your shopping coming along? This year, I’ve actually started early, which might be the first time I’ve ever said that. I was able to get most of my gifts at the shops and restaurants in Downtown Lake Orion. Check out all of the shops Lake Orion has to offer for your holiday shopping, you’ll be done sooner than you think!

As we approach the new year, I want to take a moment and thank our team of dedicated employees, and those employees from each group that collaborates on this publication. Everyone’s continued commitment to making Orion the best place to live, work, and play is the reason we keep moving forward.

Orion continues to welcome new families to the community thanks to our outstanding amenities and excellent schools. Over this past year, we welcomed a number of new businesses, held many celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremonies, as well as congratulated many of our businesses on their growth and expansion in the community.

There is always so much to do in Orion. Check out the different sections in this publication that are filled with events and programming catering to every interest and age range. Take advantage of all the wonderful things that our community has to offer.

I wish you and your family a happy holiday season and a new year filled with prosperity and success.

Chris Barnett
Orion Township Supervisor
Paying the tax bill hurts like the Dickens.

Ebenezer Scrooge says it’s time for the 2022 Winter tax bills. He didn’t like Christmas, but we bet he liked sending out property tax bills—or did he? Bah Humbug!

Ebenezer Scrooge was a mean–spirited old man who despised Christmas. He did business from a warehouse and was well known among the merchants of the Royal Exchange as a man of good credit. Despite having considerable personal wealth, he underpaid his clerk Bob Cratchit and hounded his debtors relentlessly while living cheaply and joylessly in the apartment of his deceased business partner, Jacob Marley. The apartment was always cold in the winter months because he refused to spend money on heating coals for a fire. Scrooge associated the holiday season with reckless spending and detested everything about it.

Two gentlemen approached Scrooge on Christmas Eve and asked for a contribution to their charity. Scrooge reacted with bitterness and angrily replied “Bah! Humbug!” Later that night he also refused an invitation from his nephew Fred to attend his annual Christmas dinner. Scrooge denounced him as a fool for celebrating Christmas.

That night, while in his cold, dark apartment, Scrooge received a chilling visit from Marley’s ghost, who has been condemned to walk the world forever bound in chains as punishment for his greed and inhumanity. Marley hoped to save Scrooge from the same fate. Marley told Scrooge that he would be visited by three spirits over the next three nights, hoping that he will mend his ways. If he didn’t, Marley warned, Scrooge would wear even heavier chains than his in the afterlife. Scrooge then collapsed into a deep sleep.

He woke just before the arrival of the Ghost of Christmas Past, the first spirit. The spirit escorted Scrooge on a journey into the past to revisit his childhood school days, his apprenticeship with a jolly merchant, and his engagement to Belle. Belle ultimately left Scrooge because of his love of money and his inability to truly love anything else. Scrooge was deeply moved and shed tears of regret before returning to his bed.

The Ghost of Christmas Present arrived next. The spirit showed Scrooge that his greed and selfishness have hurt others, particularly Cratchit, who couldn’t afford to provide his ill son Tiny Tim with medical treatment because of Scrooge's greed. Tiny Tim's couragerousness, kindness, and humility warmed Scrooges’ heart. The spirit told a horrified Scrooge that Tiny Tim would die unless something changed and threw Scrooge’s own heartless words about the poor back in his face.

Finally, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come showed Scrooge where his greed and selfishness would ultimately lead: a lonely death and overgrown grave, unpaid servants stealing his belongings, debtors relieved at his passing, and the Cratchit family devastated by the loss of Tiny Tim. Scrooge asked the spirit if this future could still be changed, but the spirit didn’t reply. He desperately implored the spirit to alter his fate, promising to change his insensitive ways and honor Christmas with all his heart. He found himself tucked back in bed.

When he woke up on Christmas morning, he was overwhelmed with joy by the chance to redeem himself. He was elated and committed to being more generous and compassionate. He accepted his nephew’s invitation to Christmas dinner, provided for Cratchit and his family, and donated to the charity fund. In the end, he became known as the embodiment of the Christmas spirit and as a “second father” to Tiny Tim. As the years went by, he held true to his promise and continues to honor Christmas with all his heart.

The 2022 Winter tax bills have been processed and mailed out and will arrive soon. They are payable starting December 1 through February 14, 2023. Beginning February 15, a late penalty of 3 percent will be added to any unpaid Summer or Winter Bill. The last day the Treasurer’s office can accept any 2022 tax payment will be February 28th, 2023; we do not accept postmarks. On March 1, all unpaid balances will be transferred to and collected by the Oakland County Treasurer’s Office.

Please remember that if you are mailing your tax bill to us or if you are using your personal online banking institution to submit payment to us that you allow plenty of time for your payment to reach us, especially as the due date approaches.

The Township mailing address for tax payments is 2323 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion, MI 48360.
News you can use

Sand barrels
During the winter months, DPS has put out sand barrels at intersections throughout the township when requested by a Homeowner’s Association or resident. Due to repeated misuse, we will no longer be providing this service. If you are interested in obtaining a sand barrel, we will be giving them away on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Maintenance and storage will be the HOA or individual’s responsibility. If interested, please contact the Department of Public Services at 248–391–0304 ext. 8500.

Conserve water and save money
Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water but can also save you money by reducing your water and sewer bills. Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures, installing water-saving devices in faucets, toilets, and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

Fire hydrants: keep them clear!
As the snow starts to fly and accumulate around the township, we know you’d much rather spend your time indoors curled up under a blanket, but it’s important to keep an eye on what’s happening outside too.

Wintery weather can create fire safety hazards, such as ice or snow obstructing fire hydrants. It’s important to keep the fire hydrants on or near your property clear of snow and ice.

It’s in your best interest to be sure there are no obstructions in the event of an emergency; every second counts. Remember, time is precious when it comes to a structure fire, and by keeping the space around fire hydrants clear, you make it easier for firefighters to access water to extinguish the fire. Hydrants covered in snow can be difficult to locate and can waste valuable time needed in an emergency. Remember that fire spreads in less than a minute.

It is recommended that you clear a three-foot area around the hydrant, as well as a path to the road or sidewalk for easier access. Take a few extra minutes and incorporate this into your routine. We thank you in advance for your assistance.

Are you moving?
If you are moving out of Orion Township, call 248–391–0304 ext. 8500 to schedule a final water/sewer bill.
Have the following information available:
- Property address
- Date of closing
- New owner’s name
- Name and address, or email address, of title company

If a water or sewer emergency occurs:
Call
248–391–0304 Ext. 8500
(Orion Township)
Monday through Friday
during Township hours
or
248–858–4911
(Oakland County
Emergency Dispatch)
during non-business hours

Easy account access
You may have noticed a QR code has been added to your monthly water and/or sewer billing slip. By scanning the QR code, you can easily access your account, view your balance, and pay online.

Image credit: State of Michigan LARA at www.michigan.gov/lara
**Winter waste collection info**

**Yard Waste**
Yard waste is collected on your regular collection day through December 15. The yard waste must be placed in large capacity craft/paper bags, placed loose in a reusable container clearly labeled “yard waste” or “compost” (free stickers are available at Township Hall and the Orion Center), or bundled, as required. There is no limit on how much yard waste you can set out each week.

**Christmas Trees**
Christmas tree collection takes place on your regular collection day during Christmas week and the following three weeks. Discarded Christmas trees should be devoid of any ropes, lights, metal, plastic, or other hangers.

---

**What’s going there?**

**Meijer Grocery**
Located at the former Kmart site on Lapeer Road, Meijer Grocery is expected to open in early 2023. The new store will be 90,000 square feet and will be a stand-alone building with a drive-up pharmacy. The small format concept will include several supercenter departments such as pet supplies, cards and floral, and pharmacy. The smaller format store is designed for convenience shopping to get you in and out fast without compromising on the fresh variety and low prices you expect from a traditional Meijer store.

Store Director Mary Kimbrough introduces herself to the community. “I am honored to be joining the Lake Orion Community. I have been with Meijer for 36 years, operating stores in Oxford, Lapeer, Auburn Hills, and Rochester Hills.

“We are excited to be opening one of our new format stores, Meijer Grocery, right here in Lake Orion with a focus on food, freshness, and convenience. As a family-owned business, we are dedicated to our community and team members,” Mary says. “I look forward to being a part of this new experience within your community, serving you, your families, and pets in a totally new and different design. Please stop by and say hi, we can’t wait to meet you!”

---

**Brown Road Hyatt House**
Construction has started on a 21,619 square foot four-story Hyatt House Hotel at the northwest corner of Brown Road and Huston Drive.

**C and A Office**
Located at the southwest corner of Silverbell and Bald Mountain Roads, a new 9,870 square foot, single-story office building should be starting construction shortly.

---

**Be a Waste Wizard**
Good news! Your waste collection schedule is not affected by Christmas and New Year’s this year.

Scan the QR code to sign up for collection day reminders and to search the Waste Wizard tool. The Waste Wizard tool lets you search thousands of items to find out whether or not something is recyclable.

---

All current projects under construction can be found under Community>Orion Township>Current Developments at oriontownship.org.
**Make a habit of recycling**

**Our beloved planet thanks you**

Why should you recycle? It’s something we’ve just always been told we should do, and most of us have never questioned it. We’ve been told to recycle by our parents, through advertising, education, and word of mouth, but why do we do it?

Recycling is a somewhat basic concept but is extremely important to prioritize in our daily actions and lives. Recycling is a good habit to implement as it can train our brain to unconsciously and consistently do the right thing. Many believe we have an obligation to the planet to make better conscious choices.

**The importance of recycling**

Recycling in the United States holds high importance. It allows us to transform a material like plastic or paper into new packaging, a new pair of shoes, or even furniture. It benefits our environment by diverting unnecessary waste from landfills and eliminates trash from making its way to our streets, rivers, lakes, and natural wildlife ecosystems. Recycling also saves energy for processing facilities, as it eliminates the need to create new materials.

It’s also worth mentioning that recycling creates jobs. A study conducted in 2016 found that 757,000 American jobs were created as a result of the recycling industry (EPA). This includes jobs in recycling pickup, distribution, and processing facilities. Overall, recycling is a good thing from start to finish.

**What items can we recycle?**

For Orion Township residents, Green For Life (GFL) accepts the following items at their facility:

- Cleaned plastic bottles and jars, pop bottles, milk jugs, detergent bottles, flattened cartons, etc
- Plastic bottles and containers labeled #1–2 and #4–7
- Metals such as clean aluminum cans, pie and baking pans, tin cans, steel food containers
- Paper and cardboard recycling, and clean glass containers without the lids intact

Learn more about what can and cannot be recycled at gflenv.com, under Residential Solid Waste Collection/Recycling Collection/Acceptable Materials.

**Looking for something to warm you up?**

Look no farther than this delicious Vanilla Cinnamon Steamer recipe by Anna Fader.

Warm milk on the stovetop on low heat so it doesn’t boil. Use a whisk or milk frother to foam the milk.

Add a teaspoon of vanilla and a tablespoon of maple syrup per two cups of milk.

Sprinkle with cinnamon, or if you want to get fancy, top with whipped cream first.

Learn more at ORIONTOWNSHIP.ORG or call 248–391–0304
Amelia Earhart had many accomplishments in aviation. She flew solo many times in her lifetime, marking many firsts in aircraft history. More notably being the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932. She even attempted flying around the world in 1937 in her Lockheed aircraft with navigator Fred Noonan, but never made it. Their aircraft was reported missing in the Pacific Ocean on July 2, 1937. They were never found—still a mystery to this day.

The Orion connection
Amelia Earhart had many visits to Orion. But why?

It all started with William E. Scripps (1882–1952), son of James E. Scripps (founder of Detroit Evening News). William owned and operated Wildwood Farms (currently Canterbury Village and Wildwood Amphitheater) with his wife Nina Scripps here in Orion. Their mansion is still on Joslyn Road (currently the Guest House). William had many interests; one of them was aviation. He created his own motorless aircraft company called Gliders Inc. in 1928. It was the first American company dedicated to gliding aircrafts.

The Gliders Inc. factory was also in Orion. They built, tested and trained glider pilots—over 800 men and women—in 1929. One of those famous pilots was Amelia Earhart herself! In December 1928, Scripps invited her to Wildwoods to train on one of his gliders at “Scripps Field”. She finally accepted the invitation and in February 1929 she took her first glider ride, as pictured above. That next month Amelia even tested an experimental ice glider, also pictured above.

Earhart was also the first president of The Ninety-Nines, Inc. which is the International Organization of Women Pilots. It was founded in 1929 and she was elected president in 1931. It was rumored that there were some Orion residents that were a part of this group.

So yes, it’s safe to say that Lake Orion is kind of a big deal. We have a direct connection to Amelia Earhart!

Have a merry sustainable holiday

The holiday season is filled with celebrations, gifts, laughter, and time spent with loved ones. It can also lead to an increase in the amount of waste we generate.

Between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day, Americans throw away a million extra tons of trash each week, including holiday wrapping and packaging. We also use more electricity on holiday lights than some countries use in an entire year! Keep reading to find out ways to help ensure your celebrations are more sustainable. You can apply these tips to any time of year. Remember, every change, big or small, can make a big difference for our environment.

Gifts
Give experience gifts. Museums, the zoo, concerts, restaurants, theaters, etc.

Make your own gifts. Edible items such as breads, cookies, cakes, jams/jellies, etc. make excellent gifts. If you’re crafty you can use your skills to knit a scarf, crochet a hat or mittens, make jewelry, pottery, or even a painting. Make a calendar with family photos, and mark it with important dates.

Give gifts that are long–lasting or that can be reused and later recycled. Also, look for gifts that don’t require batteries. If you buy a product that needs batteries, consider buying rechargeable batteries and giving them with the gift.

If you choose to purchase retail gifts, choose products that come in minimal packaging, are made from sustainable materials, and can be easily recycled.

Shop local. This not only helps our local businesses to thrive and provide local jobs, it also helps reduce your carbon footprint. Not sure what to get? Consider gift certificates from area shops and restaurants.

Gift Giving
Wrap your gift in reusable tote bags.

Make the wrapping part of the gift. For example, gardening pots are easy to fill with gardening supplies, a mixing bowl makes an excellent package for your favorite baker. You can also use fabrics like scarves, bandannas, and dishtowels.

Stumped on what to get someone? There are so many nonprofits and charities out there. Find one that resonates with them and make a donation in their name.

Gift bags and baskets are a great alternative to wrapping paper because they can be used over and over again.

Get creative with items you have around the house. Old maps, comics, newspapers, magazines, and even original artwork can become wrapping paper.

Create your own bows from strips of colorful paper or magazines, and accessorize with twine, pressed leaves, and pinecones.

Cards are only kept for a short period of time. This season send an eco–friendly card made from recycled paper, send an e-card, or choose a card with seeds built in that your family and friends can later plant.

Trees
Use Energy Star-rated LED lights. They are 90 percent more efficient than traditional lights and last longer. In fact, LEDs release very little heat and last about 200,000 hours.

Skip the tinsel for the tree and avoid buying plastic decorations.

Use nature as decoration and ornaments. Evergreen branches, pine cones, flowers, twigs, bark, etc. can all be used to make beautiful displays and ornaments.

Make edible ornaments like seed bells, suet, and pine cones with peanut butter to hang around your yard. You’ll also feed the local wildlife by doing this.

Consider getting a potted tree. Potted trees have the root ball attached and can be replanted after the holidays and reused all year long and for years to come.

Recycle your Christmas tree. Many places will turn your tree into mulch, wood chips, or use it for another project.

However you’re celebrating this year, we wish you a safe and joyful holiday season filled with laughter and love.
Year–end moves for your financial strategy

Investors have seen ups, downs, twists, and turns this year. One lesson from 2021 is that it’s important to focus on what you can control. This year–end checklist highlights actions you can take to help keep your financial strategy on track.

1. Review your goals and personal situation

☐ Self–assessment. Have your goals changed this year? Talk with your financial advisor to ensure your strategy captures your current goals and their appropriate time horizon.

☐ Your comfort with risk. It can be easy to take on more risk when markets are relatively calm (as they were this year) but shy away from it when markets decline. Your financial advisor can help ensure you’re taking the appropriate amount of risk to help achieve your goals.

☐ Beneficiaries, estate plan and insurance checkup. Do your beneficiary designations and estate plan still match your intentions? Beneficiary designations on IRAs, 401(k) accounts and insurance policies generally supersede your will, so it’s important to align your beneficiaries with your estate strategy.

☐ Your plan for the unexpected. If the past few years have taught us anything, it’s to expect the unexpected. Review your insurance coverage and emergency cash—we recommend three to six months’ worth of living expenses.

2. Give your portfolio a checkup

☐ Portfolio balance. Market fluctuations can cause your portfolio to drift from your intended asset allocation. Your financial advisor can help you rebalance if needed.

☐ Portfolio foundation. We think the bull market will continue, but with reduced monetary stimulus and ongoing pandemic uncertainties on the horizon, 2022 is likely to bring increased market volatility. Consider these steps to help position your portfolio for shifting conditions ahead:

Asset class diversification. In addition to U.S. large–cap equities, enhance diversification with additional domestic and international asset classes. Appropriate allocations to bonds can help position your portfolio for increased volatility.

Tax–loss harvesting. Recognizing capital losses can help lower your tax liability. Or if you’re in a lower tax bracket this year, it might be a good time to realize gains. Work with your financial advisor and tax professional to determine which strategies are right for you.

3. Make progress while minimizing taxes

☐ Retirement plan contributions. Consider maxing out on contributions to your retirement plan, IRA and health savings account (HSA) for 2021, including any catch–up provisions. If you’re in a lower tax bracket in 2021, discuss with your tax advisor whether converting some or all of your IRA to a Roth IRA could help your long–term plan.

☐ COVID–19–related distributions. If you took a COVID–19–related distribution from a retirement account last year, make sure you’re on track to meet the three–year deadline to return that money to your plan.

☐ Back–door Roth. If you’ve maximized your tax–advantaged retirement contributions, consider using what’s known as a back–door Roth conversion. It involves making after–tax contributions to IRAs and/or plans, and converting them into Roth accounts. Speak with your tax professional about whether this strategy makes sense.
Required minimum distributions (RMDs). RMDs have resumed for the 2021 tax year and must be taken by December 31 unless the taxpayer’s birthdate is between July 1 and Dec. 31, 1949, in which case the start date is deferred to April 1, 2022. If you have an inherited IRA, you may also need to take an RMD by end of year. If applicable, work with your financial advisor to meet your associated deadline.

529s. A 529 plan can help you pay for education expenses and possibly provide a state income tax deduction. Review your education funding goals to see if a 529 plan contribution is appropriate.

4. Maximize your impact

Charitable contributions. Consider “bunching” charitable deductions, potentially using a donor- advised fund or a qualified charitable distribution, to help reduce your tax liability. If you’re not itemizing deductions, there is a deduction of up to $300 (600 for married filing jointly) for cash gifts made directly to public charities.

Annual gifts. You can make a $15,000 gift per person per year without incurring a gift tax.

Wealth transfer. If you’re planning to make a large gift in the next few years, speak with your estate attorney about the timing of the gift. The current estate tax exemption is $11.7 million per individual.

Before the curtain closes on 2021, talk with your financial advisor about these and other strategies that may help you stay in control of your strategy toward achieving your important long-term goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Grant Fodor, AAMSTM, Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Winter boredom busters

It’s that time of year when it’s easy just to stay inside, get bored, and feel those winter blues. Getting everyone off the couch and interacting is essential for everyone’s physical well-being and sanity. So, put down those devices, get off the couch, and get inspired by these cold-weather activities.

Yoga. Yoga not only helps with balance and focus, but is a great for controlled breathing which tends to have a calming and relaxing effect.

Play balloon tennis. Create paddles out of paper plates and popsicle sticks and try to keep a balloon in the air. It’s harder than it seems!

Visit the local library. Not only can you check out books, but you can also participate in one of their many activities, and check out board games, puzzles, and even cake pans!

Have a snowball fight! If you don’t want to throw them at each other, set up targets and see who can hit the most. For indoor snowball fights, you can buy soft indoor snowballs or used rolled-up socks.

Go bowling. Bowling is sporty and competitive and fun for all ages. You can even bowl at home with empty water bottles and a tennis ball.

Make decorations for your home. Cut snowflakes out of paper or put together paper chains to help countdown to holidays, or other significant events.

Go sledding. Grab a sled and head to Jesse Decker Park for the best sledding hill around. Sledding is a lot of fun, and you get a bonus workout in each time you climb that hill.

Rearrange a room. A change of scenery can improve your mood during the colder months and may even help you declutter a little.

Have a dance party. Put on some music and just dance.

Go for a nature walk. Take advantage of the 70+ miles of trails and safety paths we have throughout town.

There you have it, a few boredom busters to help you beat the winter blues.
Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

**HOLIDAY DECORATING**
- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

**HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING**
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

**Facts**
- More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2019
Be nice around ice

The temperature is starting to drop, and the many lakes we have will soon begin to freeze over. Some dread that three-letter word, while others (not sure who those people are, but they do exist) look forward to it...ice! With 42 lakes over five acres, safety on the water in the winter is a must.

Keep in mind that ice conditions vary from lake to lake, and you can’t always tell the strength of ice simply by its look, its thickness, the temperature, or whether or not it is covered in snow. Clear ice that has a bluish tint is the strongest, while Milky ice—ice formed by melted and refrozen snow—is the weakest. You should stay off ice with slush on top as it is only half as strong as clear ice and indicates the ice is not freezing from the bottom.

Did you know that ice seldom freezes uniformly? It may be a foot thick in one spot and only a couple of inches thick a few feet away. It’s important to check the conditions as you move around the ice with a spud, chisel, or auger and ruler every few steps. The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process—ice covered by snow should always be presumed unsafe. A snowfall can warm up and melt existing ice.

Here are some great tips to help you stay safe while enjoying our frozen lakes this winter.

Check the thermometer. Air temperatures and recent weather patterns can impact ice quality. Just because it’s a certain date on the calendar or the ice was frozen this time last year doesn’t mean it will be safe this year.

Tell someone your plans. Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. It’s also important to have your cell phone with you in case of an emergency.

Wear proper footwear. Ice cleats attach to boots and consist of adjustable straps or rubber overshoes with metal teeth or spikes that provide additional traction on slippery ice and help prevent falls.

If you fall through the ice, it’s important not to panic. Don’t remove your winter clothing, it traps air to provide warmth and floatation.

Turn to the direction you came from; that is probably the strongest ice. If you have ice picks, dig the points into the ice while vigorously kicking your feet and pull yourself onto the surface by sliding forward on the ice.

Roll away from the area of weak ice. Rolling will distribute your weight to help avoid breaking through again. Once you are safe and off the ice, seek shelter, heat, dry clothing, and warm, non-alcoholic, and non-caffeinated drinks.

Call 911 and seek medical attention immediately if you experience signs of hypothermia: shivering, exhaustion or feeling very tired, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, and drowsiness.

Medical attention is critical for any exposure to cold temperatures.
History is all around us in Lake Orion

“History is all around us in Lake Orion as we take a Moment in Time,” says the narrator at the end of every TimeShift America video attached to “A Moment in Time” history signs in Downtown Lake Orion. Each sign contains an historic image of the building, information about its history and a QR code for more information.

It takes a Village...

These signs were the brain child of the Orion Historical Society. They presented their idea to the DDA Board, asking for help coordinating with the Village and property owners to have the signs placed throughout town. The DDA decided to connect the signs via QR Code to their website. Each sign connects to more information about the building and the business being featured in the sign. Tim Pamplin of TimeShift America then presented his idea of adding videos.

TimeShift America videos

What is a TimeShift America video? The videos associated with each sign start out with a present–day video of the building taken from the same perspective and angle as the historic photos that the video will “shift” back to. The “time shift” shows the modern age fading into the historic photo followed by information about the building, the business, and the era.

What has been featured? Lake Orion currently has a total of eight signs. The signs feature the old Fire Hall, The Train depot, Griggs Drug Store, Van Wagoners Department Store, The Park Hotel, Milliman Ford dealership, and two signs in Greens Park featuring the boats of Lake Orion and the Amusement Park on Lake Orion.

Six videos covering the buildings and the depot are completed. These three partners are hoping to continue memorializing
history in the area by approaching developers who are changing and enhancing Lake Orion’s landscape. Some of their potential projects include Lake Orion's old High School (called the Ehman Center), more history of the lake shore, and Lake Orion’s own urban legend, the “dragon on the lake.”

Come to downtown Lake Orion to see these signs on their corresponding buildings and use the QR code to find out more information about Lake Orion history.

Upcoming Downtown Events

- **Hometown Holidays Shopping Passport:** December 1–31
- **Orion Lighted Christmas Parade:** Saturday, December 3
- **Hometown Holidays Horse & Carriage Rides:** December 2, 9, 10, 16, 17
- **Downtown Trolley Express:** December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17
- **Resolution Run:** January 1
- **Local Lens Photo Contest:** January 1–29
- **#StrongerTogether IceFest:** February 1–28 with live ice sculpting on January 2, 9, 16, 23
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Blood Drive with Versiti Blood Center**
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 1 | 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! Schedule your appointment at donate.michigan.versiti.org.

**Breakfast with the Grinch**
Orion Center | Sat, Dec 10 | 10–11 am or 11:30 am-12:30 pm
Ages 1–8 | $13R/$15NR
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 enjoy *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Bring your camera for a photo opportunity you don’t want to miss. Infants in carriers are free with registered participants. Walgreens will be onsite taking photos in front of a festive background. Families will receive one free 4X6 print, with the option of purchasing a photo package.

**Bub Balloona Chicks—Bubble Show Magic**
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 29
6–7 pm | Ages 5+ | $12R/$14NR
Michigan’s Premier Bubbleologists presents an amazing mind-blowing Bubble Show Magic for the whole family! Enter our bubble world and be dazzled by jaw-dropping masterpieces of bubble and balloon artistry. The show will make you smile, laugh and bring out your inner kid! Bub Balloona Chicks will transport you into the magical world of mega bubbles, billions of bubbles, amoeba shaped bubbles and other bubble tricks! Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

**ONTV 13th Annual FISH Food Drive**
ONTV Studio | Feb 6–10
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. The ONTV van will be on site so stop by to drop off food donations. You can also donate at orionontv.org. Call ONTV at 248–393–1060 for details.

**TR Adaptive Valentine’s Day Dance**
Orion Center | Mon, Feb 13 | 6–8 pm | Ages 13+
$6R/$8NR
Special needs and individuals 13+ with disabilities are invited to an evening of music, dancing, and light refreshments with DJ Dazzle Do Time. Preregistration preferred, walk-ins welcome. Chaperones are free.

**Bunny Bop**
Orion Center | Sat, Mar 18
9:30–10:15 am | 10:30–11:15 am
11:30–12:15 pm | Ages 1–8
$12R/$14NR
Spring is in the air! Hop on over for a photo visit with a special bunny, craft project and egg hunt. Bring your basket; youth will be broken down by age for the egg hunt. Preregistration required, spaces are limited. Children in carriers and adults with registered participants are free.

**Flashlight Egg Hunt**
Camp Agawam | Thu, Apr 6
8–9 pm | Ages 9–15
$10R/$12
Don’t let those older kids miss out on all the fun! Join us for our annual Flashlight Egg Hunt at Camp Agawam, Fort Pontiac. This isn’t your typical egg hunt! Dress for the weather; event is held rain or shine and don’t forget your flashlight! Parents are welcome to stay, watch all the fun and enjoy the campfire and hot cocoa.

Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at ORIONPARKS.COM
or call 248–391–0304, ext. 3500
1335 JOSLYN ROAD, LAKE ORION
Made in the Mitten Pop Up Market  
**Orion Center | Thu, Dec 8 | 3–7 pm** | **Free**

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!

**Snow Dash 5K**  
**Orion Center | Sun, Dec 18 | 9 am | $15**

Dash through the snow down the Polly Ann Trail for our 5th Annual Snow Dash 5K in Orion Township. Certified loop course starts and finishes at the Orion Center. Finisher medals for all participants.

**Light Up Orion**  
**Orion Parks & Recreation Facebook Page | Voting Mon, Dec 19 | Free**

Do you have the brightest or most Griswoldiest Christmas lights? Sign up to see how you rank. Registration is required. Submissions due Dec 13. Multiple categories to choose from so when you register, select the category you would like to qualify for.

**Lego Design Competition**  
**Sat, Dec 24–Mon Jan 2 | 13 and younger, 14 and up | Free**

Calling all Lego fans, fanatics and collectors! During Christmas break get your creativity juices running and send in your Lego designs! This is not for any sets or premade creations. The designs need to be 100% unique. Make sure to register online to get submission instructions.

**Snow Sculpture**  
**Mon, Dec 26 | Free**

Put your creativity and snow building skills to the test and see what you can create. Event runs from Dec 26 through Feb. Register online to get submission instructions.

**Winter Break Family Bingo**  
**Orion Center | Wed, Dec 28 | 1–3 pm | Free**

Participants receive Bingo cards and a marker to mark their card when they hear the numbers. If you get a bingo, shout BINGO and come get your prize!

**Movie Lock-In**  
**Orion Center | Tue, Jan 3 | 10 am–3 pm | Free**

Movie schedule to be determined, youth under age 7 must be accompanied by an older sibling. Popcorn and drinks included. Bring your sleeping bag and get comfortable on the floor in front of the giant movie screen. Stay for a movie or stay all day! Pack a brown bag lunch. Additional snacks available for purchase.

**Game Day & Puzzle Swap**  
**Orion Center | Thu, Jan 19 | 9 am–6 pm | Free**

Love games? How about free games? Game Day Swap will have puzzles, books, DVDs and board games for anyone to swap and exchange. Event is free for anyone to participate.

**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 Facebook Event page. Then stop into the Parks & Recreation (1335 Joslyn Rd) to claim your goodie bag! You’re welcome to complete the hunt without registering, but only registered participants will receive a goodie bag. Register at orionparks.com or by calling 248-391-0304 x3500 (one goodie bag per family). Happy hunting!

**Duct Tape Sled Challenge**  
**Jesse Decker Park | Tue, Feb 21 (weather dependent) | 1–3 pm | Free**

Don’t throw out your boxes from Christmas—use them and duct tape to create a sled! Register for the course and submit photos of your sled to see if you win “Most Creative”. We will race your creations at the Sledding & S’more event on Feb 21 (weather depending). Submit your photos by Feb 13 for “Most Creative” judging. The winner will be announced at the race!

**Sledding & S’mores**  
**Jesse Decker Park | Tue, Feb 21 (weather depending) | 1–3 pm | Free**

Join us at the Sledding Hill for sledding fun! Warm up by the fire and enjoy a s’more. Registration preferred but not required. Check our website and social media for date changes due to weather.

---

Join us for so much family fun that you will forget it’s winter and you’re not on vacation! Get ready because winter will be here before you know it. Check out these activities for the entire family at orionsnowcation.com.
Celebrate with Miss Margee
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 23, Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 3, May 8, Jun 5 | 10–11:15 am
Ages 5 & under | $54R/$57NR
Come celebrate the seasons with Miss Margee. We will make a special craft, sing songs and play! This is a parent child class. Limited spaces. Miss Margee has over 20 years of experience teaching classes in Lake Orion and Oxford. We are excited to offer her new class series. Supply fee $12 paid directly to instructor on the first day of class.

Cookie Decorating Evening
Orion Center
Mon, Dec 12
6–8:30 pm
Ages 9–15
$10R/$12NR
Come out to the Orion Center and join us for some sugar cookie decorating while we enjoy a Christmas Classic! Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Take & Make DIY Birdseed Ornament
Orion Center | Pick Up Mon, Dec 12
All Ages | $6R/$8NR
Pick up your kit at the Orion Center and learn how to make your own Birdseed Ornaments to hang outside this winter. Registration includes all ingredients and materials needed. Preregistration required.

Old Fashioned Christmas
Orion Center | Sat, Dec 17 | 1–4 pm
Ages 8+ | $40R/$43NR
Children will participate in baking cookies, singing carols, and creating a Christmas–themed craft. This is a perfect opportunity for your child to stay grounded during this busy holiday season! $15 material fee is due to the instructor at class. Each child should bring their own hand held mixer, 8-inch cake pan, mixing bowl, spatula, baking sheet and large plate for transporting the dessert. Be sure all items are labeled with a last name. All classes will have an educational component to enrich your child’s multicultural knowledge.

Bubble Basics Workshop
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 19 | 5–7 pm
Ages 5+ | $40R/$42NR
In this 2-hour Make & Take Workshop, you will learn bubble science. Use some cool tools to make bubbles. Make bubble toys to take home. Learn bubble tricks to impress friends and family.

Giant Bubble Workshop
Orion Center | Thu, Feb 9 | 5–8 pm
Ages 5+ | $60R/$62NR
In this 3-hour Make & Take Workshop, you will learn more bubble science, (if you took the 1st workshop). Learn about giant bubbles. Make your own bubble wand and make your own giant bubble mix to take home and impress friends and family.

International Kids Baking Series
Camp Agawam
Sat, Jan 28, Feb 11, 25, Mar 11, 18
2–4 pm | Ages 8+ | $175R/$185NR
Teach your child the love of cooking desserts! Each child should bring their own hand held mixer, 8-inch cake pan, mixing bowl, spatula, baking sheet and large plate for transporting the dessert. 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 and Luminita Murphy. Drop in $35R/$37NR

Week 1. Apple Strudel
Week 2. Valentine’s Day Cake Pops
Week 3. Chocolate Swiss Roll Cake
Week 4. No Bake Dessert
Week 5. Bake Off Competition

Home Alone Training
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 23
6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 9–14
$17R/$20NR
Is your young teen staying home alone this fall? Instructor Merry Lowis presents the skills your child will need to be home alone safely. Includes walking home, key responsibility, securing the house, answering the phone, safe choices, and emergency procedures. Training follows the American Red Cross Curriculum. Certificate is presented upon completion of the workshop. Hand-outs are included.
Babysitter Training
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 26
6–8:30 pm | Ages 11–14 | $20R/$23NR
Instructor Merry Lowis presents the skills needed to start your own babysitting business—basics such as meeting the family, setting appointments, age appropriate activities and safety instruction. Handouts are included. Certificate presented upon completion of the workshop. Program incorporates the American Red Cross guide and video into the curriculum. Suggested prerequisite class: Home Alone Training.

Horseback Riding Lessons
Times Square Riding Academy
Sat, Jan 14–Feb 18 | Mar 4–Apr 8
1:30–2:30 pm | Ages 7–Adult
$180R/$190NR
Each lesson consists of basic grooming, riding and horse care for beginner riders in the English Saddle style. Riders are required to wear long pants and hard sole shoes with 1-inch heel. Looking for that special time with your child? Take lessons together. Maximum of 5 riders per class, classes fill quickly. Register early for a rewarding and unforgettable experience. Additional lesson times are available Mon–Fri evenings and Sat and Sun afternoons. Call Paula at 248-431-0940 to confirm availability.

 Comet  
Be mine

 estimated cost = $1.00

Coming in May! Made in the Mitten
Mother’s Day Market
Orion Center | Sat, May 6
10 am–4 pm | Free

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

ONTV Podcast Classes
ONTV Studio | Ages 13+
$25R/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 | Mon, Jan 9–Mar 27 | 7–9 pm | Ages 13+
$55R/NR
ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.

ONTV classes are held at ONTV Studio. Call 248-393-1060 for more information.

ONTV Podcast Classes
ONTV Studio | Ages 13+
$25R/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 | Mon, Jan 9–Mar 27 | 7–9 pm | Ages 13+
$55R/NR
ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.

Horseback Riding Lessons
Times Square Riding Academy
Sat, Jan 14–Feb 18 | Mar 4–Apr 8
1:30–2:30 pm | Ages 7–Adult
$180R/$190NR
Each lesson consists of basic grooming, riding and horse care for beginner riders in the English Saddle style. Riders are required to wear long pants and hard sole shoes with 1-inch heel. Looking for that special time with your child? Take lessons together. Maximum of 5 riders per class, classes fill quickly. Register early for a rewarding and unforgettable experience. Additional lesson times are available Mon–Fri evenings and Sat and Sun afternoons. Call Paula at 248-431-0940 to confirm availability.

ONTV Classes
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 | Mon, Jan 9–Mar 27 | 7–9 pm | Ages 13+
$55R/NR
ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.

Horseback Riding Lessons
Times Square Riding Academy
Sat, Jan 14–Feb 18 | Mar 4–Apr 8
1:30–2:30 pm | Ages 7–Adult
$180R/$190NR
Each lesson consists of basic grooming, riding and horse care for beginner riders in the English Saddle style. Riders are required to wear long pants and hard sole shoes with 1-inch heel. Looking for that special time with your child? Take lessons together. Maximum of 5 riders per class, classes fill quickly. Register early for a rewarding and unforgettable experience. Additional lesson times are available Mon–Fri evenings and Sat and Sun afternoons. Call Paula at 248-431-0940 to confirm availability.

ONTV Classes
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 | Mon, Jan 9–Mar 27 | 7–9 pm | Ages 13+
$55R/NR
ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.

10 Week Video Production Class
ONTV Studio | Mon, Jan 9–Mar 27 | 7–9 pm | Ages 13+
$55R/NR
ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.

ONTV Classes
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.

ON TV Podcast Classes
ONTV Studio | Ages 13+
$25R/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 | Mon, Jan 9–Mar 27 | 7–9 pm | Ages 13+
$55R/NR
ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.

10 Week Video Production Class
ONTV Studio | Mon, Jan 9–Mar 27 | 7–9 pm | Ages 13+
$55R/NR
ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.

ONTV Classes
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.

ONTV Podcast Classes
ONTV Studio | Ages 13+
$25R/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 | Mon, Jan 9–Mar 27 | 7–9 pm | Ages 13+
$55R/NR
ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.

10 Week Video Production Class
ONTV Studio | Mon, Jan 9–Mar 27 | 7–9 pm | Ages 13+
$55R/NR
ONTV teaches you how to operate cameras, audio equipment, and be a director. Learn about green screens and basic editing.
Amazing TOTS
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 12–Mar 2
4:30–4:55 pm | Ages 18 months–2.5
$120R/$130NR

Amazing TOTS uses age-appropriate developmental milestones and works with each toddler based on his or her attention span and physical abilities. Classes balance structured physical challenges with organized physical exploration activities designed with little ones in mind. Imaginative Fitness Activities include color recognition, shape classification, letter identification, and action vocabulary experiences (over, under, around, etc). Amazing Tots gain physical and academic advantages that prepare them to excel in preschool and beyond. Following the love of healthy lifestyle instilled in this program, our toddlers gain skills and tools that can last a lifetime.

Amazing Athletes
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 12–Mar 2
5:10–5:45 pm | Ages 3–6
$128R/$138NR

Our action-packed curriculum endorsed by Early Childhood Expert Bonnie Bruce who reviews each element of our program to ensure our Amazing Athletes get every possible advantage. Our programs show kids how much fun fitness can be! During our 35-minute weekly classes, children learn the importance of patience, teamwork, and self-confidence in a non-competitive, learning-based environment that fosters a love of healthy living. Their excitement for structured physical activity promotes advancements and advantages that keep children on the path to personal well-being. Drop-in rates will begin the first day of classes, $16R/$18NR.

Amazing Athletes Camp
Friendship Park | Mon–Thu, Mar 27–30 | 1–1:45 pm | Ages 3–6
$64R/$74NR

The premier developmental physical fitness camps empowering children to reach developmental milestones at an individual pace. Through our structured active play, Amazing Athletes advance 6 key areas of motor-development. During our 45 minute daily, one-week camps, children learn the importance of patience, teamwork, and self-confidence in a non-competitive, learning-based environment that fosters a love of healthy living. Their excitement for structured physical activity promotes advancements and advantages that keep children on the path to personal well-being. Our fun, active camps encourage kids to explore and develop a variety of athletic skills, and patience. Amazing Athletes P.E. promotes skill-based learning and non-competitive play so that each athlete has the confidence to learn and engage. Children engage in introductory partner-based skill activities which help to advance teamwork. Our strength training activity is always done in pairs. Our fitness challenge relay at the end of class is also always done as a team. We provide our athletes with as many opportunities as possible to develop teamwork, friendships, and advance their social skills in addition to the athletic and academic advancements of the program. Clintonwood Park is located at 6000 Clarkston Rd, Independence Township.

Chess Camp with Chess Wizards
Camp Agawam
Mon–Fri, Jun 26–30
9 am–3 pm | Ages 6–13
$492R/$500NR

Join us this summer for challenging chess lessons, exciting games and cool prizes. Improve your chess skills, meet new friends and work out your most powerful muscle—your brain! Our clubs include fun team chess games (like bughouse), recess time, snacks, tournaments and puzzles. Participants receive a Chess Wizard t-shirt, trophy and puzzle folder. Unleash your brain power and spend some of your summer with Chess Wizards! Half day option also available.

Orion Area Youth Assistance

Enrichment scholarships of up to $100 are available to students who demonstrate a need for financial assistance to participate in extracurricular activities. These scholarships are available once per calendar year per student and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, based on financial and special circumstances, until all funds have been exhausted. To apply, visit lakeorionyouthassistance.com/skill-building-scholarships or contact oaya@lok12.org.
LEAGUES

Youth Baseball & Softball
Apr 3–Jun 18 | $20 Multi–Child Discount (excluding T–Ball)
$30 Late Registration Fee after Feb 27 | Registration Deadline Mar 13 | League schedules finalized in March
Walk in Registration & Uniform sizing | Orion Center Sat, Feb 11 | 10 am–2 pm

Youth Girls Softball League (OGSL)
$130R/$140NR | Civic Center Park
The Spring season will consist of two nights during the week and Saturday mornings. Days of practice will be determined by the number of teams in each division.

8U Clinic Division | Coach Pitch
10U Intermediate Division | Player Pitch*
14U Junior Division | Player Pitch*
*Some traveling may be required.

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

Tee Ball | Ages 4–6 | $130R/$140NR
Clinic | Machine Pitch | Ages 6–8
Junior | Player Pitch | Ages 9–10
Intermediate | Player Pitch | Ages 11–12
Senior | Player Pitch | Ages 13–15
Majors** | Player Pitch | Ages 15–18
**Majors division runs June–July. Teams will be formed in May. Teams will play other communities including Oxford, Independence, Lapeer, and others. 15 year olds may register for Senior & Majors for $100/division

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

LOYBL Umpire Program
Apr–Jul | 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 2023 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!

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

YOUTH SOCCER

Orion/Oxford Soccer League (OOSL)
Online registration available at orionparks.com
Apr 10–Jun 17 | $95R/$105NR per player | $35 Jersey if new player or replacement needed | $30 Late Fee after Feb 27
Registration Deadline Mar 13 | League schedules finalized in March | If a player is new to U14 a new jersey will need to be purchased.

Any child born between Jan 1, 2009 and Dec 31, 2019 is eligible and encouraged to play soccer in the OOSL Spring 2023 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 | 2019
U–5 | Coed | 2018
U–6 | Coed | 2017
U–8 | Coed or Girls | 2016 & 2015
U–10 | Coed or Girls | 2014 & 2013
U–12 | Coed or Girls | 2012 & 2011
U–14 | Coed or Girls | 2010 & 2009

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

Soccer referees wanted
Do you want to gain further knowledge of the sport and get paid while doing it? Sign up to be a soccer referee today. For more information contact Tyler Carpenter at tcarpenter@oriontownship.org.
2023 Esports Leagues & Camps
Orion Center | TBD | Ages 8–17
$250R/NR
Come play some of the fastest growing games with your peers in the brand new esports leagues! If you are experienced or a beginner, this will still be a league for you! With the partnership of XP League, we will be hosting in person leagues and camps. (Equipment will be provided). The programs will include practices with trained coaches, game days and custom jerseys! Follow our Facebook and website for more information.

ADULT LEAGUES

2023 Adult Summer Softball League
Men's Rec League | Friendship Park
Tue, May 9–Jul 11 | 6:20–9:50 pm
Ages 18+
Coed Rec League | Friendship Park
Wed, May 10–Jul 12 | 6:20–9:50 pm
Ages 18+
$315/Team | $20/Non-Resident Player
Refundable Forfeit Deposit: $100
Umpire Fees: $20/Team/Game
Open Registration begins Apr 3
Manager's Meeting May 1 | 7 pm
Virtual

ADULT PROGRAMS

Coffee With Chris
Township Hall
Fri, Jan 27 & Feb 24
9:30–10:30 am
Stop in the municipal complex for an informal meeting with Supervisor Barnett. Come with questions or join in the discussion. Topics 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 necessary.

What's the Buzz?
Becoming a Beekeeper
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 30
7–8 pm | $5R/$7NR | Ages 16+
Are you interested in learning to become a beekeeper? Winter is actually the time to get started. Grant and Elise Fodor, amateur beekeepers, will fill you in on what works, what doesn’t work, when to buy supplies and how to be successful at beekeeping.

Modern Women’s Self-Defense Seminar
Dragon Community Room | Fri, Mar 3
6–7:30 pm | Ages 13+ | $25R/$27NR
Discover your inner warrior! Chief instructor of the Metro Michigan Shotokan Karate school, Andrea Moon (4th Degree Black Belt) will teach you a variety of effective techniques to defend yourself. Participants will work with partners as attacker and defender to learn a variety of self-defense techniques. At the completion of the seminar, you will receive a written hand-out that includes a review of everything covered during the session. With these instructions, you will be able to review and practice the exercises.

Plant Based Eating
Orion Center | Mon, Mar 20–Apr 17
6:30–8 pm | Ages 12+ | $49R/$59NR
Have you been looking for a way to get more energy, lose weight, reduce food cravings, improve athletic performance and reduce your cholesterol? Plant Based Eating can do all this for you AND address common western diseases such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, autoimmune disease, some cancers and more. Your instructor is a health coach and certified in Plant Based Nutrition. This class will be a supportive and open environment where all questions are welcome! Recipes will be provided. Food will not be prepared or served during class. Couple discount $79R/$89NR

Cookie Decoration with Alison Elle
Friendship Park | Wed, Dec 14
6–8:30 pm | Ages 18+ | $50R/$52NR
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.
TaikoFit Cardio Drumming
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 15–Mar 2 | 6:30–7:30 pm
Ages 16+ | $10R/$11NR

Japanese drumming uses big drums, big sticks and big moves. Combine the Taiko drumming style with high energy music and cardio and you have a really fun workout that reduces stress and is good for your mind, body, and spirit. No class Dec 29 No drumming experience is necessary. Instructor Cindi Carter.

Hatha Gentle Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 23–Mar 6 | 4:45–5:45 pm
Ages 16+ | $66R/$69NR

Learn the foundational poses of yoga and begin to experience all the wonderful benefits. Gentle stretches to increase flexibility and strength in the body. Breathing and relaxation techniques to calm the mind. Bring a yoga mat, strap and firm blanket. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga. Drop-in rate: $13R/$14NR per night.

Hatha Yin/Yang Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Jan 23–Mar 6 | 6–7:15 pm
Ages 16+ | $66R/$69NR

Explore the Yang practice of movement balanced by the stillness of a Yin practice. We will be integrating Yin and Yang styles which help to develop mobility in the body and create a deeper sense of body awareness through the quietness of a Yin practice. Bring a yoga mat, strap and firm blanket. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga. Drop-in rate: $13R/$14NR.

Hatha Open Yoga
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 19–Mar 2
10–11:15 am | Ages 16+ $77R/$80NR

Exploring yoga asanas in a slow and subtle way to increase awareness in the body. Breathing and meditation techniques to calm the mind. Open to beginning or returning students. Please bring a yoga mat, strap and firm blanket to class. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga. Drop-in rate: $13R/$14NR.

Hatha Yin/Restorative Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Dec 5 & 12 | 4:45–5:45 pm | 6–7 pm
Ages 16+ | $24R/$26NR
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 1 & 8 | 10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ $24R/$26NR

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 hold poses longer to allow the connective tissue to gently stretch. Bring 2–3 blankets to class. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

Hatha Yin/Restorative Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Dec 5 & 12 | 4:45–5:45 pm | 6–7 pm
Ages 16+ | $24R/$26NR
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 1 & 8 | 10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ $24R/$26NR

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 hold poses longer to allow the connective tissue to gently stretch. Bring 2–3 blankets to class. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

Hatha Yin/Restorative Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Dec 5 & 12 | 4:45–5:45 pm | 6–7 pm
Ages 16+ | $24R/$26NR
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 1 & 8 | 10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ $24R/$26NR

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 hold poses longer to allow the connective tissue to gently stretch. Bring 2–3 blankets to class. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

Hatha Yin/Restorative Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Dec 5 & 12 | 4:45–5:45 pm | 6–7 pm
Ages 16+ | $24R/$26NR
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 1 & 8 | 10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ $24R/$26NR

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 hold poses longer to allow the connective tissue to gently stretch. Bring 2–3 blankets to class. Instructor Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

Hatha Yin/Restorative Yoga
Orion Center | Mon, Dec 5 & 12 | 4:45–5:45 pm | 6–7 pm
Ages 16+ | $24R/$26NR
Orion Center | Thu, Dec 1 & 8 | 10–11:20 am | Ages 16+ $24R/$26NR

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 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 | Mon, Jan 9–Feb 27 | 9:30–10:30 am
Ages 40+ | $51R/$54NR
Orion Center | Mon, Mar 6–Apr 24 | 9:30–10:30 am
Ages 40+ | $68R/$72NR

Choose in person or virtual classes! A Latin-inspired cardio workout incorporates 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 hesitant to try regular Zumba. You will have so much fun dancing, you will forget you’re working out! It’s exercise in disguise! Instructor Cyndy DuVal. Drop in rate: $11R/$12NR No class on Jan 16 and Feb 20.

Zumba Gold Toning
Orion Center | Wed, Jan 11–Mar 1 | Wed, Mar 8–Apr 26
9:30–10:30 am | Ages 40+ | $68R/$72NR

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: $11R/$12NR.
Beginner MELT Method Class
Orion Center | Wed, Jan 11–Feb 1
Feb 8–Mar 1 | 10:45–11:45 am
Ages 18+ | $48R/$50NR
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 and 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! Visit meltmethod.com for info on this technique. Participants must be able to independently get on and off the floor. Roller and minball kits will be available for purchase but not necessary to buy to participate in the class. Instructor Cyndy DuVal.

Beginner Tai Chi
Orion Center | Tue, Jan 3–Feb 21
10–11 am | 11 am–Noon | Ages 18+ $80R/$84NR
Classes include warm-up and focused exercises, as well as learning the Wu Style form of sequenced postures. Tai Chi Chuan is a soft-style Chinese martial art. Its slow, repetitive, and circular movements open internal circulation to improve strength, agility, and balance. The forms gently move every muscle of the body through a complete and natural range of motion. Over time, students will see a reduction of stress with an increase of natural energy, coordination, and power of concentration. Instructor Michael Dwyer. Drop in rate: $11R/$12NR

Interested in participating in one of our Senior Services programs? Membership includes those who are 50 or better and can be Residents and Non-Residents. Membership is free! Stop by the Orion Center 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 to stay up to date on all senior offerings or visit our website at orionparks.com.

ENRICHMENT

Medicare—One-on-One Appointments
Orion Center | Free
Put your trust in a local, independent resource for everything Medicare! Schedule a 1-on-1 session with Chad Day, from the Michigan Retirement Agency. 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, Oct 10 & Nov 28 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.

AARP Smarter Driver Tek Workshop
Orion Center | Fri, Jan 13 12–1:30 pm | Free
This workshop covers important life-saving vehicle safety technology for mature drivers that are in the market for a new car or who have recently purchased a new vehicle. Topics covered include Automatic Emergency Braking, Blind Spot Warnings, Drowsy Driver Alerts, and more. Light Lunch will be served.

HEALTH ENRICHMENT

Ascension Providence Rochester (APRH), a member of Ascension, is a non-profit Catholic health system. It is our mission to serve all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. We are dedicated to all that we serve, creating strong relationships with our community, our physicians, and our associates. APRH is established as an industry leader not only in providing high-quality healthcare but also as an organization that strives to improve the health of our community. Register by calling the Orion Center to reserve your seat.

Heart and Stroke Prevention
Orion Center | Thu, Feb 23 5:30–6:30 pm | Free
Learn about stroke prevention and treatment options. Including the Advanced Stroke and Neuroendovascular Center at Ascension Providence Rochester.

Pain Management
Orion Center | Wed, Mar 22 11:15 am | Free
The goal of pain management is to allow an individual to participate in the activities they need to, and the activities they want to. Improving function regardless of the diagnosis is what Dr. Achtman strives to achieve.
Let’s Craft Together!
Orion Center | Wed, Jan 18
Fri, Feb 17 | Wed, Mar 22 | 2 pm
$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.

CLUBS
Membership and registration required.

K4 Knit/Crochet
Mon | 12:30–3:30 pm

Chinese Mahjong
Mon | 12:30–3:30 pm

Ham Radio
Mon & Thu | 6–8:45 pm

Bingo
Tue | 10 & 12:45 pm | Please bring nickels

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+

Walking Club
Wed & Fri | 10 am

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

Euchre
Thu | 1–4 pm | $2 Drop-in Fee + Dimes

Movies
Fri | 1–3 pm

Quilting
Fri | 9 am–12 pm
Thu | 2nd of the month | 1–4 pm

American Mahjong
Fri | 10:30 am–3:30 pm | You must bring your own 2023 Official Standard Hands and Rules card

Let’s Craft Together!
Orion Center | Wed, Jan 18
Fri, Feb 17 | Wed, Mar 22 | 2 pm
$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.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Membership and registration required.

Holly Holiday Luncheon
Orion Center | Wed, Dec 14
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.

Euchre Tournament and Lunch
Orion Center | Thu, Jan 12 | 12:30 (Lunch) / 1 pm (Tournament)
Preregistration: $3R/NR (Lunch) | Drop-in: $2R/NR (Tournament)
No partner needed and all levels welcome! Beverage and lunch will be provided prior to the tournament for an additional fee. Tournament Set Up: All scores will be individual and partners will change each game. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place! Please bring quarters.

St. Patrick’s Day Lunch
Orion Center | Fri, Mar 17 | 12–1:30 pm | $6R/$8NR
May the luck of the Irish be with you! Join us for a festive meal and entertainment while we celebrate this popular Irish holiday.

Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at
ORIONPARKS.COM
or call 248–391–0304, ext. 3500
1335 JOSLYN ROAD, LAKE ORION
FIELD TRIPS

Membership and registration required

Stahl’s Car Museum and Lunch
Chesterfield | Tue, Jan 24 | Leave Orion Center at 11 am | $5R/$7NR
A visit to the Stahls Automotive Foundation will take you back to a time in history when cars were more than just a way to take us from point A to point B. Gain a better understanding of how the automobile developed from a novelty to a main form of transportation. In addition to the beautiful cars, enjoy the collection of gas pumps, road signs, oil cans and other car-related accessories from the Depression era. Before touring the museum we will have lunch at a local restaurant. All participants will pay for their own lunch.

Active Aging Adventures Senior Explorers
Brunch and Learn Trappers and Traders
Outdoor Adventure Center | Thu, Feb 9 | Leave Orion Center at 8 am | $10R/$12NR
Detroit was founded in 1701 as a fur-trading post in the wilderness. With the Outdoor Adventure Center staff we’ll explore how the abundant natural resources of the Detroit River shaped our local history and discover the roles of Native Americans and the French voyageurs during the era of the fur trade here in Michigan and the Great Lakes. Audience participation will be a big part of this presentation!

Meadowbrook Theatre Show—Blues in the Night
Rochester | Wed, Mar 1 | Leave Orion Center at 1 pm, show starts at 2 pm | $18R/$36NR
Using music from great artists such as Bessie Smith, Duke Ellington, Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen this musical tells of the sweet, sexy and sorrowful experiences three women have with the lying, cheating, snake-of-a-man who wrongs them. The soul of the blues wails out full and strong with songs such as “I Gotta Right To Sing the Blues”, “When a Woman Loves a Man”, and “I’ve Got A Date With A Dream”, that are sure to bring down the house.

SILVER SNEAKERS

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

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

EXERCISE ROOM AT THE ORION CENTER (50+)
Orion Center | $6R/$12NR Monthly
Mon & Thu | 8:30 am–7 pm | Tue, Wed, Fri | 8:30 am–4 pm
The Exercise Room at the Orion Center provides an opportunity for those age 50+ to enhance their health and wellness. You must have a current membership to use this room. Interested in an Exercise Room Membership? Please call 248–391–0304 x3500 and a staff member will guide you through the registration process.
Oakland Audubon Society

You can participate in a Christmas Bird Count

Field observers and feeder watchers are needed for December 17th event.

The Oakland Audubon Society is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting birds and the places where they live. The Audubon Society was established over one hundred years ago in response to the unregulated taking of birds for fashion, sport, market hunting and predator control. Birds are essential to healthy ecosystems. Oakland Audubon celebrates birds during field trips, programs, educational outreach, and community science participation. Oakland Audubon is a chapter of Michigan Audubon and National Audubon Great Lakes. Oakland Audubon is supported by memberships and donations.

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) began in 1899. A holiday tradition then known as side hunts happened at Christmas. Hunters took to the fields and forests to shoot everything they encountered. Frank Chapman, ornithologist, proposed a new tradition to count birds instead. This was the first CBC. Today hundreds of counts take place across the country led by thousands of volunteers. The decline of birds was a concern in 1900 and continues today.

CBCs inform bird conservation and science. OAS’s count area includes several communities in northern Oakland County and is centered in Lake Orion. CBC takes place in defined area (See Map). Observers spend the day in the count area recording birds.

The OAS count will be held on Saturday, December 17th this year. OAS is seeking field observers and feeder watchers. Residents within the count area with bird feeders are welcome to participate from home as feeder watchers. A young birders count will take place at WM’s Eagle Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility. Like its namesake, Bald Eagles have been seen. Thank you to Kathleen Klein, WM Community Relations Representative, for making this tour possible.

Anyone can participate in the CBC. You do not need to be an expert. It is a wonderful way to learn about birds with Oakland Audubon field trip leaders. It is a chance to see winter and get some exercise. Spend some time in nature and see some great birds while helping conservation!

If you would like to participate in the Christmas Bird Count, email Jeff Stacey at jdstacey@ameritech.net. To register for the young birders count, visit oaklandaudubon.org/young-birders. Registration is limited. Learn more about the Oakland Audubon Society at oaklandaudubon.org.

Photos courtesy of Oakland Audubon and Kathleen Dougherty
DECEMBER

1–31  DDA Hometown Holidays Shopping Passport

1  Blood Drive, Orion Center, 2–7 pm

1–23  Orion Art Center Holiday Market, Orion Art Center, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 11 am–7 pm

2  Hometown Holidays Horse & Carriage Rides

2–3  Downtown Trolley Express

3  Lions Club Vision Screening, Orion Library, 10 am–12 pm

3  Orion Lighted Christmas Parade, Downtown LO, 6 pm

5  Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm

7  Basic Tech Help for Seniors, Orion Center, 10:30 am–12:30 pm

8  Made in the Mitten Pop Up Market, Orion Center, 3–7 pm

8  Red Cross Blood Drive, Orion Library, 10:30 am–4:30 pm

8  High School Parent/Teacher Conferences

9–10  Hometown Holidays Horse & Carriage Rides, Downtown Trolley Express

9  Senior Social Hour, Orion Center, 11 am–12 pm

10  Breakfast with the Grinch, Orion Center, times vary, registration required

10  Winter Workshop, Orion Library, 11 am–1 pm

12  Teen Cookie Decorating Evening, Orion Center, 6–8:30 pm registration required

13  Michigan Works, Orion Library, 10 am–12:30 pm

14  Basic Tech Help for Seniors, Orion Center, 10:30 am–12:30 pm

16–17  Hometown Holidays Horse & Carriage Rides, Downtown Trolley Express

18  Snow Dash 5K, Orion Center, 9 am

19  Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm

20  Light Up Orion, Parks & Rec Facebook Page, final voting

21  Basic Tech Help for Seniors, Orion Center, 10:30 am–12:30 pm

21  Elementary, Middle School half day, last day before holiday break

22–Jan 3  All schools closed for holiday break

23–24  Hometown Holidays Horse & Carriage Rides, Downtown Trolley Express

23–26  Library closed

24  Orion Library Lego Design Competition, online registration opens

24  Christmas Eve

25  Christmas Day

26  Snow Sculpture online registration opens

28  Winter Break Family Bingo, Orion Center, 1–3 pm

28  Basic Tech Help for Seniors, Orion Center, 10:30 am–12:30 pm

28  Bub Balloona Chicks Bubble Show Magic, Orion Center, 6–7 pm registration required

30–Jan 2  Library closed

31  New Year’s Eve
JANUARY

1 New Year’s Day
1 Youth Spring Leagues Registration Opens, Orion Center
1 Resolution Run
1–29 DDA Local Lens Photo Contest
3 Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7pm
3 Movie Lock-In, Orion Center, 10 am–3 pm
4 All schools resume classes following holiday break
7 Lions Club Vision Screening, Orion Library, 10 am–12 pm
16 No school, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
17 Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7pm
17–21 Friends Winter Gently Used Book Sale, Orion Library, times vary
19 Game Day & Puzzle Swap, Orion Center, 9 am–6 pm
23 High School half day
24 Elementary, Middle, High School half day, end of semester
25 Boblo Boats: A Detroit Ferry Tale, Orion Library, 7–8:30 pm
26 Journaling Workshop, Orion Library, 6:30–7:30 pm
27 Coffee with Chris, Township Hall, 9:30 am
30 Dark Side of the Mitten, Orion Library, 7–8:30 pm

FEBRUARY

1 Picture This Scavenger Hunt, Parks & Rec Facebook Page
1–28 Lake Orion & Oxford #StrongerTogether IceFest
2 Live Ice Sculpting, Downtown LO, 5–8 pm
4 LO Sunrise Rotary Ice Cup Challenge
4 Modern Self–Defense, Orion Library, 2–3:30 pm
6 Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7pm
6–10 ONTV 13th Annual FISH Food Drive, ONTV Studios
9 Live Ice Sculpting, Downtown LO, 5–8 pm
10 Senior Social Hour, Orion Center, 11 am–12 pm
11 Youth Leagues Walk–In Registration, Orion Center, 10 am–2 pm
11 Beginning Ukulele for Adults, Orion Library, 11 am–12:30 pm registration required
13 TR Dance, Orion Center, 6–8 pm, registration required
14 Valentine’s Day
16 Live Ice Sculpting, Downtown LO, 5–8 pm
17 After Hours Teen Glo Bingo, Orion Library, 5–8 pm ages 12–17, registration required
20–26 Lake Orion & Oxford #StrongerTogether Restaurant Week
20–21 No School, mid–winter break
21 Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7pm
21 Duct Tape Sled Race and Sledding & S’mores, Jesse Decker Park, 1–3 pm
21 Watercolor Art Fun, Orion Library, 2 pm grades K–5
23 Live Ice Sculpting, Downtown LO, 5–8 pm

Background photo by David Watts

March 3 Modern Women’s Self–Defense Seminar, Municipal Complex, 6–7:30 pm registration required
6 Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7pm
13 Youth Spring Leagues Registration Deadline
23 Bingo, Booze, and Books, Ignite Tavern, 6–8:30 pm registration required
24 Coffee with Chris, Township Hall, 9:30 am
27 Youth Spring Leagues Early Bird Discount Deadline
Impact Award Winners 2022

Celebrating our community’s best

The Orion Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the winners of the 2022 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 Jimmy Johnson. Jimmy is the owner of Graphic Takeover and the creative mind behind the “Where Living is a Vacation” website. Jimmy is highly engaged with the Chamber as a member of the Board of Directors and Ambassador committee. He volunteers his time towards awareness of Orion’s history through his “Where Living is a Vacation” website. He assisted the Orion Township America in Bloom committee in welcoming the judges, lending his expertise on the historical buildings located at Friendship Park. Jimmy is also involved in the Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary group.

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

Community Beautification Award

The Community Beautification Award goes to the Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary Club. This year the Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary began what will be an ongoing project by establishing a pollination park along the Polly Ann Trail. Not only is this having the immediate impact of attracting and supporting pollinators, key components to our local ecosystems, that project has also become an inspiration to other regional Rotary clubs who are all tasked with develop an environment-focused project for 2022 and beyond.

“This year’s Community Beautification Award is sponsored by Beaumont.”

Economic Impact Award

The Economic Impact Award goes to the General Motors Orion Assembly Plant. GM recently announced an investment of $4 billion to upgrade the existing facility to build the new Chevy Silverado EV. The expansion is expected to create more than 2,350 new jobs at Orion and retain approximately 1,000 current jobs. GM’s investment in the community adds vibrancy to Orion as smaller businesses will benefit from the investment as more people come to Orion to work or visit the plant.

“This year’s Economic Impact Award is sponsored by Caliber Home Loans.”

Entrepreneur of the Year

The Entrepreneur of the Year award goes to Rachel West, owner of Mālie Therapeutic. Rachel started her business towards the end of 2020, a risky time to start a small business. However, through perseverance and ambition, she expanded beyond her initial room in a salon to a co-space in another salon and finally to her own space in 2021. Rachel started as a one-person business, but in two years she has now tripled her staff.

“This year’s Entrepreneur of the Year Award is sponsored by Red Oak Refillery.”
Youth Impact Award

The Youth Impact Award goes to Detective Jen Eriksen of the Oakland County Sheriff Orion Substation. Jen serves as Lake Orion Community Schools School Resource Officer (SRO) at all three of the district middle schools and works tirelessly to support students both in and out of school buildings. Her advocacy for youth health and safety is evident in the many ways she goes above and beyond to create and present social media programs, vape education, and more to the student population in Lake Orion. Jen serves as a Board Member for the North Oakland Community Coalition where she not only helps to provide educational opportunities for youth and parents, but also helps guide coalition strategy through needs assessments, data sharing, and more. Jen has a huge heart for the youth in Lake Orion that pushes her to do her very best to protect the children we know and love on a daily basis. Her job is not easy. She regularly deals with tough situations, and she always does it with compassion and a mamma bear mentality to ensure our children remain safe from predators. Our kids are very fortunate to have Jen Eriksen in their corner. We as a community are fortunate that Jen Eriksen calls Lake Orion home.

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

The Impact Awards Ceremony takes place at Paint Creek Country Club on Thursday, December 1 and is presented by Michigan United Credit Union. To purchase tickets to attend contact the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce at 248–693–6300.
Chamber Ribbon Cuttings.
Ribbon-cuttings are an exciting way to welcome new Chamber members, announce a Grand Opening or celebrate a business milestone. To promote your ribbon-cutting, we announce it in our newsletters and on social media. Our Board of Directors and Ambassadors will be there to help you celebrate as you cut the green ribbon with our big red scissors.

Coldwell Banker Professionals

Treva Corp.

The Collective

M&B Graphics

America in Bloom and Orion Township
Meet the new Executive Director!

From desert to lake
Donaldson brings her leadership and experience from California back to Orion

After months of extensive searching, the Board of Directors is pleased to introduce Joyce Donaldson as the new Executive Director!

Joyce Donaldson, IOM brings over 18 years of professional Chamber leadership experience into her new role at the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce.

Donaldson began her Chamber career at the Romeo–Washington Chamber of Commerce in Michigan. She served as Executive Director for nearly seven years before moving to the Coachella Valley in California. Donaldson served as the President and CEO of the Indio Chamber of Commerce for five years and achieved Four–Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce following three years of aggressive development and implementation of an all-inclusive strategic plan. Surpassing national industry best practices, the Accreditation recognition placed the Indio Chamber in the top three percent nationwide—one of 150 out of nearly 7,000 Chamber’s in the country. Most recently, Donaldson served as the President and CEO of the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce for five years and then as Chief Operating Officer of the newly merged Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber, from Goleta to Carpinteria.

Joyce Donaldson holds an Associate’s Degree from Macomb Community College and throughout her career, she has continued her professional education to stay abreast of current chamber trends and best practices. She is a graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute of Organization Management (IOM) and a graduate of the California Western Association of Chamber Executive Academy. Donaldson is also a graduate of both Leadership Macomb, MI and Leadership Coachella Valley, CA programs.

With her vast Chamber experience and education, Donaldson has a proven history of enhancing operations, bolstering financial stability, heightening visibility, and strengthening community and government relationships. She looks forward to utilizing her skill set to bring even greater growth and prosperity to the Orion community in the future.

Donaldson is originally from Shelby Township, Michigan and raised her family in Washington Township before following her two sons to the West Coast fifteen years ago. She is honored and excited to accept the leadership position at the Orion Area Chamber and once again be near her family and life-long friends, many of which live and work in the Lake Orion and nearby communities.

Joyce is looking forward to resuming her Euchre game, hiking the tree-lined trails, learning to play golf, and smelling the scent of fresh cut grass in Lake Orion.

Great Lakes Ace Hardware
Ambassador Spotlights

We asked our Ambassadors about their role in the Chamber and what they love about working in the Orion area.

**Melisa Counelis, Farm Bureau Counelis Agency**

Why do you LOVE being an OACC member? I have been a member for five years now. I love the community, the drive of the businesses, and the kindness from others. Loving that Orion is ahead of the game with forming new groups to expand ways for folks to get the most out of membership. The focus on women businesses is a huge one for myself being that it is focused on struggles and accomplishments I can relate to.

What do you love most about Lake Orion? Great place to have a family. There are parks, amazing food, places to walk, water to boat and swim...there is always something for a family to do together here.

**Cory Thompson, Red Oak Refillery**

Why do you LOVE being an OACC member? The Orion Area Chamber of Commerce is a growing and supportive community. The connections I have been able to make so far as a member have been countless and meaningful for my business and personal growth. It truly rings true here that the more you put into the chamber, the more you get out of it.

What do you love most about Lake Orion? This is a hard question to nail down. I do not live in Lake Orion, but my children attend the schools and since I have become a business owner here and joined the chamber, I feel like I have been adopted and belong as a member of this community. I think my favorite thing is the amount and quality of natural beauty here. It truly does feel like living is a vacation!

### New Members in 2022

*(up to mid October)*

**ELITE MEMBERS**

- Moceri Companies
- Nosh N Posh Picnics LLC
- Rocket Mortgage

**PREMIER MEMBERS**

- All Dry Services of Northern Metro Detroit
- Keri Sorenson Real Estate Team
- Live Orion Entertainment

**BUSINESS BASIC MEMBERS**

- Ace Handyman Services
- Aesthetic Theory Medspa
- AStar Convenience
- Bad Dog Woodshop
- Betcher Financial—Andrew Charbonneau
- Better Business Bureau Serving Easter Michigan
- Blossom Ridge Inspired Senior Living
- Blossom Springs Assisted Living & Memory Care

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

- Donni Steele for State Representative
- Maurice Nolin
Our Elite, Premium and Signature Members

**ELITE MEMBERS**

- **Ascension Providence Rochester**
  Rochester Hospital
  1101 W. University Dr.
  Rochester, MI 48307

- **Caliber Home Loans**
  92 Mill Street
  Rochester, MI 48307

- **Capocore Professional Advisors**
  46 W. Shadbolt, Ste. A
  Lake Orion, MI 48362

- **Cookies & Cream by Sprout Bake**
  20 Front Street
  Lake Orion, MI 48362

- **Culver’s**
  4963 Interpark Drive N.
  Lake Orion, MI 48359

- **Golling Buick GMC**
  1491 S. Lapeer Road
  Lake Orion, MI 48360

**PREMIER MEMBERS**

- **Haney Farm Bureau**
  Haney Farm Bureau
  18 S Broadway, Ste. 100
  Lake Orion, MI 48362

- **Michigan United Credit Union**
  350 N. Park Blvd.
  Lake Orion, MI 48362

- **Moceri Companies**
  3005 University Dr
  Auburn Hills, MI 48326

**SIGNATURE MEMBERS**

- **Nosh N Posh Picnics LLC**
  Lake Orion, MI 48359

- **Paint Creek Country Club**
  2375 Stanton Road
  Lake Orion, MI 48362

- **Rocket Mortgage**
  Lake Orion, MI 48362

- **The Hoffman Agency**
  3079 S Baldwin, #222
  Lake Orion, MI 48359
From the Director

We have lots to offer this winter

It’s that time of year again: the crisp, cool fall weather is giving way to the familiar chill of winter. Some of us look forward to a pleasant, cold winter, while some long for warm summer days that seem to stretch on forever. Love it or hate it, we certainly live in a Water–Winter Wonderland. Regardless of how you feel about the cold, the good news is that we have plenty of activities and resources to keep you entertained at the Orion Township Public Library.

Inside this issue you can learn about a variety of great things we offer. Back by popular demand is our Winter Workshop, which offers something for all ages. You can learn about our inaugural art contest in partnership with the Orion Art Center. Discover some of the cool new tools available in the Makerspace, and our tool-lending library, available to check out and take home. The tool-lending library is part of More than Books, which continues to grow with each unique collection.

Were you too busy to keep up with all the fantastic books that came out this year? Check out several lists by our librarians with the best books of 2022. Log those titles into the Beanstack app and participate in one of our online reading challenges.

Finally, I want to remind you that the Orion Township Public Library is fine free! If the holidays have you stressed about money, fear not. You won’t be charged late fees for OTPL materials you return after their initial due dates. When you’re looking for something to do to get you out of the house this winter, look no further than your Orion Township Public Library!

Happy to be a Family Place Library!

When OTPL hosts Family Place Free Play in early and mid–February 2023, it will be fulfilling just one component of its dedication to families with young children. As a Family Place Library, we are committed to creating a culture that intentionally and actively supports those parents and caregivers with kids ages 0–5. Along with programs like Free Play, Family Place Libraries feature trained staff, expressly designed spaces, and special collections. These libraries also offer outreach to new and underserved families, foster collaboration and partnerships with health, education, and human services agencies, and provide parent–child workshops to the community. Through its designation as a Family Place Library, OTPL continues its pledge to help young learners succeed while supporting and educating their families.

To learn more about Family Place Libraries, please visit familyplacelibraries.org/what-family-place-library.

Red Cross Blood Drives

Be a lifesaver! Donate blood at the Orion Library. Appointments encouraged at redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: orionlibrary. Interested donors may also call 1–800–RED–CROSS (1–800–733–2767) or they may contact Lori Morris directly to schedule an appointment at 248–693–3000 ext. 435.

December 8, 2022
March 29, 2023
June 14, 2023
October 5, 2023
December 7, 2023

Vision Screening

Lake Orion Lions Club

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

Saturday, December 3 | 10am–12pm
Saturday, January 7 | 10am–12pm
Saturday, February 4 | 10am–12pm

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

Holiday Closing: Fri–Mon, Dec 23–26
Holiday Closing: Fri–Sat, Dec 30–31, Sun–Mon, Jan 1–2

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

MAKERSPACE

Cricut: Pencil Pouches
Sat, Jan 14 | 2 pm and 3:30 pm
Register online
Learn to create a custom pencil pouch with the Cricut and heat transfers.

Formbox: Chocolate Molds
Sat, Feb 11 | 2 pm and 3:30 pm
Register online
Make custom molds and chocolates from everyday objects with our Formbox vacuum former.

Makerspace Office Hours
Thursdays | Dec 8, Jan 12, Feb 9 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-serve basis.

Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group
Tuesdays | Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 14 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.

Orion Historical Society
Mondays | Jan 9, Feb 13 | 7 pm
No December meeting
Come to an OHS meeting to learn about our township’s history and work on projects to preserve the past. Newcomers are always welcome!

The Write Stuff Writer’s Workshop
Wednesdays | Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8 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.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Dine, Drink & Discuss @ Ignite Tavern
Mondays | 7 pm
Dec 19: Bring your favorite read of 2022
Jan 16: Leave It As It Is: A Journey through Theodore Roosevelt’s American Wilderness by David Gessner
Feb 20: Lady in the Lake by Laura Lippman

Thursday Book Club
Thursdays | 1:30 pm
December 15: Bring your favorite read of 2022
January 19: The Light Years by Elizabeth Jane Howard
February 16: River of the Gods by Candice Millard

Cook the Book
Tue, Dec 6 | 7 pm: J ew–ish by Jake Cohen or Jerusalem by Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi
Mon, Feb 6 | 7 pm: The Snowy Cabin Cookbook by Marnie Hanel and Jen Stevenson
Select and prepare a recipe from the cookbook chosen, then meet to sample and discuss recipes! Call 248–693–3001 if you need assistance acquiring a cookbook.

Michigan Works @ Your Library
Tuesdays | Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 14 10 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 local resources, Department of Health & Human Services, and much more.

Book Bunch @ Orion Center
Wednesdays | 1 pm
Dec 14: The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See
Jan 11: Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan
Feb 8: The Good People by Hannah Kent

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

Winter 2023 | Orion Living
Starbucks Coffee Tasting: Holiday Coffees
Sat, Dec 3 | 10:30 am
Join us at Starbucks at 590 S. Lapeer Rd. in Lake Orion to learn about coffee from trained baristas. Taste an assortment of Starbucks holiday coffees, get recommendations for food pairings, and learn about the different roasting and brewing processes.

Winter Workshop
Sat, Dec 10 | 10 am
Drop in to our open house to celebrate the start of winter! Activities include fun photo ops, games, and crafts for all ages. Hot chocolate and snacks provided.

Dark Side of the Mitten Author Presentation
Mon, Jan 30 | 7 pm
Join Michigan true crime author Tom Carr as he narrates tales of murder, robbery, and mayhem in the Great Lakes State and discusses his latest book, Dark Side of the Mitten: Crimes of Power & Powerful Criminals in Michigan’s Past & Present. Delivered with humor and historical context, his stories include crimes of passion, greed, insanity and just plain awfulness. Carr is an award-winning reporter and columnist who worked at newspapers in Michigan for more than 25 years.

Boblo Boats: A Detroit Ferry Tale
Wed, Jan 25 | 7 pm
The library is excited to welcome Aaron Schillinger, writer, director, and editor of the award-winning documentary Boblo Boats: A Detroit Ferry Tale for a presentation about Boblo Island and the two majestic steamships, the SS Columbia and the Ste Claire, that transported thousands for more than 85 years.

Journaling Workshop
Thu, Jan 26 | 6:30 pm
Join Professor Danielle DeFauw from the University of Michigan College of Education and learn about different techniques and best practices for journaling.

Tales and Travels Memory Café: Let’s Visit Canada
Wed, Feb 1 | 1:30 pm
Memory Cafés provide services directly to people diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias and their caregivers. Each program takes participants on an imaginary trip to another country and includes books, music, folktales, and interesting facts about the destination.

Modern Self–Defense
Sat, Feb 4 | 2 pm | Register online
Andrea Moon, fourth degree Black Belt, will present a self–defense seminar here at OTPL. Participants will learn a variety of self–defense techniques, practice evasion, and gain improved awareness of their surroundings to help avoid being a victim. Please wear comfortable clothes. Appropriate for teens and adults.

February Magazine Purge
Sat, Feb 11 | 9:30 am–4 pm
All 2022 weekly magazines and all 2021 monthly magazines will be available to choose from. You may take as many as you like free of charge.

Beginning Ukulele for Adults & Seniors
Sat, Feb 11 | 11 am
Register online
Learn to play the ukulele with Michigan’s Ukulele Ambassador Ben Hassenger! Ben will teach you the basics of the uke, including history, tuning, beginning chords, and favorite songs to get you chording and strumming. Bring your own instrument or borrow one of our loaners. Sponsored by Music is the Foundation 501(c)(3)

Bingo, Booze, and Books
Thu, Feb 23 | 6 pm | Register online
Join the library staff at Ignite Tavern, 1065 S. Baldwin Rd. in Lake Orion, for an evening of bingo, dinner, drinks, and book prizes. This event is free to attend with registration, but attendees purchase their own food and drinks.

Make a plastic mold with the Mayku Formbox!
Our collection of Makerspace equipment continues to grow with the recent addition of the Mayku Formbox! The Formbox is a tabletop vacuum forming machine used to make molds for a variety of projects. In a few quick and easy steps, you can make plastic molds of everyday objects and use them for creative projects like clay, chocolate, soap making, candle making, and more!

The Formbox plastic sheets are available for purchase for $1 at the adult reference desk. Check out OrionLibrary.org/Makerspace to make a reservation or request training on any of our makerspace equipment.
**OUTREACH**

**Home Delivery Services**
If you or someone you know is physically unable to 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 so we can introduce you to new favorites. Material is delivered by car or through our Books by Mail program.

**English Language Learning Conversation Group (ELL)**
Wednesday | 10:30 am | No meeting Dec 28
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.

**Geri–Fit Exercise Program for Seniors**
Tuesdays | Jan 24–Feb 28 | 10:30 am | Register online
Have fun with others while exercising in a chair with weights. Following videos and led by a trained coach, Geri–Fit classes combine strength and balance training to rebuild muscle that’s been lost through the aging process. Registration required, register for the first session only.

**Special Needs Adult Programming (SNAP)**
Mon, Feb 13 | 12:30 pm
Adults with special needs and their caregivers can join us for stories, songs, movement, and activities.

**Orion Center Library Branch**
Our Orion Center Branch is designed for those, such as seniors, who prefer a slower pace and smaller venue. Located in the Orion Center at 1335 Joslyn Rd., large print books, audiobooks, movies, put-and-take paperbacks, puzzles, and magazines, as well as computers and a printer, are all available.

**Basic Tech Help for Seniors @ the Orion Center Branch Library**
Wednesday | 10:30 am–12:30 pm | By appointment
Make an appointment at the Orion Center Branch Library by calling 248–693–6840. Bring your device or use our computer, and our Branch Associate Kurt can troubleshoot basic technology questions and needs. No grandchild needed!

---

**50 Books in 52 Weeks**
50 Books in 52 Weeks at OTPL is back! Track your reading by completing specific challenges and activities to win badges and entries into prize drawings all year long.

**Senior Social Hour @ the Orion Center Branch Library**
Fridays | Dec 9, Jan 13 and 27, Feb 10 and 24 | 11 am
No meeting Dec 23
Join us the 2nd and 4th Fridays of most months for a chance to get out and socialize. Each week will feature a different topic so that participants can enjoy the company of other seniors!

**Honor a Library lover**
One of Lake Orion’s not-so-hidden gems is the Library’s Reading Garden. Nestled in our tree-lined backyard, this area offers an outdoor space for reading, quiet reflection, or even a meal, alone or with friends, for patrons as well as those walking the Polly Ann Trail. Our gardening angels—the volunteers who help maintain our front and back flower beds—often decorate the garden according to season, all while maintaining its many regional plantings. The Reading Garden truly is a one of our township’s most beautiful public resources.

While the garden has many unique features, one element tells a story about our community every day of the year, whatever the hour or season: our stepping stones. From recognizing the joy of reading bestowed by cherished grandparents to celebrating a dedicated member of the Friends of the Orion Township Library, each marker is an anecdote of and a tribute to those who appreciate our library. What better way to honor the OTPL enthusiast in your life than with an engraved stone in a distinctive community locale? Proceeds from the purchase of personalized stones benefits OTPL and gives everyone who visits the Reading Garden a tiny tale of the support that Lake Orion has for its library and those who love it.

To order a stone, please visit orionlibrary.org/donations.
**Best Books of 2022**

**Biography/Memoir:** *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey. Actor Matthew McConaughey used thirty-five years’ worth of journal entries and photographs to produce this memoir. These experiences helped create his positive outlook and taught him how to “catch more green lights” in life.

**Fantasy:** *Dragons of Deceit* by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman. The Dragonlance series returns with its first new novel since 2009. After the death of her father and the loss of her kingdom, a young princess discovers a time travel device that can change her fate. However, in her search, she gets wrapped up with a certain familiar group of adventurers who tend to attract trouble.

**Fiction:** *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby VanPelt. In this unusual story, a grieving widow (whose son went missing 30 years ago) works at an aquarium and befriends an octopus name Marcellus. Often told from the octopus’ point of view, the two work alongside another aquarium employee to help find their places in the world and closure to their grief.

**Graphic Novel:** *Lore Olympus* by Rachel Smythe. This lushly drawn graphic novel, based on the long running web comic, is a retelling of the story of the Greek gods Persephone and Hades. The moody and stylish story will appeal to fans of romance and Greek mythology.

**Horror:** *Devil House* by John Darnielle. Written by the lead singer of the folk band The Mountain Goats, this book follows a true crime author as he receives the chance of a lifetime to move into a house where two gruesome murders took place in the 1980s. After moving in, his research leads him down a twisted rabbit hole of secrets.

**Historical Fiction:** *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson. Two brothers inherit a Caribbean Black Cake from their recently deceased mother along with an audio recording that alters their view of family history. Their mother’s story crosses decades and oceans from England, to the Caribbean, and finally to California.

**History:** *River of the Gods* by Candice Miller. In the 19th century, an expedition of the Royal Geographical Society headed by Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke set out to discover the source of the Nile. Though the “discovery” and naming of Lake Victoria is credited to Speke, this book focuses attention on the true leader, the former slave Sidi Mubarak Bombay, who received little credit for his work.

**Mystery:** *The It Girl* by Ruth Ware. When the convicted murderer of a wealthy young ingenue dies in prison, the news reaches her group of Oxford University friends, who begin having doubts about his guilt. Her best friend digs up details of the past and uncovers shocking facts about her friends, family, and life that complicate the puzzling events of the murder.

**Romance 2022: The Year of Colleen Hoover.** Colleen Hoover has been a successful published author since 2011, but her popularity soared in 2022 because of BookTik. Her work is primarily romance, though she delves into other genres as well. While most books top the best seller lists in the first few months after publication, several of Hoover’s books reached Top 10 lists simultaneously this year. Notable books include: *It Ends with Us*, *Verity*, and *Ugly Love*.

**Sci-Fi:** *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel. In 1912 a young man experiences a supernatural event in the Canadian wilderness. Centuries later, a touring author who lives on the moon experiences a similar phenomenon while the earth is being ravaged by a deadly virus. Even farther into the future, a detective investigates incidents that show an undue effect throughout time.

**Embrace digital resources**

With holiday and weather-related closures in mind, OTPL would like to tout our digital resources, which are accessible whatever the date or weather. By using your library card, streaming and downloadable content is available in a variety of formats 24/7. Hoopla offers everything from music to comic books. Kanopy is a movie buff’s dream, highlighting 30K+ films, including festival favorites and documentaries. Using Libby, access eBooks, audiobooks, and eMagazines, the latter of which don’t count toward the service’s 10-title limit. Learn more about OTPL digital resources at orionlibrary.org/downloads.

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

The Orion Township Public Library and Orion Art Center are pleased to announce

The Art of Storytelling

To foster a creative community partnership through art and literature, and to promote OTPL’s Makerspace, artists are invited to submit artwork inspired by Silvia Moreno-Garcia’s novel Mexican Gothic.

Cash prizes for First, Second, and Third Place Winners

Two qualifications to enter:

- All work submitted must be in a medium capable of being displayed in both the OTPL lobby and the Orion Art Center gallery
- The finished piece must incorporate at least one element created using equipment from the OTPL Makerspace

Entry Fee: $30

One entry per person

Submission deadline: December 29, 2022 at 5 pm
Accepted artists will be notified beginning January 6, 2023

For more information or to apply and submit photos of your work, please visit orionartcenter.org. Have questions? Please call Dan Major at 248–693–3001.
JUST FOR TEENS
Teen programming supplies based on a first-come first-serve basis for patrons in attendance.

Teen Tuesday
Tuesdays | 6:30–8 pm | No meeting Dec 13 or Feb 28
Teen Tuesday is a casual hang out for teens who enjoy anything from video games, board and card games, D&D, 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!

Winter Workshop Cookie Decorating
Sat, Dec 10 | 11 am
Choose from a variety of toppings to decorate a holiday cookie.

Teen Writers Group
Tue, Dec 13 and Feb 28 | 7–8 pm
Whether you write short stories, poetry, or nonfiction, join the Teen Writers Group to implement writing practices to perfect your passion and collaborate with other young aspiring writers to share ideas and receive feedback from one another.

Glitter Magnet Board
Sat, Jan 28 | 2–3 pm
Grab some friends and join OTPL for a fun afternoon of crafting. We are making magnetic boards with magnets to showcase your most treasured items!

SAT/ACT Prep Class
Tue, Feb 7 | 6:30–8 pm
Parents and students, get ready for test day! If it's your turn to take the SAT or ACT, let OTPL 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!

After Hours Glo Bingo
Fri, Feb 17 | 5–8 pm | Register online
Join OTPL after hours for Glo Bingo and other shenanigans. Please dress in your best glowing apparel—think bright white or neon colors—and you'll be all set to glow. This is an after-hours event requiring registration. Pizza and pop will be provided. Please email the teen librarian with any allergies related to the pizza at shalsey@orionlibrary.org.

Young Adult Favorites of 2022

Fantasy: This Woven Kingdom by Tahereh Mafi. Alizeh, the heir to an ancient Jinn kingdom, has been posing as a servant for years. When the king dies, the crown prince Kamran doesn’t expect to have any rivals to the throne, despite the prophecies he and his father have long ignored. But he soon realizes how wrong he was when Alizeh shakes up the status quo of not only the kingdom but also the world at large.

Romantic Comedy: Sunny G’s Series of Rash Decisions by Navdeep Singn Dhillon. When Sunny G’s brother died, he left Sunny a notebook that he’s now determined to fill with adventures. First up, the Sikh teen decides to stop wearing his turban and to shave his beard. Then he decides to skip his fandom party plans in favor of going to the prom alone. It’s here that he meets Mindii Vang, a girl who is ready to make some rash decisions of her own—including stealing Sunny’s notebook and leaving him with no choice but to follow her as they embark on an adventure they’ll never forget.

Realistic Fiction: All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir. Beginning with the story of Salahudin’s parents’ journey from Pakistan...
to the U.S. and continuing into the modern day when Salahudin is trying to keep his family’s motel afloat, this powerful novel tackles everything from systemic racism to the fragile bonds of friendship.

**Dark Fantasy: Gallant by V.E. Schwab.** After spending years at the Merilance School for Girls, Olivia Prior is invited to return to the gothic manor known as Gallant. Upon her arrival, she quickly realizes something isn’t quite right at home. The sprawling manor sits at the intersection of two worlds with the darker world beckoning Olivia. Now she must decide whether she should fight against the dark forces or give in and join them.

**Comedy: I Kissed Shara Wheeler by Casey McQuiston.** On a furious hunt for answers, Chloe discovers she’s not the only one Shara kissed. There’s also Smith, Shara’s longtime quarterback sweetheart, and Rory, Shara’s bad boy neighbor with a crush. The three have nothing in common except Shara and the annoyingly cryptic notes she left behind, but together they must untangle Shara’s trail of clues and find her.

**Historical Fiction: Anatomy by Dana Schwartz.** Hazel Sinnett is a lady who wants to be a surgeon more than she wants to marry. Jack Currer is a resurrection man who’s just trying to survive in a city where it’s too easy to die. When the two of them have a chance encounter outside the Edinburgh Anatomist’s Society, Hazel thinks nothing of it at first. But after she gets kicked out of renowned surgeon Dr. Beecham’s lectures for being the wrong gender, she realizes that her new acquaintance might be more helpful than she first thought.

**Mystery/Thriller: The Red Palace by June Hur.** Korea, 1758. There are few options available to illegitimate daughters in the capital city, but through hard work and study, 18-year-old Hyeon has earned a position as a palace nurse. But Hyeon is suddenly thrust into the dark and dangerous world of court politics when someone murders four women in a single night, and the prime suspect is Hyeon’s closest friend and mentor.

**Graphic Novel: The Girl from the Sea by Molly Knox Ostertag.** Fifteen-year-old Morgan has a secret: She can’t wait to escape the perfect little island where she lives. Morgan’s biggest secret is that she has a lot of secrets, including the one about wanting to kiss another girl. Then one night, Morgan is saved from drowning by a mysterious girl named Keltie. The two become friends and suddenly life on the island doesn’t seem so stifling anymore. But Keltie has some secrets of her own.

Fulfill your Service-Learning hours at OTPL!

Lake Orion is a great community for countless reasons, but one of the most apparent explanations for its awesomeness is the way in which we care for one another. That concern is woven into the fabric of our town, so much so that, to earn a high school diploma, all Lake Orion High School students must complete a set number of service-learning hours before graduation.

Orion Township Public Library, a location approved by Lake Orion Community Schools, has a variety of volunteer opportunities for students at all grade levels. OTPL is an excellent spot to fulfill your hours, not only because it offers a wide array of sanctioned activities in which help is needed, but because its seven-days-a-week schedule allows for evening and weekend volunteering. Whether helping with perennial events such as Winter Workshop, lending a hand at family-friendly Saturday workshops like Build Your Own Toys and Lunar New Year Crafts or assisting K-2nd graders gain reading confidence as a Book Buddy, the hours spent here at OTPL will absolutely teach students “how to interact in real life settings using the skills and knowledge learned in the classroom.”

Our Volunteer Coordinator Lori Morris has a magnet in her office that reads, “There’s a little bit of magic in everything,” a sentiment which applies so well to our LOHS volunteers. Not only do they help us make our magic happen, but they’re also magic, transitioning “from the dependency of childhood to the status of independent, caring adult” by providing service to others.

To learn more about how Lake Orion High School students can fulfill the mandatory 20 hours of service learning here at OTPL, visit [orionlibrary.org/volunteers](http://orionlibrary.org/volunteers). To see what volunteer opportunities are currently available at OTPL and at other approved locations, visit [lakeorionschools.org/high-school-home/career-center/service-hours](http://lakeorionschools.org/high-school-home/career-center/service-hours).
ORION TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

44
Orion Living | Winter 2023

YOUTH SERVICES

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

If schools are closed due to inclement weather, Youth library programs are canceled.

Winter Workshop
Sat, Dec 11 | 11 am
Drop in to our open house to celebrate the start of winter! Activities include fun photo ops, games, and crafts for all ages. Hot chocolate and snacks provided.

Youth and Teen Winter Read 2023: All the Feels Bingo!
Dec 21-Jan 31 | PreK-12th grade
‘Tis the season for all the feels! Grab a blanket, your fluffy socks, and your favorite warm drink or snack! Hop into a reading nook and sink into a good book. Using the Beanstack app, play All the Feels Winter Reading Bingo for prizes, free books, stickers, and other fun stuff. Beanstack is new to OTPL so a new account may need to be created.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

WINTER BREAK WEEK

Doug Scheer’s Wacky Science Show
Tues, Dec 27 | 11 am
All Ages
Join professional funny man Doug Scheer as he leads the audience in zany science experiments and hilarious fun!

Formbox Bath Fizzer Molds
Wed, Dec 28 | 2 pm | All Ages
Register online
Learn how to use our new Formbox from the Makerspace to create custom molds for homemade bath fizzers for the whole family.

Crafternoon Fun
Thu, Dec 29 | 2 pm | All Ages
Stop by the library for a fun crafternoon with projects of all varieties.

Beginning Ukulele Workshop for Families
Sat, Feb 11 | 2 pm
Ages 8+
Register online
Learn to play the ukulele with Michigan’s Ukulele Ambassador, Ben Hassenger! The uke is a fun and accessible instrument for kids and adults to play together. Bring your own instrument or borrow one of Ben’s loaners. Sponsored by Music is the Foundation 501(c)(3) in conjunction with the Orion Township Public Library.

Cars and Motion—STEAM in Action
Sat, Feb 18 | 2 pm | All Ages
Build your own car, race it on the track, play driving games, and perform car experiments!

SENSEsational Storytime
Fridays | Dec 2, Jan 13, Feb 10
11 am | All ages
A welcoming, interactive environment designed for children with special needs and sensory seeking kids.

500/1000 Books

Youth are invited to join our Beanstack online reading programs, 1000 Books before Kindergarten and 500 Books by 5th year-round: a continuously great way to keep track of reading all year long! For our early literacy program, 1000 Books, pre-kindergarten patrons can earn prizes for each 100 books read with parents or on their own. For our elementary school program, 500 Books, students are invited to pick up prizes for each 50 books completed. These programs encourage the importance of reading for pleasure alongside reading for education. Studies show reading for pleasure has a positive impact on learning, including larger vocabulary, self-confidence, comprehension, and deeper understanding of the multicultural wide world.

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

orionlibrary.org
Bounce and Boogie
Saturdays | Dec 3, Jan 7, Feb 4
11 am | All Ages
Learn physical literacy and fundamental motor skills to promote a healthy, active, lifestyle with experts and fun activities.

Author & Character Storytimes
Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays
Dec 5–14 | Ages 0–5, Limit 20
Two weeks of storytimes from your favorite authors and characters!

December 5: Author Karma Wilson
December 6: Sesame Street
December 7: Disney
December 12: Author Kevin Henkes
December 13: Doc McStuffins
December 14: Author Christian Robinson

Little Lit
Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays
Jan 3–Feb 1 | 10 am, 11 am | Ages 0–5
Limit 20
Children ages 0–5 and their families are invited for stories, songs, and activities that promote the five staple early literacy practices: reading, writing, singing, talking, and playing! Limit 20 children.

Family Place Free Play
Thursdays | Feb 2, 9, 16 | 10 am
Parents/caregivers with children ages 0–5
Stretch out and enjoy a time of open play with our Family Place toys in our large meeting room—a great chance to meet new friends and explore gross motor skills.

Doggone Readers
Mondays | Dec 5, Jan 9, Feb 13 | 6:30 pm
Grades K–5, Register Online
Visit with Jasper, Henry, Merlen, or Crush to practice your reading skills to a silent listener—the dog! Readers can collect stamps for a free book. Registration is required.

Build Your Own Toys
Sat, Dec 17 | 2 pm
Grades K–5
Tired of the same old store-bought toys? Join us for a chance to create your own toy. You can create an extra for a friend or sibling for the holidays.

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 13. 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
Mon, Dec 12 | 6:30 pm | Parents
Battle team mentors and all involved parents are invited to this informative session in which librarians will present best practices and answer questions about this year’s 5th Grade Battle of the Books.

Virtual: Halfway Meetup
Thu, Jan 12 | 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 during this online Zoom.

Virtual: Final All Team Meetup
Thu, Feb 23 | 6:30 pm | Register online
Final meetup to answer last minute questions before the big battle! All participants and parents are encouraged to attend virtually. Prizes and fun included!

Battle of the Books
Sat, Feb 25 | 10 am
Waldon Middle School
Teams of 5th graders converge to battle quiz show style at Waldon Middle School. Parents, teachers, and mentors are invited to watch!

Victory Party
Wed, Mar 1 | 6:30 pm
Lake Orion High School Auditorium
All participants, parents, mentors, and teachers are invited to celebrate a job well done for our 2023 Battle of the Books teams. Top teams and award winners will be announced, along with a visit from a secret Battle author.
**Best of 2022 books**

The OTPL youth team read, research, and pour over new books every year, committed to curating a collection that meets the needs of every resident of our community. Look no further to find the best of the best of 2022 for kids (so far!)

**Ashley: Picture Books**

*Farmhouse* written/ill. by Sophie Blackall

*Dress up Day* written/ill. By Blanca Gomez

*Somewhere in the Bayou* written/ill. by Jarrett & Jerome Pumphrey

*Every Dog in the Neighborhood* by Philip Stead, ill. by Matthew Cordell

*The World Belonged to Us* by Jacqueline Woodson, ill. by Leo Espinosa

**Kerry: Nonfiction Books**

*A History of Underwear with Professor Chicken* by Hanna Holt

*Yes We Will: Asian Americans Who Shaped This Country* by Kelly Yang

*What is Juneteenth? By Kirsti Jewel*

*My Life as a Monarch Butterfly by John Szakal*

*Our Planet!: There’s No Place Like Earth* by Stacy McAnulty

**James: Board Books**

*Every Bunny Poops* by Christianne C. Jones

*My Nap = Mi Siesta* by Raúl the Third

*The Story of Juneteenth by Dorena Williamson*

*Noodles, Please!* by Cheryl Yau Chepusova

*1,2,3, Do the Dinosaur by Michelle Robinson*

**Suzanne: Youth Variety**

Youth Nonfiction: *Ambushed!: The Assassination Plot Against President Garfield* by Gail Jarrow


Youth Graphic Novel: *Little Monarchs by Jonathan Case*

Youth Graphic Novel: *Realm of the Blue Mist* by Amy Kim Kibuishi

Youth eBook: *Iveliz Explains It All* by Andrea Beatriz Arango

**Halli: New Early Reader Series**

*The Super Adventures of Ollie and Bea* by Renée Treml

*A Really Bird Story* by Harriet Ziefert

*Cornbread & Poppy* by Matthew Cordell

*Sprinkles and Swirls* by Lola M. Schaefer

*Geraldine Pu* by Maggie P. Chang

---

**ThinkLink 5**

Mondays | 4:30–5:30 pm | Grade 5

Register online

Just for 5th grade students. Come anytime between 4:30–5:30 pm and enjoy a different activity each month.

- December 19 | Watch your favorite holiday show (with snacks!)
- January 23 | Battle of the Books team practice
- February 27 | Jelly Bean Towers

**Finger Hats**

Sat, Jan 7 | 2 pm | Grades K–5

Cold fingers will be a thing of the past once you create your own adorable finger hats.

**Book Buddies**

Thu, Jan 19, Tue, Feb 28 | 6:30 pm

Register online

Kindergarten through 2nd grade students will be paired with a teen reading buddy to practice reading aloud, help sound out words and assist with comprehension through stories, rhymes and games. Teen reading buddies are supportive, enthusiastic listeners who can help your child practice reading here at the library.

**Lunar New Year Crafts**

Sat, Jan 21 | 2 pm | Grades K–5

2023 is the Year of the Rabbit! Discover your lunar zodiac animal and celebrate Lunar New Year with crafts.

**Mardi Gras Celebration**

Mon, Feb 20 | 2 pm | Grades K–5

Get ready for Mardi Gras with crafts, snacks, and games!

**Watercolor Art Fun**

Tue, Feb 21 | 2 pm | Grades K–5

Create some watercolor projects worthy of a spot on the fridge.

**Preschool and Childcare Open House**

Wed, Feb 8 | 5–7 pm | Adults

Local childcare and preschool programs will be available to answer questions and share resources.
Check Out Our Youth Area Upgrade!

We have an exciting upgrade coming to the Youth Department this season: new AWE Learning Stations! The new models upgrade our current offerings with even more fun and games with AWE Platinum. We are very enthusiastic that one of the new machines will be a bilingual station, offering all the content in English and Spanish. This will provide a much-needed resource for those in our community who are learners or speakers of Spanish.

The new AWE stations will also have gaming and coding content for kids up to age 12. This opens the stations up to even a wider age range than before, encompassing the full range of kids serviced by the Youth Department. A great feature of the AWE computers is that they are not connected to the internet. All of the content is housed within the machine so there is no chat or other online component that needs to be monitored by adults.

Funding for this project is provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan.

2022 was a year full of families, friends, and fun at the Library. Whether out in the community or here in the library, OTPL librarians and staff have worked—and played—hard to bring our patrons the best materials and programming available. We thank everyone who borrowed a book, made a project in our Makerspace, attended our programs, or visited us anywhere we could be found, from Children’s Park to the Orion Center. We look forward to even greater patron experiences in 2023!

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

The Friends of the Orion Township Library are very thankful for all the volunteers that helped us donate $40,000 to support the Orion Township Library in 2022. Funds are raised through book sales, our holiday auction, membership, affinity programs, and donations. Since 2011, the Friends have given over $330,000 to the library for their needs. The library uses these funds to pay for programming and activities for all age groups. Programs and activities such as Battle of the Books, Summer Reading, the Maker Space, Teen Tuesday items, Make & Takes, Yoga, Special Needs Adult Programs (SNAP), Fandom Fest, special guest presentations, and more.

To see a full list of offerings and sign up for the wonderful programs funded by the Friends, please visit the Orion Library events page at orionlibrary.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Friends of the Library have been extremely fortunate to have had many helpers over the last 33 years, several of whom have been volunteering for five years or more. However, we have reached a point where we need to find more volunteers to continue providing monetary support for the Orion Township Library. We are currently in need of adults to assist during our book sales as well as with committee work and board membership.

The Friends are looking for volunteers to fill recent vacancies on the Friends Board. These openings include Secretary, Membership Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Public Relations Chair. All positions are voting members of the board. The board meets the second Tuesday of every month, except July and December, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Orion Township Library. If you would like more information on these opportunities, please contact us at friends@orionlibrary.org or attend a meeting.

Book Sale Needs

Have you ever heard the expression “It takes a village”? That’s what organizing the Friends Gently Used Book sale three times a year resembles. Typically, each book sale requires at least 95 volunteers. To conduct a book sale, the Friends need teen and adult volunteers to help move the boxes of categorized books and other items from one location of the library to another. More volunteers are then needed to help organize the sale tables, removing packed items from boxes, placing these on tables according to categories. Once the sale starts, volunteers count the books patrons are purchasing and take payments at the register. In addition, helpers are needed to keep the books in order during the sale and assist patrons. At the close of the sale, volunteers box up unsold items and move them to the back of the library.
If you would like to be added to our volunteer list, please contact the Friends at friends@orionlibrary.org or sign up to be a Friends member at orionlibrary.org/friends.

Three ways to help the Friends help the library this winter

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

2. Buy more books
Our winter used book sale is coming in January, but books are for sale every day in the lobby. Visit us to purchase gently used books to cure the winter doldrums or for holiday giving.

3. 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!

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

Opportunities for students across the board

Chris Bell’s inbox is a choose–your–own–adventure book, every single day. When the Lake Orion Community Schools athletic director begins each work day (and every day throughout the school year qualifies), the array of messages cover every topic imaginable.

- Scheduling games
- Hiring coaches
- Student eligibility issues
- Managing a budget
- Dealing with sponsors
- Connecting with vendors
- Understanding rule changes
- Exploring new technologies
- Publicizing the teams
- Organizing registrations
- Lining up transportation

On one morning last fall, his day began with a scheduling conflict with girls basketball, resolved over the phone; emails to coaches to sort out differing dates for a girls varsity swim meet and planning for a girls soccer schedule, a sport that was still six months away.

With at least 35 different sports (girls, boys and combined teams) and over 100 teams (varsity, junior varsity, freshman, middle school) and nearly 300 coaches, Bell is always juggling.

With a staff of just one other full–time employee, administrative assistant Sharon Rosen, the high school operation alone is daunting.

Throw in the middle school teams, where the Oakview, Scripps and Waldon assistant principals help guide the practices, games and schedules, and athletics reaches from sixth grade through 12th grade in various forms.

A familiar face

Bell’s history within Lake Orion High School made him an ideal person to lead the athletic department, a job he assumed in 2017.

Former athletic director Bill Reiss had retired, leaving a significant void in one of the most important and high–profile positions in the district.

The challenge of managing so many facets, not to mention the relationships associated would make it a substantial challenge for an outsider and then–Superintendent Marion Ginopolis asked Bell to shift from his spot as an LOHS assistant principal to the AD role.

As the longtime football coach at the time, he had pre–existing relationships with many of the other coaches, as well as knowing the district administration and then–principal Steve Hawley.

Wrapping his arms around the job took some time, but he embraced the areas where Reiss had expanded the department.

“Bill Reiss wanted to have the best of everything, playing the best venues, wearing the nicest uniforms, having the best facilities and Bill set that bar really high,” Bell said. “And that’s nice to be able to walk into a program with that was established with the goal is always to be the best.

“Every day is a work in progress to get there, but Bill helped set the bar.”

LOHS’ statewide prominence emerged in the late 2000s as Bell’s football team reached the Division 1 state title game twice and won the 2010 championship.

But a well–rounded athletic department with opportunities for all became Bell’s focus.

A former Lake Orion High School student–athlete himself, Bell admits he had no idea when he was a student about the mechanics of the job he now holds.

“The biggest change has been the number of students,” Bell says, sitting in his office near the indoor field house.
(gym), locker rooms and pool on the lower level of Lake Orion High School. “We have over 2,000 student athletes that register with us.”

Coaches

Finding the comfort level for all of them and hiring coaches who would support Bell’s mission was a top priority. Because many of the coaches did not necessarily work at LOHS, establishing relationships takes on additional importance. Which becomes a challenge as well. “Our coaches coach because they love coaching, they love the sport and work with student-athletes, they don’t do for the money,” Bell said. “There has been another myth out there is that there’s this long line of candidates waiting to coach high school sports.”

Finding coaches who are skilled, passionate and flexible enough to begin practices around 3 p.m. is a constant process. Add in the year-round nature of the position with an offseason program to keep the athletes connected to their skills and high school sports continues to become a larger time commitment for the students and the coaches.

To guide through all of those steps, Bell has an open door for his coaches to talk and they take advantage of it. His office features a couch and a table for them to sit and have a conversation about team topics where they need guidance.

As a longtime coach—after a five-year hiatus adjusting to the AD job, Bell is now the head football coach again—he has encountered many of the situations that arise for younger and less experienced coaches.

“Chris has always shown great support by being available,” said LOHS varsity volleyball coach Tony Scavarda. “He’s very approachable. I have contacted him many times for advice or to get his take on certain things. He supports all the sports and does not play favorites... He gave me some advice several years ago that I used in our championship season. I think it helped us achieve the championship. He said midway through the season I should basically do an evaluation of everything we do and how I am coaching. Good and bad. A progress report of sorts. It helped to highlight what we needed to work on the most to finish the season.”

College athletics opportunities

There has been an increase in social media attention and parents pushing for their children to earn college scholarships.

“We’ve had kids receive scholarships over the years,” Bell said. “But these are (rare) athletic scholarships. Because an academic scholarship, that’s what parents should be pushing. And if they have the athletic ability, we have the programs to help develop talents. If they’re good enough, they’ll receive scholarships. But that’s not why you play.”

The LOHS athletic department works in multiple ways to celebrate those students.

LOHS holds a signing ceremony held three times a year to recognize the students who will be moving on to participate in college athletics.

Bell and his staff send an email blast each summer to schools and support the students making highlight videos to send along.

But he continues to remind parents at the introductory season meetings in the fall, winter and spring that high school sports are about recreation, opportunity and competition, as well as their future.

Finances

As with most aspects of the public school system, finding the most appropriate budget path is a challenge. While the LOCS athletics department involves almost 2,400 students from the 7,000-student district, the budget only accounts for about 1% of the district’s general fund. That allows the district to provide uniforms, a limited number of coaches, necessary equipment, transportation and officials, as well as game workers when hosting an event.

The community becomes a major support system. Each of the high school sports is able to enhance its team in multiple ways by providing supplementary items. Most of these arise through fundraising with a booster club, a parent group or the coach’s initiatives. Among the enhancements: additional equipment, additional coaches, and technology.

In football, the headsets, cameras, and computers are funded by the PEPP booster club. In golf, the district pays the tournament entrance fees, but the students provide their own clubs, balls and clothes/uniforms.

“Every sport is a little different,” Bell said.
Middle School

One of Bell’s most significant strides as athletic director was bringing the middle school athletics program under the district umbrella.

The state athletics organization, the MHSAA, also governs middle school sports but there is far less of a scheduling infrastructure.

Because Bell has strong relationships with other athletic directors, especially those in the northern Oakland County area, he’s able to help make those matches and have some consistency.

That has allowed Bell’s office to assist the middle school in finding opponents.

Part of the scheduling challenge is being able to match up teams because the sports offered by middle schools vary dramatically district to district.

The LOCS middle schools have a found a group of districts, including Clarkston, Oxford, Avondale and Waterford, Pontiac and Rochester, which vary in size, depending on the sport.

In the fall, LOCS middle schools offer sideline cheer, cross country and football. In the winter, there is competitive cheer, boys basketball and wrestling and volleyball. In the spring, track is offered.

The numbers are different depending on the sport, but Bell has helped combine some of the teams (football, cheerleading and wrestling) to one in each unified throughout LOCS to retain a vibrant presence.

Track is a significant exception as well over 100 students want to participate, not necessarily featuring high-level athletic ability, but for those who want to be a part of a school-related extracurricular activity.

“That’s a big part of any level, and especially at the middle level, giving kids opportunities to find what’s going to connect them to the building,” said Scripps Middle School principal David McKay, who previously guided the middle school program as an assistant principal at Scripps. “Athletics is another piece of that puzzle of helping kids, especially through the middle years, kind of find out who they are and find who are going to be the people that they’re going to connect with.”

The middle school athletics philosophy has a different approach than the high school level, where competition is more of the focus.

“It’s really not about winning and losing, it’s about developing and giving students an opportunity to participate in some of these sports,” McKay said. “A lot of kids, it’s the first time they’ve ever participated. So you’ve got to make it enjoyable, and help them kind of grow to really like the sport so we can build some programs.”

Finding middle school coaches is its own challenge so many of those are current middle school teachers.

The reasons are multiple, most related to the students’ growing maturity in the early teenage years.

Having current middle school staff members serve as coaches, allows them to assist in building supervision during the period from the end of the school day to the beginning of practices, often a half hour later. It also allows for the pre-existing teacher relationships to ease the comfort of the students.

Brock and Kelly Stalions have unique perspective as longtime Scripps teachers who have coached sports, primarily basketball, for nearly all of the past 27 years.

“I take pride in being their first coach or one of their first coaches, because then you kind of get to teach them what it’s like to represent your school,” Kelly Stalions said. “On a (school) sports team, it’s so much different than if they’re playing on a travel team. We make them feel like high school athletes.
We make them dress up for game days. If they win, they get to wear their jersey the next day, we really push the school spirit thing. I think we both push them to as student athletes so they get that right that the student comes before the athlete part.”

Though they may not have much experience in the sport, the effect on them reaches far beyond the field.

“It really was the bigger part—almost more than teaching them football—is how to be a good teammate and what that all entails,” Brock Stalions said. “They’re the leaders of the school, whether they like it or not, people look to them, because they are athletes, to set the tone in the classroom and everything else.”

**Philosophy**

In a high school athletics world that has evolved significantly since Bell was a student, he is often frustrated by the focus on a college scholarship or the parent pressure to succeed.

When he was a young football coach, Bell attended a small coaching clinic put on by the University of Michigan and future College Football Hall of Fame coach Lloyd Carr. At the time, Carr was the program’s defensive coordinator and his mantra stuck with Bell.

“Where only your best is good enough.” Bell placed that on the Lake Orion High School football letterhead, as an example of the standard he wanted players and coaches to reach.

Under Bell’s leadership in the past five–plus years, LOHS has won three team state championships in different sports (*girls volleyball, boys golf and powerlifting*) and an individual state title (*Cheyenne Washington in girls bowling*).

But the root of the massive program is more theoretical than results–based.

“I have core values,” Bell said. “We talk about the students’ safety, mentally and physically, number one. The thing I was talking about my coaches is we put forth a championship effort to maximize the potential of our student athletes and do the best we can.

“We’re a public school. Sometimes we get it right. So it might be a year where your talent might be a little light, and maybe the best you’re going do is a .500 season. Well, let’s maximize that talent.”

In an athletic department with a massive footprint, Bell has found a path to make it right–sized for each team and student and promote a positive environment.

---

**Pay–to– Participate Sports**

- Boys & Girls Cross Country
- Football
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Tennis
- Cheerleading
- Competitive Cheer
- Boys and Girls Golf
- Boys and Girls Swim & Dive
- Volleyball
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Bowling
- Boys and Girls Skiing
- Wrestling
- Baseball
- Boys and Girls Lacrosse
- Boys and Girls Track & Field
- Softball

**Additional teams run through LOHS**

- Dance Team
- Boys and Girls Water Polo
- Boys and Girls Mountain Biking
- Boys and Girls Powerlifting
- Hockey

**Offsite Sports Club**

- Figure Skating
- Equestrian

---

Sign up for Winter Enrichment programs at [lakeorionschools.org/departments/enrichment-services](http://lakeorionschools.org/departments/enrichment-services).
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PRO
PLAY LIKE A PR
Preschool Classes
Ages 3 & 4

Young Fives /
Developmental Kindergarten
(Flexible & Extended Schedules Available)

- Teaching Staff hold Elementary Education or Early Childhood Degrees.
- Small Class Sizes providing 1 on 1 individual teaching time with your child.
- Proven Character Education Curriculum with an Emphasis on Nutrition & Exercise!
- Onsite OT & Speech Therapy available.

Call To Enroll Now 248-814-7100
www.schoolforthemindandbody

STACY PEARDON
LAKE ORION’S
TOP PRODUCING
REAL ESTATE EXPERT

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, the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority and special features from Lake Orion Community Schools.

The charm of downtown Lake Orion is only enhanced by the festive holiday lights and the presence of a horse-drawn carriage toting residents down its snow-covered streets. The DDA will again be hosting Horse & Carriage rides through downtown in December.

Photo by David Watts