

# ORION LIVING

Issue 20 | *Spring 2024* | Charter Township of Orion, Michigan



## AIMING FOR A *pitch-perfect* SPRING

YOUR QUARTERLY  
*guide*  
TO LIFE IN ORION

Photo by Sarah Graves





COVER: The Lake Orion Youth Baseball League is one of many sports opportunities for local youth to burn off some energy, learn teamwork, build skills and have a lot of fun. Matthew Graves shows off his skills during an LOYBL game.

## Useful Numbers

### EMERGENCIES

**911**

NON-EMERGENCY  
DISPATCH POLICE/FIRE/  
EMS

**248-858-4911**

LAKE ORION POLICE  
DEPARTMENT (VILLAGE)

**248-693-8321**

ORION TOWNSHIP  
(INCLUDING FIRE  
DEPARTMENT)

**248-391-0304**

WATER OR SEWER  
EMERGENCIES  
AFTER-HOURS

**248-858-4911**

ORION AREA CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

**248-693-6300**

ORION TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

**248-693-3000**

LAKE ORION COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS

**248-693-5400**

DOWNTOWN  
DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY (DDA)

**248-693-9742**

VILLAGE OF LAKE ORION

**248-693-8391**

ROAD COMMISSION FOR  
OAKLAND COUNTY

**877-858-4804**

LAKE ORION POST OFFICE

**248-693-3253**

ONTV

**248-393-1060**

# EXPLORE ORION'S *wonders* OF NATURE

Spring is a time of renewal, and what better way to experience it than by taking a stroll on our picturesque trails and safety paths. Explore the wonders of nature that surround us, from blooming flowers to the refreshing greenery that blankets our township. It's an invitation to connect with the outdoors, breathe in the fresh air, and appreciate the natural wonders that make Orion Township a truly special place to call home.

I encourage you to visit Great Lakes Athletic Club / Community Center, a hub of activity where friendships blossom, and memories are made. From fitness classes to community events, the

center is a gathering place for residents of all ages. Discover the programs and activities that cater to your interests.


Don't miss our State of the Township address on Thursday, April 18 (*see sidebar*). It's a great opportunity to hear about our plans and successes first-hand and to connect with those who make the Township run. We hope to see you there!

As we approach Memorial Day, let us take a moment to honor and remember the brave individuals who have made sacrifices for our freedom. It's a time to reflect on the values that bind us together as a community and express our gratitude for the heroes who have shaped our nation's history.

I hope you enjoy reading about the exciting happenings and stories that make Spring in Orion Township truly special. Thank you for being an integral part of our community, and let's celebrate the season of growth, unity, and the spirit of Orion Township.

*Chris Barnett*  
Orion Township Supervisor

Join us for  
our annual  
**State of the Township**  
"A Night at the Movies"  
**Thursday, April 18**  
**Woodside Church**  
2500 Joslyn  
**7 pm**  
Doors open at 6:30 pm



## ORION LIVING

Orion Living is a quarterly magazine produced for the residents and businesses of Lake Orion, Michigan by the Charter Township of Orion.

### EDITORIAL BOARD

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*Orion Township Parks & Recreation*

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*Orion Township Parks & Recreation*

### ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Contact Jenny Bhatti at Orion Township for rates, sizes and deadlines.

248-391-0304, x1003 or

[jbhatti@oriontownship.org](mailto:jbhatti@oriontownship.org)

Graphic Design by *Canoe Circle Graphics*

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**Great Lakes Athletic Club purchase**

*Building a strong wellness, athletic and social community*

On December 21st, 2023, Orion Township acquired ownership of Great Lakes Athletic Club (better known as GLAC). This ownership transfer occurred just before the business's 20th birthday—something that might resonate as bittersweet to longtime members and employees. But the fact that the GLAC survived a near quarter century, enduring both a recession and pandemic, is something Orion Township is not taking for granted. Rather, the Township's goal as the athletic club's new owner is

to continue cultivating that which upheld GLAC the past two decades: its community.

The Township will take the time throughout 2024 to strategically integrate the existing assets and services of GLAC with the mission of the Township Parks & Recreation

department. They are working with a professional consultant in order to determine the best way to transform the athletic club into a combination athletic club and recreation center. The consultant is using data captured in the Orion Township Community Survey, Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey, Recreation Center Survey, and in-person sessions with key staff and stakeholders to identify common themes and interests desired in a public recreation center. This information, along with community demographics, industry trends, identified service gaps, and opportunities for expanded services will be analyzed by the consultant to provide the Township with a strategic, methodical, and attainable capital and operational plan for a comprehensive, innovative, state-of-the-art recreation center.

**A welcoming multi-use space**

Orion Township envisions creating a welcoming space that not only preserves the existing GLAC community but also expands it to accommodate more members from the Orion area. New opportunities include a venue for community events, a super-voting precinct for elections, and dedicated spaces for youth and seniors. There are also opportunities for enhanced or new partnerships with public and private agencies, including

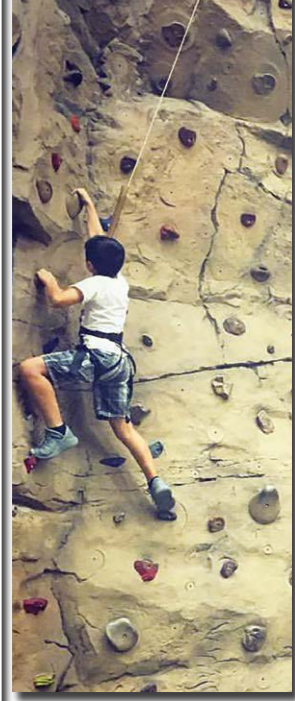
library services, healthcare, athletics, and public transportation. New programming could include indoor leagues and the return of youth summer camp. The Township's insight from and collaboration with the professional consultant throughout this year will better guide and define these opportunities.

**Business as usual for now**

In the meantime, GLAC is open and available to the community! Residents and non-residents can purchase day-passes or monthly/annual memberships to utilize the club for fitness and athletic services. Right now, the Township's goal is to provide continuity in GLAC services to members and staff, while also showcasing the club's offerings and amenities to the community at large. Some of these services include:

**Personal Training and Group Fitness.**

Group fitness is included with paid memberships. Personal training is open to both members and non-members and discounted to members. Additionally, many of GLAC's group fitness classes, such as Circuit, Cadence, TRX, Kettlebell, Stretch & Roll, and more, are taught by personal trainers. The class schedule also features Yoga, Cycle, water aerobics (Aqua Mix), Barre, Zumba, and other popular workout formats for



members of all fitness levels and athletic abilities. The Township will also continue to offer special group training programs through the athletic club, such as Martial Arts, the FIT program for women, and Junior Trak Club.

**Swim Programming** (available to the public): Swim101 is partnering with the Township to offer swim lessons (discounted for members!), swim team, and Masters swim programs to the community.

**Standard & Co. Café** (open to the public). Standard & Co. is one of the community’s newest restaurants. As a veteran-owned small business, their core value of service is transparent in every customer they serve and every event they host. Standard and Co. offers a variety of delicious smoothies, wraps, soups, and coffee.

**Investing in enhancements**

While GLAC will continue to operate at status quo during this planning period, the Township will invest in facility improvements and programming additions in order to bring operations above their existing condition. Some of these smaller steps include refurbishing lighting in the indoor pool, fixing inoperable equipment and amenities, revising dated policies, restoring paused amenities (such as the rock wall), and transitioning website content over to OrionParks.com. The Township is committed to purposeful and impactful improvements now and in the future.



While the plan is ambitious, the Township is working diligently and deliberately to create a broader health and wellness, athletic, and social community built upon GLAC’s foundation of premier fitness. Together, the combined team is poised to deliver a vibrant and

inclusive space that reflects the aspirations and desires of the community.

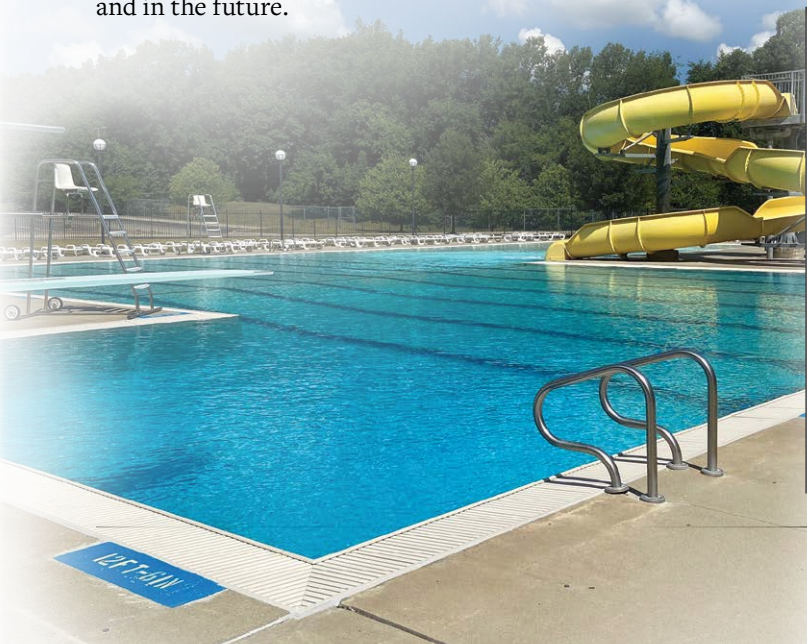
*For more information about the new facility hours and amenities, see page 20.*

*Great Lakes Athletic Club*  
**Hours: Monday–Friday: 5 am–9 pm | Saturday & Sunday: 6 am–8 pm**

**Rates**

Memberships	Month-to-Month Subscription	Annual	
		12 Month Installments	One-Time payment
Student (11-24)	\$50R   \$59NR	\$45R   \$54NR	\$540R   \$648NR
Adult (18+)	\$75R   \$84NR	\$65R   \$74NR	\$780R   \$888NR
Senior (62+)	\$55R   \$64NR	\$50R   \$59NR	\$600R   \$709NR
2nd Member	\$20R   NR	\$20R   NR	\$240R   NR
Family 1st Adult Member	\$75R   \$84NR	\$65R   \$74NR	Dependent on how many family members
Family 2nd Adult Member	\$25R   NR	\$25R   NR	
Family 3–6th member	\$10R   NR (each)	\$10R   NR (each)	

*R: Resident | NR: Non-Resident. Student Membership: must show student ID. Family Membership: limit up to 2 adults and 4 youth (ages 11–20) in household. Military/First Responder Discount: current First Responders and Active/Veteran members of the Military are eligible to receive the Senior rate pricing. Must show proof of service. One Day Guest: \$10R | \$12NR. 30-Day Membership: add \$10 to the applicable Month-to-Month rate. For family and Seniors, additional \$10 applies only to the first member. Youth under 11: \$9/month (this includes childcare and family hours). Personal Training Sessions: Rates will follow current GLAC pricing for member/non-member.*



Natural Resources Specialist Conner Reiter

# Leading Orion's green transformation

In the heart of Orion Township, a new steward has emerged to guide the community towards a greener, more sustainable future. Conner Reiter, with years of dedicated service to the Township, has recently assumed the role of Natural Resource Specialist (a new position within the Township), bringing a wealth of experience and passion for environmental conservation.

Reiter's journey with the Township began in 2014 as a seasonal parks employee, evolving into a full-time Park Maintenance Worker in 2016. His commitment and dedication to the community were recognized when he transitioned to the role of Natural Resources Specialist in August 2023.

Beyond his daily responsibilities, Reiter actively participates in the Oakland County CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) Steering Committee and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, showcasing his commitment to broader environmental initiatives.



## A deep Orion connection

A true Orion local, Reiter spent his formative years in Berkley before returning to Orion and Independence Townships. Having attended Lake Orion Community Schools, his deep connection to the community has only strengthened over the years, both personally and professionally. Currently residing in the City of Grand Blanc, Reiter shares his home with two feline companions, Kitty and Brynn.

Reiter's personal interests extend beyond his professional domain. An avid kitchen enthusiast, he enjoys crafting delicious meals. In his free time, you can find him at the gym, engaged in mountain biking, hiking, and playing tennis and basketball.

When asked about his favorite spot in the Township, he emphatically points to Camp Agawam, a park he has been instrumental in developing since the Township acquired it.

"I love the natural beauty of this park with all its trails and the disc golf course that I helped plan and establish," said Reiter.

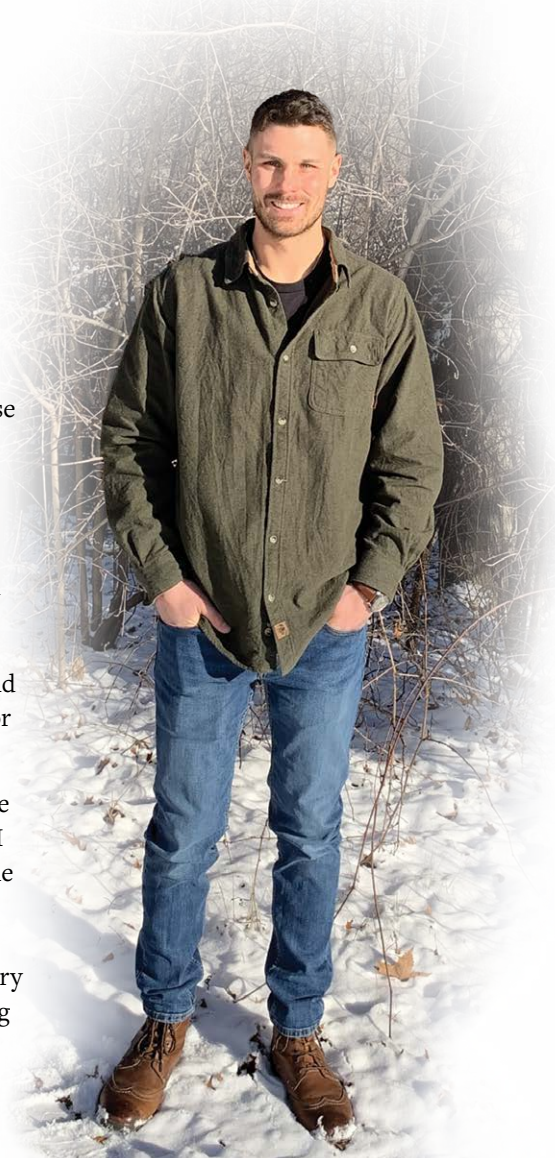
Camp Agawam features a trail system, public access beach, disc golf, playground, and a rich history with the Boy Scouts.

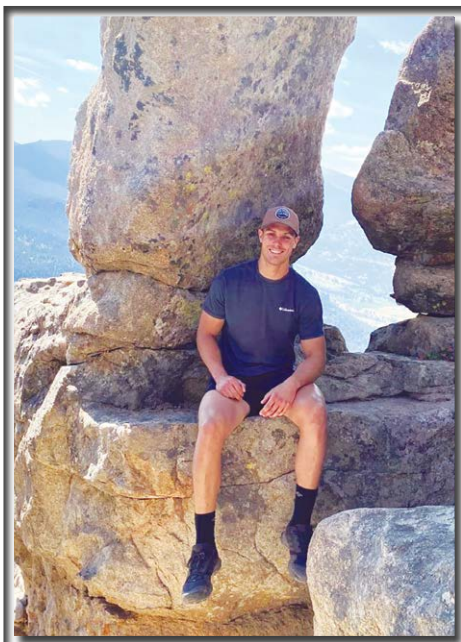
Reiter sheds light on his background and the driving forces behind his passion for natural resource management.

"I have always been interested in nature and our relationship with it," he said. "I grew up spending countless hours in the woods. While most kids were interested in cartoons, I spent my free time watching the Science Channel, Discovery Channel, and History Channel, learning as much as I could."

His fascination with nature and a childhood spent in the woods shaped his career path, leading him to pursue certifications as an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certified Arborist and a Michigan State Extension Foundations of Gardening Certificate. He enjoys gardening and has an interest in Permaculture and sustainable garden design.

"I've always had a fascination with plants, whether it was helping my dad in the garden or collecting and caring for indoor plants—I currently have over 50!" said Reiter.





**Environmental challenges**

As the Natural Resource Specialist, Reiter envisions utilizing his skills to “restore habitats, implement sustainable garden designs, and improve, grow, and diversify our urban forests to create unique and interesting green spaces for everyone to enjoy.”

Recognizing the environmental challenges facing the Township, Reiter emphasizes the importance of tackling invasive species. His plans involve developing comprehensive management strategies for our parks and educating the community about the threats posed by various species and how to manage them and restore vital native habitats and ecosystems.

To achieve these goals, Reiter plans to collaborate with local organizations and community groups, including Oakland County Natural Resources and the Oakland County CISMAs to help restore native habitats. Community engagement initiatives such as Green Up and other volunteer projects, like tree plantings and composting, are set to play a crucial role in promoting environmental initiatives.

Reiter believes “it’s important for Orion Township to lead by example. If we

develop our parks and green spaces with a sustainable mindset while also providing education opportunities to the community through educational signage in our parks to social media outreach and workshops will ultimately create a ripple effect where residents adopt similar sustainable practices.”

**A clear vision for the future**

Looking ahead, Reiter envisions Orion Township as a haven of green spaces with expanded urban forests, sustainable landscapes, and restored vital native habitats.

When asked if there are any specific educational workshops or programs he would like to implement, Reiter stated “I would love to see workshops and programs that focused on composting, how to plant and care for trees, planting pollinator gardens, how to identify and manage invasive species, bee hotels, and non-native landscaping alternatives.”

Through community engagement, he hopes to inspire a collective effort towards environmental stewardship that extends beyond the township’s borders.

As spring approaches, Reiter offers valuable advice to homeowners, encouraging the selection of native plants to support local pollinators and wildlife. Insects and animals rely on those plants for survival. He advocates for the careful planting of keystone trees, emphasizing the importance of establishing soft landings around them to support the native habitat.

Conner Reiter’s appointment as Orion Township’s Natural Resource Specialist signals a promising era for environmental conservation in the community. With his expertise, passion, and a clear vision for the future, the Township is poised for a green transformation under his dedicated leadership.

**Recycle your boat shrink wrap**

With 42 lakes over five acres in size, and tons of boats, Orion Township has a unique opportunity to take a big step in recycling! New in 2024, Orion Township will be a designated drop-off location for the Boat Shrink Wrap Program offered by Michigan Recycling Coalition.

Why recycle boat shrink wrap covers?

According to Michigan Recycling Coalition, recycling boat shrink wrap covers:

- Protects the Great Lakes by keeping them clean and waste-free.
- Fuels the circular economy in Michigan! Recycled plastics are used to create new products here in the U.S.

For every bag recycled, we save:

- 115 kWh of energy
- 13.5 gallons of oil
- 16-20 cubic feet of landfill space

More details about the program will be provided as we get closer to Summer. Please stay tuned to our Facebook page, Orion Township, Michigan, for more details about this exciting new program!





Dear Voters,

On behalf of the Orion Township Election Commissioners

Mike Flood and Brian Birney, we express our sincere gratitude to everyone who assisted with the February 27, 2024, Presidential Primary Election.

Heartfelt appreciation is extended to Orion Township Library, Community of Christ Church, King of Kings Church, Lake Orion United Methodist, St. Mary's in the Hills, Good Shepherd Church, Zion Community House, River Church, Orion Center, Public Works, and Orion Fire Station #2 for providing outstanding community support by hosting a voting precinct. Honor and recognition extended to the Clerk's Office Staff and our Election Inspectors who worked diligently to ensure every vote was counted. Our workers serve our voters with proficiency and respect and represent Orion Township with excellence. Much appreciation is given to our Parks and Recreation workers for working hard to ensure election equipment was delivered safely to all precincts. Special merit is given to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and Orion Township Fire Department for their continued support.

Something wonderful happens when people come together and share a common goal and this election was marked by the unified effort put forth by everyone in our community.

*Warm Regards,  
Penny Shults  
Orion Township Clerk*

*Election Updates from Penny Shults, Orion Township Clerk*

# Be a voter in the know

## Election dates

Save the dates below for two remaining elections in 2024.

- Tuesday, August 6: Primary Election
- Tuesday, November 5: General Election

## Many poll workers are needed; join the team.

The clerk's office is always hiring good people to work on Election Day. This is a paid position and all training is provided. Visit the Orion Township Election website for information and an application. It's a great service to the community and a wonderful way to learn firsthand about voting on Election Day.

## Keep your Voter Registration Information up to date

Be sure to update your voter registration information when your residential address, phone number or email address changes. The clerk's office uses phone numbers and emails to contact voters when there is a question about voter registration information, absent voter application, or absent voter ballot. If we can't reach you, the form or information is returned to voters using the postal service. It is much quicker if we can reach you by phone or email.

Your voter registration information can be viewed at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote), along with sample ballots for each election.

## Voter Registration signatures: That's how we know it's you!

When a voter signs their Absent Voter Application, Absent Voter Ballot and even a Candidate Nomination Petition, the written signature is validated against the voter registration signature, which is the same as your driver's license or personal identification card signature. Signatures are one of the ways clerks verify voters. When signing voter forms, use the same signature as is on your driver's license. Otherwise the clerk's office will contact the voter to come into the office to ensure signatures sufficiently match.

## Meet our Election and Voting Registration Team

The Orion Township Clerk's office is led by Penny Shults, who administers elections and voter registration for the community. Members of the team include

## Clerk's Office Contact Information

Phone: 248-391-0304, ext. 1

Email: [elections@oriontownship.org](mailto:elections@oriontownship.org)

Web: [oriontownship.org](http://oriontownship.org)

Follow us on Facebook at **Orion Township Elections** for regular election updates.





# How Proposal 22-2 election changes affect you

## Early Voting

Voters have the right to cast a ballot in person nine days prior to Election Day.

Days: Early voting is open nine (9) consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday before the election and ending on the Sunday before the election.

Time: Early voting is 8:30 am to 4:30 pm except Thursday when the hours are noon to 8 pm.

Locations: Regional Site: Orion Township Municipal Complex, 2323 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion, and Central Site: Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford,.

## Permanent Mail Ballot List

Please note this is different from the previous Permanent Absent Voter Ballot Application List where you received an application for each election to request a ballot for that election only.

If you sign up to be on the Permanent Mail Ballot list you will automatically receive an absent voter ballot, by mail, for every election.

You will need to notify us of your temporary address. Keep in mind that ballots are not permitted to be forwarded with the mail.

## Multiple Ballot Drop Box Locations

- **Orion Township Municipal Complex**, 2323 Joslyn Rd.
- **Orion Center**, 1335 Joslyn Rd.
- **Village of Lake Orion**, 21 E. Church St.

Military and Overseas voters have new deadlines. Please visit [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) for more information.

Scan the QR Code to locate your voting precinct.



Melissa, Election Coordinator, and Debra and Lynnae, Voter Registration Clerks, pictured below. We are committed to providing the highest quality service available for our voters and are happy to answer any questions you may have.



**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
With the passage of Proposal 22-2, voters now have the right to vote in-person at an early voting site prior to Election Day.



### YOUR EARLY VOTING SITE OPTIONS

**Regional Early Voting Site #18**  
Orion Township Municipal Building  
2323 Joslyn Rd.  
Lake Orion, MI 48360

**Central Early Voting Site #19**  
Waterford Oaks Activity Center  
2800 Watkins Lake Rd.  
Waterford, MI 48328

### EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

**DAYS** - Early voting is open nine (9) consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday before the election and ending on the Sunday before the election.

**TIME** - Early voting is 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Thursday when hours are noon to 8:00 p.m.

**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact your local clerk's office with any questions.  
**Orion Township Clerk's Office**  
(248) 391-0304 ext. 4001



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

## Landscape advice from a local pro

# Create a beautiful outdoor space with native plantings

Using native plantings in a landscape can have many benefits for both the environment and the overall aesthetic of your yard.

First, native plants are naturally adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, making them much easier to maintain and more resilient to pests and disease. This means that you will likely spend less time and money on watering and fertilizing, and you'll be able to enjoy a lush and healthy garden for years to come.

In addition to being low-maintenance, native plantings can also be an important way to support local wildlife. Birds, butterflies, and other pollinators rely on native plants for food and habitat, and by incorporating them into your landscape, you can help to create a thriving ecosystem in your own backyard.

Another under-appreciated aspect of using native plants is that in many cases they have stood the test of time. That is, they often will have been the "winners" in the ongoing conflict between plants and pests. And because of this, you don't have to be constantly "on guard" with a magnifying glass in one hand and a spray bottle in the other.

When planning a native planting, it is important to consider the different seasons and the different types of plants that will thrive in your area. For example, you might include spring-blooming wildflowers for early color, followed by summer-blooming perennials and fall-blooming shrubs. This will give you a diverse and interesting landscape that will change and evolve throughout the year.

One other benefit of using native plants in your landscape is that they will often have a more natural look and feel than non-native plants. This can help to create a sense of connection to the local landscape and the environment, which can be an important aspect of creating a beautiful and meaningful outdoor space.

Overall, using native plantings in a landscape can be a great way to create a beautiful and sustainable outdoor space that supports local wildlife and reduces maintenance. With a little planning and creativity, you can create a garden that you'll love for years to come.

*By Kurt Pieper, owner of Verdant Landscape Consulting.*



## Time to set out your yard waste

Yard Waste pick up begins April 1. Place your yard waste at the curb on your regular collection day. You may use brown bags, a purchased Orion Township rolling cart, or existing cans marked with a "yard waste" or "compost" sticker. Additional compost stickers are available at the Department of Public Services counter at Township Hall or at the Orion Center.

There is no limit to how much yard waste may be set out each week. Yard waste includes the following items:

- Lawn debris
- Grass clippings
- Weeds
- Leaves
- Small twigs
- Prunings
- Shrub clippings (tied and bundled)
- Food scraps such as: fruits and vegetables, nuts and seeds, bread and grains, pasta, eggshells & coffee grounds (No meat!)
- Old potting soil
- Halloween pumpkins
- Dirt incidental to minor plantings or edging of lawns
- Brush
- Tree branches and logs (less than 3 inches in diameter and less than 4 feet long) tied or secured with string or twine in bundles less than 18 inches in diameter
- Tree trimmings
- Small shrubs and bushes with direct removal from root systems

# A day of wellness, unity and gratitude

As the warm embrace of summer begins, Orion Township gears up for a day of reflection, unity, and gratitude as it hosts the 8th Annual Orion Veterans Memorial Day Run/Walk. This event—scheduled for Monday, May 27 at 9 am—fosters a spirit of wellness and serves as a heartfelt tribute to the courageous men and women who have dedicated their lives to the service of our nation.

Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May, holds a special place in the hearts of Americans. It is a day of remembrance, a time to honor and pay respects to the brave souls who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we cherish today.

The Orion Veterans Memorial Day Run/Walk provides an opportunity for the community to come together in solidarity. Downtown Lake Orion will come alive with the hustle and bustle of participants gearing up for the 5K or 5-Mile option of the Orion Veterans Memorial Day Run/Walk. The majority of the route unfolds along the picturesque Paint Creek Trail, offering participants a scenic journey that reflects the beauty of the land for which veterans have fought so valiantly. This annual event invites runners and walkers of all ages to join forces and pay homage to the heroes who have shaped our nation's history.

At 10 am, as participants complete their run/walk, they can watch the wreath ceremony at the Children's Park bridge. The wreath is as a symbol of eternal gratitude and is a visual reminder of the debt owed to the brave men and women who have defended the ideals that define our nation.

While the Orion Veterans Memorial Day Run/Walk commemorates the sacrifices of our military heroes, it is equally important to delve into the true essence

of Memorial Day itself. Beyond the barbecues and long weekend, this day provides an opportunity for Americans to connect with the deeper meaning of freedom, to remember those who fought valiantly on foreign soils, and to express gratitude for the peace and prosperity we enjoy today.

The culminating event of the day, the Memorial Day Parade at 11 am adds a vibrant touch to the proceedings. Residents and visitors alike gather to witness the colorful spectacle, cheering on different groups, as well as the Veteran of the Year, as they march proudly through the streets of Downtown. The parade serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of patriotism that runs through the veins of Orion Township.

What makes the Orion Veterans Memorial Day Run/Walk truly special is its commitment to giving back. All proceeds from this event go directly to



the Orion Veterans Memorial, ensuring that the legacy of those who have served remains alive and well. The memorial itself stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of the community, a symbol of remembrance and gratitude.

*For more information and to register, visit [OrionTownship.org/Run](http://OrionTownship.org/Run).*



*Photos by Lee Smith*

# Keeping your drinking water safe

## Cross connection control, backflow testing and inspections ensure Orion's water supply is not contaminated

Orion Township's Water & Sewer Division is responsible for providing safe drinking water to Township residents and businesses. State and Federal laws (Safe Drinking Water Acts), the Plumbing Code, Michigan Residential Code, and the Charter Township of Orion Ordinances require the Township to verify that cross connections on private plumbing systems do not pose a contamination risk to the public water system through the enforcement of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Law and Rules for Cross Connection Control.

### What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is any arrangement of piping on a plumbing system that could allow a backflow of contaminants into the public drinking water supply. A backflow occurs when a reversal of the normal flow of water occurs. This could happen due to a drop in water pressure

from a water main break or other failure. It also could occur when a plumbing fixture, such as a boiler or pump, generates more pressure than the public water supply and pushes the water back to the public drinking water supply system. Garden hoses and irrigation systems may contain pesticides and bacteria that could contaminate the water supply.

### What is a Backflow Device?

Backflow Devices are installed on water lines to prevent backflows from occurring. There are many types of backflow devices and MDEQ requires testing of these devices at a minimum of every three years. Testable devices include Pressure Vacuum Breakers (PVB), Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Assemblies (RPZ), and Double Check Valve Assemblies (DCVA)

### Testing and inspections of Backflow Devices

Orion Township's Cross Connection Control Program was approved by the State of Michigan in 1991. Since then, commercial properties and subdivision irrigation accounts have had routine inspections of backflow devices and annual reports are submitted to the township on testable devices. However, a new MDEQ mandate requires all testable backflow devices on residential homes be tested every three years.

A typical testable backflow device you will find on a residential property will be a Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB) installed on a lawn irrigation line. This



device will be on the outside of the home and designed to prevent pesticides or herbicides from entering the water system.

Beginning in 2019, Orion Township requires all testable backflow devices in residential properties be tested every three years. If your residence is required to test in 2024, you will receive a notification letter from Orion Township.

Only Licensed Plumbing Contractors can test, repair, and install Backflow Assemblies pursuant to State of Michigan Law—Public Act 733 (State Plumbing Act) of 2002. Further, effective January 1, 2018, the plumbing contractors must be ASSE 5110 certified through the State of Michigan. If a new backflow device is being installed, or a repair is needed, a plumbing permit must be applied for through the Building Department.

We appreciate everyone's help and cooperation abiding with the MDEQ mandate. The Township and all residents share the responsibility of protecting the water supply, and together we can ensure we have the safest possible water supply system.

*A list of ASSE certified testers is available at [oriontownship.org](http://oriontownship.org) under the Department of Public Services tab.*

### 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 this information available:

- ✓ Property address
- ✓ Date of closing
- ✓ New owner's name
- ✓ Name and address, or email address, of title company

## Blue dots mark curb boxes

Why is there a blue dot on your lawn? Annually, the DPS crew works to locate curb boxes. In doing so, the curb box is marked with a blue dot and then marked on a GPS mapping system. The DPS crew members also check to make sure the curb box valve is operational. This way, if an emergency occurs, the curb box can be located quickly, and water can be turned off immediately.

### 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

## Be prepared for spring storms

Having good information about water safety could help your family get through a nasty storm or other emergency situation.

Store at least one gallon of water, per person per day, for emergency purposes. Consider storing a two-week supply of water in clean plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Never use a container that has had a toxic substance in it. Make sure containers are sealed tightly and store them in a cool, dry space. You should also rotate your backup water supply every six months.

If a water main break occurs, you may be without water for a period of time. A “Boil Water Alert” may be issued when the purity of the water in the lines is questioned. The water should be brought to a rolling boil for five minutes. Let the water cool, then pour it back and forth between two clean containers to add air for improved taste. The water will then be safe for cooking and drinking purposes.

If your water service is completely lost for an extended period of time, there are sources of water within your home that are safe for consumption. Water in the pipes of your home can be drained and used. You can also access the water in your hot water tank in an emergency situation. Begin by making sure the electricity and gas are shut off. Open the drain at the bottom of the hot water tank and turn off the cold-water intake at the top of the tank. If there is a hot water faucet, turn it on, and the water should begin draining. When your water service is restored, fill the tank back up. Do not turn the electricity or gas back on when the tank is empty, wait until the tank is full—otherwise you could damage your hot water tank.

## Follow these summer watering restrictions

Each year from May through September, a mandatory watering restriction applies to residents connected to Orion Township water who have an automatic sprinkling system.

**Monday through Saturday:** Water only between midnight and 5 am.

**Sunday:** Watering may be done at any time.

No watering may be done between 5 and 10 am, Monday through Saturday. If these restrictions are not followed, your water service could be discontinued.

If you are connected to Orion Township water but do not have an automatic sprinkling system—meaning you water your lawn from a hose—please water your lawn between 10 am and 4 pm, Monday through Saturday.

## 2024 GFL Rates

Single Family Homes	Monthly: \$19.59 Quarterly: \$58.77 Annual cost: \$235.08
Mobile Homes	Monthly: \$17.59 Quarterly: \$52.77 Annual cost: \$211.08
Apartment & Condo	Monthly: \$16.62 Quarterly: \$49.86 Annual cost: \$199.44

Discounts are available as listed below (up to a cumulative 5%): Seniors (65 & older): 5%, Veterans: 5%. Annual Pre-Pay: 3%, Electronic Payment: 3%

3-month “snowbird” service suspension discount is available at a maximum of \$30 per year when service is not required

If you have specific GFL billing questions or missed garbage pick-ups, please contact GFL directly at 248-204-4039.

## Easy account access

You can easily access your Utility Billing by scanning this QR code. Follow the prompts to view and/or pay your water bill online.



# Standard & Co Café unites community, commitment and culinary arts

Standard & Co Café has emerged as a beacon of warmth, community, and exceptional culinary experiences. This delightful addition inside Great Lakes Athletic Club is the brainchild of dynamic entrepreneurs Ryan Kelly, Ryan Andersen, and Brett Lynch. Together they bring a unique blend of military discipline, business acumen, and a passion for community to create a space that goes beyond being just a café.

## A family man with a vision

Ryan Kelly is a proud family man and seven-year military and combat veteran. He is married and a father of three. Kelly's journey from military service to real estate—and now the café industry—speaks volumes about his entrepreneurial spirit. Having successfully operated six RE/MAX franchises and a thriving mortgage and title company across Michigan, Kelly remains on the lookout for new opportunities to grow and expand his business portfolio. His dedication to family, community, and business excellence is evident in every aspect of Standard & Co.

## Bridging military discipline with community growth

With eight years of U.S. Army service and two combat deployments under his belt, Ryan Andersen brings a unique blend of military discipline and community engagement to Standard & Co. A Clarkston resident, father to two daughters, and managing partner in a Michigan-based mortgage brokerage, Andersen is excited to contribute to the growth of GLAC through the café. His commitment to fostering relationships within the community is reflected in the café's mission.

## A passion for construction and culinary arts

Brett Lynch is a loving husband and father to two daughters. Brett is not only the owner of Lynch Construction but also the force behind DaVinci's Italian Restaurant in Frankenmuth and four national brand restaurants. A Central Michigan University graduate, Lynch brings his passion for the food and restaurant industry to Standard & Co, contributing to its unique and diverse menu. His enthusiasm and desire to see GLAC as the best gym in the community is evident in every culinary creation.

These best friends are eager to take on new challenges and continue their track record of success in the world of business at Standard & Co.

This year, Standard & Co introduced a revamped menu featuring exciting new items while maintaining a commitment to lower prices. Whether you're seeking a quiet workspace, a spot for meetings,

a delicious cup of Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters coffee, a family-friendly meal, or a post-workout smoothie and bite to eat, Standard & Co is designed with you in mind.

Standard & Co Café is a testament to the commitment of its owners to create a space that enhances the community experience. The café serves as a hub for the GLAC members and the entire community (you don't need to be a member to visit the café), offering a welcoming environment for all.

As you step into Standard & Co, expect not only a delightful culinary journey but also an embodiment of the values that make Orion Township a vibrant community. Whether you're a coffee enthusiast, a fitness fanatic, or someone seeking a comfortable spot to connect with friends, make Standard & Co Café your destination. It's where community, commitment, and culinary delights come together in perfect harmony.



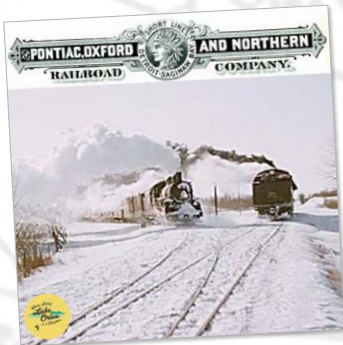


Lake Orion History

# Tracking the Polly Ann's railway past

What was the Polly Ann Trail before it became the scenic pathway we know today? This well-kept nature trail was once a bustling railway.

In the late 1800s, railroading was the future of transportation. Before that, dirt and gravel roads made travel dirty, slow,



causing delayed deliveries. There was a desperate need for a rail line from Pontiac to the rich timber in Michigan's thumb area. John T. Stanton, an Oxford doctor, and James Ashley, a Toledo investor, started planning this line in 1879. It was named the Pontiac, Oxford and Port Austin.

Unfortunately, in 1881 a large fire devastated the thumb area, taking out 2000 square miles of trees. The land was cleared for farming. The first passenger train left Pontiac for Caseville in 1883. This line struggled to be profitable. In 1888 Hugh Porter bought the line for \$600,000 (equal to \$19.3 million today). He renamed it Pontiac, Oxford, Northern, abbreviated to P.O. & N. The name Polly Ann derived from these initials. It was named that due to its delays, questionable service, and breakdowns.

In 1909, Grand Trunk Western took over the line. There were never enough passengers for the line but fertile farmland in the area provided ample wheat, sugar beets and beans for rail transportation.

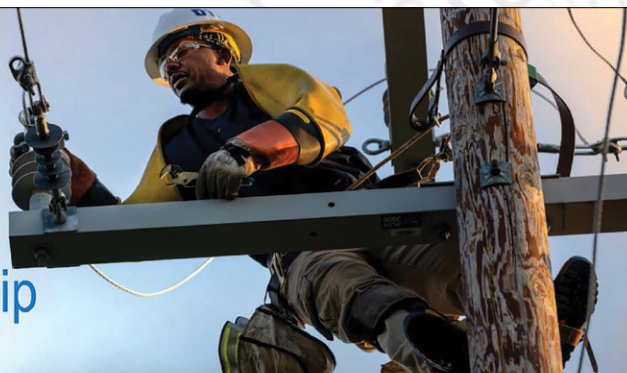
In the 1930s, Oxford had one of the largest gravel mines and was the source of carloads for Grand Trunk Western. This regular job was known as the "mud run." The gravel was used for road construction and runways at Selfridge Air Force Base in Macomb County. At its peak in the 1950s, a man assigned the "gravel extra" meant 16 straight hours of railway duty. In 1955 the line was freight only and was nicknamed the "poor, old and neglected." It was always the last line to receive maintenance.

The last train service was on February 9, 1984. The Grand Trunk sold the line to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Along with a federal grant in 1993, the final purchase (\$728,000, or \$1.5 million today) from Grand Trunk was made. The trail today is run by a council and trail manager Linda Moran. Her passion and get-it-done attitude have brought positive energy to our historic trailway.

[Learn more at PollyAnnTrail.org.](http://PollyAnnTrail.org)

*By Orion Living Contributor Jimmy Johnson. Jimmy owns Graphic Takeover and shares Orion history at [WhereLivingisaVacation.com](http://WhereLivingisaVacation.com) and at [Facebook.com/WhereLivingisaVacation](https://Facebook.com/WhereLivingisaVacation).*

## Working to Improve Reliability in Orion Township



All 18 distribution circuits in the Orion Township area are on tree trim cycle, but we will continue to address any issues identified



Recently completed several underground replacement programs and will replace any future issues that occur



Found no major issues through a recent engineering study including infrared scans of the high voltage lines, circuit patrol, and protective operating devices



We have committed to and are actively investing in future system automation to improve restoration times



The most recent outage serving downtown Lake Orion and residential areas south and west was caused by animal intrusion at the substation, which we are investigating additional fortification efforts to limit in the future



Updated December 2023



Photo courtesy of Road Commission for Oakland County

# It's construction season in Orion

A trio of major road construction projects is set to begin this spring and summer that will affect many commuters' daily routes. As we gear up for another season filled with orange barrels, let's dive into the details of the upcoming projects.

## **Brown, Giddings, and Silverbell Roads**

**Scope:** 2.8 miles of pavement removal and replacement, road widening, right turn-lane enhancements, new traffic signals, and more.

**Timeline:** Spring to Fall 2024 (dates to be announced)

**Traffic Impact:** Access to businesses maintained at all times. One lane open in each direction, except for specific closures detailed below.

**Road Closures:** Brown Road, east of Giddings Road: A temporary closure for several hundred feet during the initial stage with a signed detour. Giddings Road, north of Silver Bell Road: A temporary closure for several hundred feet during the second stage with a signed detour.

## **Baldwin / Clarkston Road Roundabout**

**Cost:** Approximately \$3.2 million (Federal funds, Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), and Orion Township dollars)

**Scope:** Roundabout construction, ADA-compliant crosswalks, HAWK pedestrian signals, storm sewer improvements, decorative concrete, curbs, intersection lighting, and utility relocation (starting winter 2023).

**Timeline:** Dates to be Announced (anticipated to begin after school releases for summer break)

**Traffic Impact:** Intersection closure during construction.

**Detour:** Indianwood Road to Joslyn Road to Waldon Road to Baldwin Road, and vice versa.

## **Waldon Road, Baldwin to Clintonville Road**

**Cost:** \$14.7 million (Federal dollars, RCOC, Independence Township, Orion Township, and Oakland County)

**Scope:** Paving, roundabout construction, curve realignment, culvert replacements, pathway construction, stream improvements, tree removals, utility relocation, and peat bog removal.

**Phase I (2023):** June 16 to Mid-November completed

**Phase 2 (2024): Start Date:** To be announced

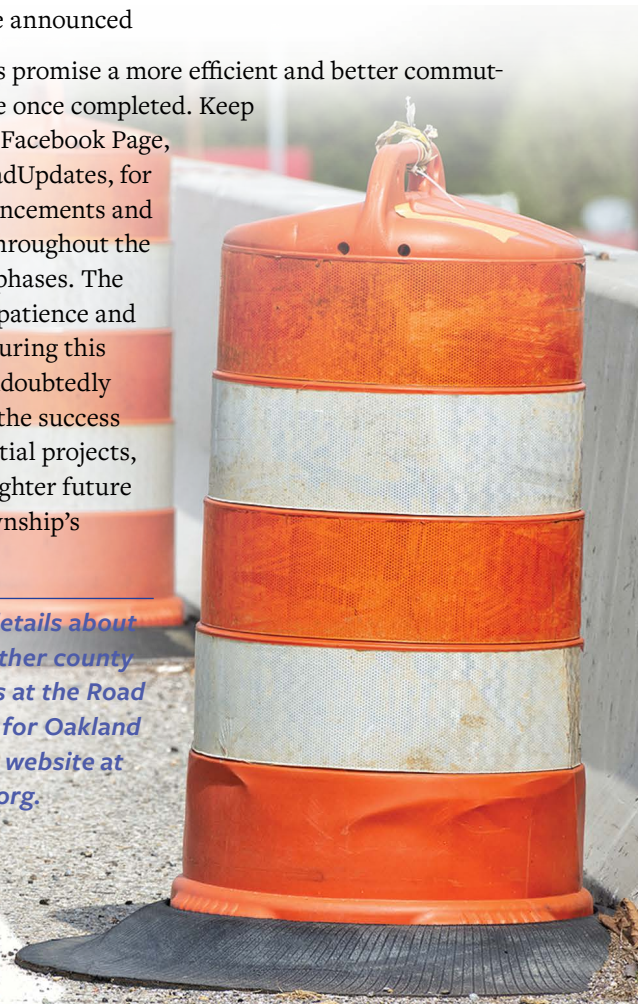
**Expected Completion:** To be announced

**Closure:** Yes, access to homes and businesses maintained at all times.

**Detour:** To be announced

These projects promise a more efficient and better commuting experience once completed. Keep an eye on our Facebook Page, OrionTwpRoadUpdates, for project announcements and any updates throughout the construction phases. The community's patience and cooperation during this period will undoubtedly contribute to the success of these essential projects, ensuring a brighter future for Orion Township's roadways.

*Find more details about these and other county road projects at the Road Commission for Oakland County's website at [rcocweb.org](http://rcocweb.org).*





# Experience joy through movement

Spring has sprung! We've officially entered the season of renewal whose name is synonymous with the bouncy energy we might expect to feel this time of year. But what if amidst the spring-time thaw out, our desire to exercise is feeling a bit...dampened. In the same way that sunshine, after water, helps flowers bloom, identifying enjoyment in exercise can rekindle our energy to engage in it.

## Find a form of exercise that resonates with you

Rain is rarely comfortable or convenient, and exercise can feel that way too. We can't expect to look forward to every workout any more than we'd look forward to every rainstorm, but we can make sure that our exercise of choice is rooted in something semi-resonant with Gene Kelly tapping and twirling around a lamp post and sinnnnging in

the rain. Or, if that level of joy in relation to exercise sounds excessive, maybe we can relate to that of a child discovering a muddy puddle.

We are wired as human beings to experience joy through movement, so let's identify the forms of exercise we most enjoy and make them part of our lives in a way that feels manageable. What makes a workout enjoyable will resonate with some of us in different ways than others—the endorphin rush from a hard, higher intensity workout will evoke something different than a walk in a park. What is impactful is that the person exercising can link said form of exercise to joy in some capacity that compels them to engage in said exercise again, and again, and again.

## A childlike curiosity

As a running coach for children and adults of all ages and levels, I often reference my youngest athletes as experts to my older, more experienced ones as the link between running as exercise and running as play is unobstructed for them. A child who enjoys running embraces it with curiosity; it's fun and exciting to see how far and fast they can go and, more generally, what their bodies can do. I believe that as we adults become curious about where we might find childlike joy through exercise again, our energy to exercise will feel renewed.

Need some inspiration for this curiosity? Here are some suggestions:

- Sign up for a race or other fitness competition!
- Browse through class descriptions on your local gym's group fitness calendar.
- Research different activity-based locations like parks, beaches, and trails.

Lean into what sounds intriguing, and let joy find you there.

*By Maria Brandon, Fitness Trainer,  
Great Lakes Athletic Club*



# Make Downtown your destination!

Lake Orion is again brimming with great events, wonderful shopping and delicious restaurants for a great day out with family and friends. From adventures in Letterboxing to tasty eats at the annual Restaurant Week, make heading Downtown your destination!

## #StrongerTogether Restaurant Week

February 24– March 3

The second annual #StrongerTogether Restaurant Week is ready to bring you dishes to thrill your tastebuds. Local eateries in Lake

Orion and Oxford are preparing delicious menu items to enjoy during the event week. Trolley service will be operating to shuttle you between the downtowns on Fridays and Saturdays. It's a great way to support your favorite restaurants and to experience new dining locations in our communities.



## #StrongerTogether Shopping Passport

March 1–31

Get rewarded for shopping local! The Lake Orion and Oxford DDAs are coming together again to offer an unbeatable shopping incentive for the month of March. With a minimum \$25 purchase at any downtown shop or restaurant, you can earn Downtown Dollars from each town. And for every fourth purchase, you get more Downtown Dollars. Whether you prefer in-store or online shopping, it's all accepted. Plus, Trolley service will be available Fridays from 5 to 9 pm and Saturdays from 3 to 9 pm to explore both towns on the same day. Gather your friends and make it a great day to support local!



Whether you prefer in-store or online shopping, it's all accepted. Plus, Trolley service will be available Fridays from 5 to 9 pm and Saturdays from 3 to 9 pm to explore both towns on the same day. Gather your friends and make it a great day to support local!

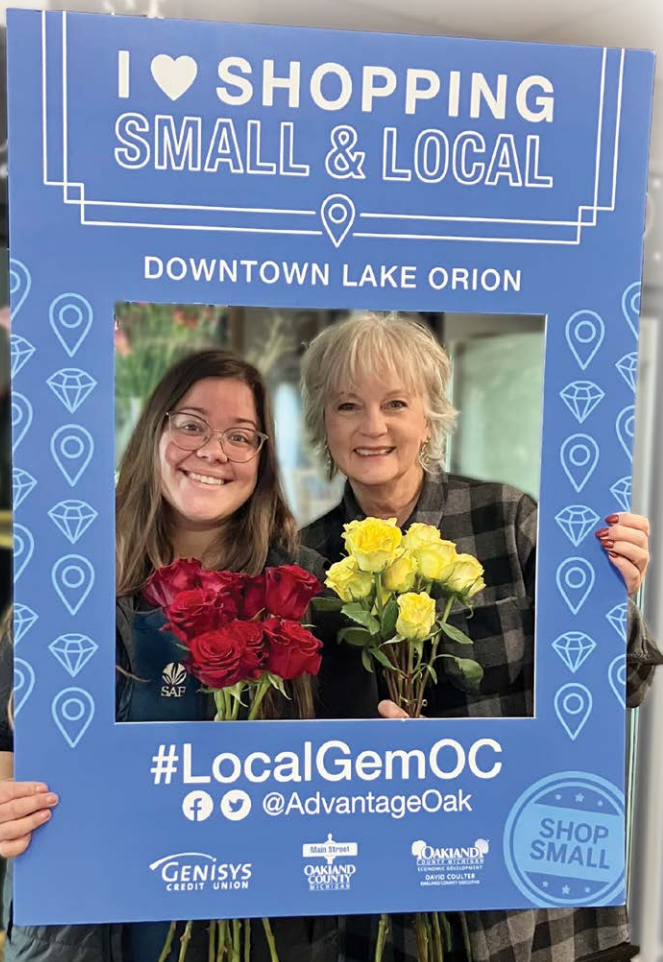
## #StrongerTogether Letterboxing

April 1– 30

A unique twist on geocaching! Become a sleuth searching for hidden letterboxes, follow clues, and discover hand carved stamps, but remember to leave the stamp where you found it! Lake Orion and Oxford team up again for this grand adventure that is fun for all ages.

To get started, you'll need a few supplies and the clues, which you can find on [letterboxing.org](http://letterboxing.org) or [atlasquest.com](http://atlasquest.com). The additional bonus this year—the chance to find \$10

Downtown Dollars hidden in random boxes each week. Don't miss out on this great adventure!



## Downtown Dollars Keep it local!

Spend your dollars in your community by using the Downtown Dollars gift certificate program. There are over 40 participating businesses in the Lake Orion DDA downtown shopping and dining district.

Easy to use! Stop in the Lake Orion DDA office at **118 N. Broadway** and buy in increments of \$25. The certificates are good for a year from purchase. Great way to gift hometown finds to family, friends, and neighbors!

Facts! According to an American Express study, for every dollar spent at a local business, 67 cents stays in the local community. Think local first!



### The Art & Flower Fair

May 18–May 19

Celebrate Spring at the annual Art & Flower Fair, presented by the Orion Art Center!

Get outside and get downtown to experience over 100 art and flower vendors, live artist demonstrations, a kid’s area with many games, crafts, and cool things to do, and a beer garden with live entertainment all weekend—Lake Orion style! Art, music, shopping, and outdoor fun make a memorable weekend in downtown Lake Orion.



Photo courtesy Orion Art Center

### Memorial Day Activities

Monday, May 27

Lake Orion honors and celebrates our veterans through annual activities including Memorial Day services, a Memorial Day Parade, and the Orion Veterans Memorial Day Race. Come downtown on Memorial Day to take part.

We welcome you to our downtown for food, fun, and festivities. For more information or the latest details, please visit [downtownlakeorion.org](http://downtownlakeorion.org) or call 248-693-9742.

Photo by Lee Smith



## Celebrate the spring holidays Downtown

**St. Patrick’s Day, March 17**, brings out the Irish in us all! Find unique items to deck out this day of the year and then head to your favorite watering hole in downtown to celebrate!



**Easter is March 31**. Check [downtownlakeorion.org](http://downtownlakeorion.org) for the variety of Easter Bunny sightings and various family friendly events to attend. Hop to it!



It’s time for a fiesta on **May 5, Cinco de Mayo!** Grab a delicioso lunch or dinner at Lake Orion’s best Mexican restaurants.



Celebrate Mom on **Mother’s Day, May 12**, with sweet treasures in Downtown Lake Orion shops or find the perfect dining location to say “thank you” to her. Make her day special in Downtown Lake Orion.



### Follow us!

 /LakeOrionDDA

 /downtownlakeorion

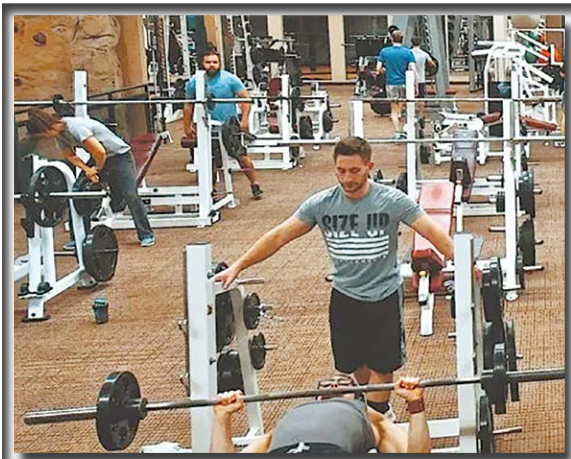


# JOIN US ON OUR NEW JOURNEY!

## GREAT LAKES ATHLETIC CLUB

3800 South Baldwin Road, Orion | 248-393-3085

Monday-Friday: 5 am-9 pm | Saturday & Sunday: 6 am-8 pm



### POOL HOURS

**Monday**  
5 am-6 pm

**Tuesday**  
5 am-4 pm

**Wednesday**  
5 am-6 pm

**Thursday**  
5 am-4 pm

**Friday**  
5 am-6 pm

**Saturday**  
12 pm-6 pm

**Sunday**  
12 pm-6 pm

### FAMILY SWIM HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**  
11 am-6 pm

**Tuesday & Thursday**  
11 am-4 pm

**Saturday & Sunday**  
12 pm- 6 pm

### AMENITIES

GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

INDOOR & OUTDOOR POOL

TWO RAQUETBALL COURTS

BASKETBALL COURTS

PICKLEBALL

STEAM & SAUNA ROOMS

YOGA STUDIO

CYCLE STUDIO

OLYMPIC LIFTING ROOM

OVER 100 PIECES OF CARDIO EQUIPMENT

MYZONE TECHNOLOGY

FREE PERSONAL TRAINER CONSULT

CHILDREN'S CENTER

JUNIOR MEMBER SERVICE & FAMILY HOURS

STANDARD & CO CAFE

GREAT LAKES ATHLETIC CLUB

SCAN FOR INFORMATION AND RATES



SCAN ME

# SPECIAL EVENTS



## Garage Sale

Orion Center | Fri, Mar 8  
9 am– 3 pm | Free

Shop from 30+ families with one of a kind household and personal items, tools, clothing, toys, everything including the kitchen sink, all at bargain prices. FREE Parking & Admission.

## Puzzle & Game Day Swap

Orion Center | Thu, Apr 11 | 9 am–5 pm | Free

Game Day Swap will have puzzles, books, DVDs and board games for anyone to swap. Event is free for anyone to participate. Registration is not necessary.



## St. Patrick's Day TR Dance

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 18 | 6–8 pm  
Ages 13+ | \$6R/\$8NR

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us! Special needs and individuals with disabilities are invited to an evening of music, dancing, and light refreshments with DJ David Dazzle Do Time. Preregistration preferred, walk-ins are welcome. Chaperones are free.

## Bunny Bop

Orion Center | Sat, Mar 16 | 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. Remember to 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.



## Spring Break Car Bingo

Orion Center Parking Lot | Wed, Mar 27 | 1–2:30 pm  
All Ages | Free

Staycation fun in the Orion Center Parking Lot! All Participants will receive a set of Bingo Cards upon arriving. As you hear your numbers over the radio use a marker to mark those numbers on your card. If you get a BINGO you'll honk your horn to let the callers know and walk up to the Orion Center to get your prize!



## Blood Drive with Versiti Blood Center

Orion Center | Thu, Mar 28 | 12:30–5 pm | Ages 17+ | Free  
Orion Center | Thu, Jun 13 | 12:30–5 pm | Ages 17+ | Free

Every day, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan needs more than 560 blood products to meet hospital demand. What we collect will go back to help people in your community! The key to success is to fill all appointment slots. To schedule your appointment please sign up at [donate.michigan.versiti.org](https://donate.michigan.versiti.org).

## Flashlight Egg Hunt

Camp Agawam  
Thu, Mar 14 | 8–9 pm  
Ages 9–15 | \$10R/\$12NR

Don't let those older kids miss out on all the fun! Kids age 9–15 are invited to participate in 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. Parents are welcome to stay, watch all the fun and enjoy the campfire and hot cocoa. Egg Hunt starts at 8 pm.

## Orion Green Up

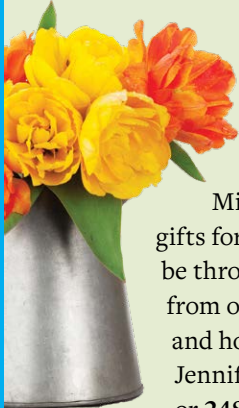
Camp Agawam | Fri, Apr 19 | 5–7 pm | Free

Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day with us, make a difference in your community and help make Orion Township a little greener. Come to Camp Agawam to grab your trash bags and enjoy a BBQ and tree-planting ceremony on Friday. Take the weekend to clean up your location. We provide the trash bags—you bring gloves, shovels, rakes, etc., anything you may need to help make us clean and green. We will pick up the full bags. Scan the QR Code to sign up and see all of the locations that need a little love.



### Mother's Day Market Art & Craft Show

Orion Center | Sat, May 4 | 10 am-4 pm | Free



BuyNearBy and Shop Local! Start your Mother's Day shopping early with one of a kind, unique arts and craft show featuring distinctive and classic Made in Michigan products, made by Michiganders for Michiganders! Find exclusive Mother's Day gifts for all the mom's in your life! Vendors will be throughout the Orion Center with everything from one of a kind, hand-made jewelry, clothing and home décor. Interested vendors can contact Jennifer Vezina at [jvezina@oriontownship.org](mailto:jvezina@oriontownship.org) or 248-391-0304 Ext 3503 for details. Only hand-made products will be considered.

### Motherhood Matters Health & Wellness Expo

Orion Center | Thu, May 9 | 6-8 pm | Free

Motherhood is one of the greatest experiences, but also one of the hardest- it takes a village to answer all the questions you may have. Come enjoy a night at the Orion Center while we discuss hot topics, including car seat safety, choking, safe sleep, breastfeeding, and postpartum care. After the discussion, enjoy a chair massage, receive info from vendors, and free food! Thank you to Ascension of Rochester for providing the speakers.

### Dragon Dash 5K

Orion Center | Sun, May 19 | 9 am  
\$20 early bird



Whether you run or walk, join us for the Annual Dragon Dash! This 5K certified course beginning and ending at the Orion Center and following the Polly Ann Trail south toward Civic Center Park will kick off your training season. All runners will receive an award crossing the finish line. All levels of runners and walkers are invited, from beginner to competitive. \$25 race day. Proceeds from this event will go toward Orion Area Youth Assistance programming! Learn more at [lakeorionyouthassistance.com](http://lakeorionyouthassistance.com).

### Outdoor Community Garage Sale

Orion Center Parking Lot | Sat, Jun 1  
9 am-3 pm | \$12R/\$15NR

Shop from 30+ families with one of a kind household and personal items, tools, clothing, toys, everything including the kitchen sink, all at bargain prices. FREE Parking & Admission.



### Antique, Toy & Comic Expo

Orion Center | Sat, Jun 1 | 9 am-3 pm | \$12R/\$15NR

Buy, sell or trade comic books, collectibles, antiques and memorabilia at the Expo! Vendor setup opens at 8 am. FREE Parking & Admission.

### Concerts in the Park at Wildwood

Wildwood | Thu, Jun 13-Aug 22 | 7-8:30 pm | Free

No matter what your taste in music you'll be sure to find a performance to enjoy. Grab your lawn chairs and a blanket, gather up your family and friends, and join us for an evening of FREE music on the hill at Wildwood Amphitheater. Sit back, relax, and enjoy. FREE Parking & Admission, concessions available.



Photo by Ajit Makhecha

### Summer Sizzle

Orion Center | Thu, Jun 20  
6-8 pm | Free

Kick off your summer with a mini family staycation right here in Orion Township. Your kids will love the carnival games, face painting, bounce house, balloons, grilled hot dogs, and much more without breaking the bank to get there! All of this fun is free for everyone, a staycation that SIZZLES! FREE Parking & Admission.

### Open Mic Night

Orion Center | 3rd Thu Monthly | 5-8:45 pm

Share your talent, poetry, music, dance or comedy. All ages and abilities welcome!



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

# YOUTH ENRICHMENT

## THE ARTIST'S APPRENTICE

Taught by Artist/Instructor  
Pamela Palmer BFA

### Kids Learning to Draw

Orion Center

Mon, Mar 11-Apr 8 | 4:30-6 pm  
Ages 7+ | \$65R/\$67NR

Let's begin with the FUNDamentals! Create three interesting drawings, incorporating the seven basic elements: value will be explored with a drawing of an animal from photo references. (Bring a picture of your pet if you wish!) We'll implement methods of adding texture, including 'rubblings' in the foreground. Line is a concept we will investigate in a zentangle artwork using markers, emphasizing negative and positive space. Shape evolves into creative form in a satisfying design project, using curved lines and shading with metallic or neon colored pencils. Choose symmetry or asymmetry as a basis for your ideas. We'll make our own color wheel using watercolor pencils and incorporating this as a layered point of interest in an imaginary setting. \$20 material fee payable to the instructor on the first day of class.

### Home Alone Training

Orion Center | Thu, Apr 4  
6:30-7:30 pm | Ages 9+ | \$17R/\$20NR

Is your young teen staying home alone this fall? Prepare yourself and your child for this new adventure. Instructor Merry Lewis presents the skills your child will need to be home alone safely. Includes walking home, key responsibility, securing the house, answering the phone, safe choices, and emergency procedures. Training follows the American Red Cross Curriculum. Certificate is presented upon completion of the workshop. Handouts are included.

### Babysitter Training

Orion Center | Thu, Apr 11  
6-8:30 pm | Ages 11-14 | \$20R/\$23NR

Instructor Merry Lewis 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. The 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  
Ages 7+ | \$225R/\$235NR

Give your child the experience they have been dreaming of. 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 (No tennis shoes). Looking for that special time with your child? Take lessons together. A maximum of 3 riders per class, classes fill quickly. Register early for a rewarding and unforgettable experience. Lessons are available Monday-Friday evening hours, and Saturday-Sunday afternoon hours. After registering, please contact Leslie at 248-240-4488 for availability.

### Elementary Sherlock— Afterschool Theater Class for Kids

Friendship Park  
Thu, Mar 14-May 9  
4:15-5:30 pm  
Ages 5-12  
\$150R/\$158NR

Watson, the game's afoot! Come join our kids' afterschool theater troupe. Over the course of 8 weeks students will learn theater basics, gain confidence and public speaking skills, and develop new friendships, all while putting together a performance of Elementary Sherlock, a reimagining of Sherlock Holmes's early years. The performance will take place on May 9 at 5 pm. Please note that students will be given time at the beginning of each session to eat an afterschool snack (self-provided). No class Mar 28.



### International Kids Baking Series

Camp Agawam | Sat, Mar 9, 23  
2-4 pm | Ages 8+  
\$35R/\$37NR drop in only

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. Instructor Paula Kotrba and Luminita

Murphy. Mar 9 Cookies,  
Mar 23 Bake Off  
Competition.



### Celebrate with Miss Margee

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 4, 18, Apr 1, 15 | \$40R/\$45NR

9-10 am | Ages 1 & 2 | Terrific Toddlers  
10:15-11:15 am | Ages 3-5  
Preschool Pals

Parents and children will enjoy spending quality time together in these toddler classes, participating in free play, crafts, circle time, that are both interactive and educational for parents/caregivers and children and weekly themed activities. Material fee of \$5 per child is payable to the instructor at first class.

### MINDS IN MOTION

#### Outer Space & Physics Fun

Friendship Park | Tue, Apr 9-May 14  
4:30-5:30 pm | Ages 6-10  
\$115R/\$125NR

Come join an exciting world of space exploration as you build and take home your very own Solar System Kit! You will assemble your own model, learn all about our planetary neighborhood, and watch the planets move around the sun powered by battery or solar power. Check out our real meteorite fragment samples! Take part in other exciting activities involving physics, air pressure, and density. Take home your own cosmic rocket and watch

it shoot up fifty feet into the air! Be mesmerized as you assemble and take home your own stunt plane and learn about the four major forces of flight. You will also witness some really neat demonstrations from your instructor. Watch as an egg is magically sucked into a bottle, behold a tornado being created, and much much more in this fun and exciting program!



# SUMMER CAMP

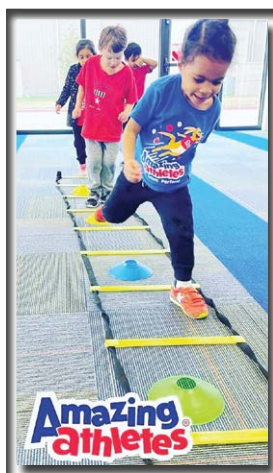
### Amazing Athletes Camp

Orion Center | Mon-Thu, Mar 25-28  
2:05-2:50 pm | Ages 2.5-6  
\$64R/\$74NR

Friendship Park | Mon-Thu, Jun 17-  
Jun 20 | 2:10-2:55 pm | Ages 2.5-6  
\$64R/\$74NR

Amazing Athletes Camps are the premier developmental physical fitness camps empowering children aged 3 to 6 years old 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 through the introduction of 10 different sports. Coaches break the fundamentals of each sport-based skill down into simple steps based on each child's age and ability.



### Orion Area Youth Assistance Enrichment Scholarships available

Enrichment scholarships of up to \$100 are available to students who demonstrate a need for financial assistance to participate in extracurricular activities and/or summer camp. 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 [www.lakeorionyouthassistance.com/skill-building-scholarships](http://www.lakeorionyouthassistance.com/skill-building-scholarships) or contact [oaya@lok12.org](mailto:oaya@lok12.org).

### Go Wild! Camp

Camp Agawam | Mon-Thu, Jun 17-20  
Jun 24-27 | 10 am-12:30 pm | Ages 4-7  
\$50R/\$52NR

Does your little camper love to get dirty in the great outdoors? Join us at Camp Agawam for a hands-on, Growing Up Wild, nature investigation! Use all five senses to explore animal habits, recycling for a cleaner environment, animal tracks, and become aware that Wildlife is Everywhere! Registration opens May 1.



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at  
**ORIONPARKS.COM**

or call 248-391-0304, ext. 3500  
1335 JOSLYN ROAD, LAKE ORION



## Young Scientist Camp

Camp Agawam  
 Mon–Thu, Jul 8–11  
 Jul 15–18 | Jul 22–25  
 10 am–12:30 pm  
 Ages 4–7 | \$50R/\$52NR



How are tornadoes formed? What is a fossil? What makes electricity? So much more to discover in our Young Scientist camp. Daily activities to stretch young minds and to make a mess in our space. Registration opens May 1.

## THE ARTIST'S APPRENTICE

*Taught by Artist/Instructor  
 Pamela Palmer BFA*

## Whimsical Animals Painting & Drawing Camp

Orion Center | Mon–Fri, Jun 17–21  
 9 am–12 pm | Ages 7+ | \$165R/\$170NR

This camp will tickle your funny bone! We'll paint laughing kittens with top hats, draw dancing fish, and personify your favorite animals! The ideas will be your own, and colors and structure will be unusual, guidance will be given to ensure that your creations are believable, in a kooky way. We will discuss which elements are required in a work of art to develop an effective composition, namely the rule of thirds, iconic, and leading the eye. Kids will create unusual backgrounds and work on large-scale drawings, including cartoons! Bring a water bottle and snack. \$60 material fee payable to the instructor on the first day.



## Kids' Sculpture Camp

Orion Center | Mon–Fri, Jun 17–21  
 1:30–4:30 pm | Ages 7+ | \$165R/\$170NR

Let's spend these sunny afternoons creating fun sculptures! We will make an animal out of self-drying clay, including an array of embellishments, and flora design out of other pliable mediums for our modeling portion of the program. Transforming to a lesson in carving, kids will make characters out of chiseled Styrofoam. (carving tools are kid-friendly.) Some pieces will be adorned with painted designs first accomplished in colored drawings to achieve the best motif. Celtic, Inuit, and Greek reference books will be available for inspiration. Bring a water bottle and snack, and wear clothes that are not precious, messy camp alert! \$60 material fee payable to the instructor on the first day.

## Junior Golf Camp

Mulberry Hills Golf Course  
 Mon–Thu, Jun 17–20 | Jun 24–27  
 Jul 8–11 | Jul 15–18 | 9:30 am–1 pm  
 Ages 7–15 | \$225R/\$230NR

All aspects of the game are covered and the instruction is kept simple, fun and relaxed with games and contests. Camps begin with the basic fundamentals of the golf grip, stance, posture, aim alignment and moves through the swing plane and motion. Youngsters will be taught lessons in fairness, perseverance, self-control and self-esteem that will help them long after they have left the instruction tee. Camp includes; camp shirt, lunch, on-course instruction, practice balls, range use, essential gift bag, certificate reduced green fees all season, use of equipment (if needed), games, prizes and awards! Camps are Non-refundable.



## MINDS IN MOTION CAMPS

### Code & Control Robodozer

Friendship Park | Mon–Fri, Jun 17–21  
 9 am–12 pm | Ages 8–12  
 \$145R/\$155NR

Build your own powerful robotic bulldozer and sleek handheld wireless controller! With your manual and the aid of your instructor, assemble your Robo Dozer which consists of over 40 robotic parts including a speaker, circuit board, motors, LED lights, and more. Learn the advantages and disadvantages of tracked vehicles and examples of robots with continuous tracks. Command your robot to move in all directions, play sounds, and light up its cab roof lights! The Code and Control wireless unit enables you to control your Robo Dozer in real-time, or write and save sequences of commands for the robot to perform at the push of a button. Try a few experiments with your Code and Control Robo Dozer and compete with your classmates!

### Website Wizards

Friendship Park | Mon–Fri, Jun 17–21  
 12:30–3:30 pm | Ages 9–13  
 \$145R/\$155NR

Become a website wizard and embark on a journey of creativity, innovation, and business savviness! This course empowers you with the essential skills of entrepreneurship and website design using the user-friendly platform, Wix. Learn the fundamentals of business ideas, budgeting, business planning, and more! Discover the magic of creating functional websites without coding knowledge. You will be guided to design and customize your own websites, implement a blog, and add pictures and videos! Use digital marketing and marketing strategies to attract visitors. Team with other students, exchange ideas, and support each other's growth! Witness your potential soar as you embark on an adventure in entrepreneurship and website design, while having a blast! (Bring your own laptop or tablet, earbuds, and access to an email account.)



### X in 1 Renewable Energy Kit

Friendship Park | Mon–Fri, Jul 15–19  
9 am–12 pm | Ages 6–10  
\$145R/\$155NR

Assemble up to five vehicles, three dinosaurs, and two windmills as you work on and take home your own Renewable Energy Kit! You will construct ten animated building options with child-friendly parts that function indoors with the use of a Hand Generator, outdoors with the use of the XL Solar Panel, and indoors and outdoors with the Wind-Powered LED. Developing manual dexterity and building confidence has never been this fun! You will learn three renewable energy concepts: Hand Generator power, Solar power, and Wind power. With the aid of your instructor, you will utilize the instruction manual and work with over 115 pieces to build up to ten exciting models! Most importantly, no batteries are required. Indoors or out, this kit operates 100% on renewable energy.

### Chemical Creations

Friendship Park | Mon–Fri, Jul 15–19  
12:30–3:30 pm | Ages 6–10  
\$145R/\$155NR

Experience a hands-on world of fun as you conduct a variety of scientific experiments! Work on and take home your own Chemistry Lab Kit with test tubes, safety goggles, and more! Discover different scientific concepts in an entertaining and innovative approach. You will work like a real scientist in the lab. You will also make and take home some cool chemical creations! Learn all about energy and molecules, and create a crazy

bouncy glob from glue, and some scary green slime! Make your own UV bracelet and watch it react to the sun. You will also get to witness some amazing scientific demonstrations from your instructor. Watch snow being created and feel how cold it is! Experience a really powerful magnet, magic sand, and many other exciting experiments in this fascinating and educational program!



### Solarbot.14

Friendship Park | Mon–Fri, Jul 29–  
Aug 2 | 9 am–12 pm | Ages 8–12  
\$145R/\$155NR

Take home your own 14 in 1 educational solar robot kit! Every hour, more solar energy reaches the Earth than humans use in a year! Learn how solar energy works and witness how this technology harnesses the sun's energy. Kit contains unique components that operate on land and water. Construct 14 solar-powered robots from functional to comical designs, including a tortoise bot, bug bot, paddle bot, tumbler bot, monster bot, big wheeler bot, car bot, surfer bot, and rowing bot! Using its motor, gears, and solar panel, watch your solar bot come to life without batteries as it uses the power of the sun. Use your creativity, put your mind in motion, and create your own designs!

### Young Entrepreneurs

Friendship Park | Mon–Fri, Jul 29–  
Aug 2 | 12:30–3:30 pm | Ages 9–13  
\$145R/\$155N

Are you a young dreamer, an idea generator, and a future business leader? Uncover your creativity, fire up innovation, and equip yourself to dominate the business world with your unique products or services! Learn and apply skills entrepreneurs use to make millions of dollars! Turn everyday thoughts into exciting business ventures that win customers. Master planning and strategy like treasure hunters mapping out their journey. Discover money management secrets to fuel your business dreams. Dive into marketing to showcase your awesome products or services. Learn to create lifelong fans through excellent customer service and present your ideas with the confidence of a true business superstar! This course is your passport to entrepreneurship, essential skills, and a path to success! (Bring your own laptop or tablet, earbuds, and access to an email account.)

### ONTV Kids Video Camp

ONTV Studio | Mon–Fri, Jun 10–14  
1–4 pm | Ages 11–13 | \$145R/NR

During this week-long camp students will meet at the ONTV Studio daily to learn television production, filmmaking and more. The group will produce a program that will air on local cable TV. Camp includes T-shirt, pizza party and DVD. Classes held at ONTV Studio, 1349 Joslyn Road. Call 248-393-1060 to register.



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at

**ORION PARKS.COM**

or call 248-391-0304, ext. 3500

1335 JOSLYN ROAD, LAKE ORION

# YOUTH FITNESS



## Kiddie Kickers

Friendship Park, Soccer Field #1  
 Wed, May 1-Jun 5 | 6-7 pm  
 Ages 3-4 or 5-6 | \$60R/\$63NR

Youth soccer is a great way to encourage an active lifestyle while enhancing your child's social and physical development. This program offers a fun and safe atmosphere for learning the basics of soccer and incorporates fun activities and non-competitive scrimmages that promote sportsmanship and teamwork. We are looking for parent volunteers to coach under the guidance of an experienced instructor. Lesson plans will be prepared weekly to work on basic skills, followed by scrimmages. Participants are encouraged to bring a size 3 soccer ball. Soccer balls are available for purchase at the time of registration for \$13 (limit of 1 per registered participant). Rain date scheduled for June 12 if needed.

## Junior Golf Lessons

Mulberry Hills Golf Course  
 Mon, Jul 15-Aug 19 | 6:30-7:30 pm  
 Ages 7-15 | \$130R/\$135NR

Lessons with Mulberry Hills will introduce proper grip, stance and posture, basic putting and chipping and examine the fundamentals of the full swing. Students will be approached as if they have little or no experience. Group lessons are designed to create a comfortable and affordable instructional environment for the new or intermediate golfer. No class Jul 29. Class is Non-refundable.



## Amazing Athletes Sports Discovery

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 4-Apr 29  
 6:25-7:10 pm | Ages 7-10  
 \$136R/\$146NR | Baseball, Lacrosse, and Hockey

Friendship Park | Mon, May 6-Jun 24  
 6:25-7:10 pm | Ages 7-10  
 \$136R/\$146NR | Football, Pickleball, and Soccer

This 8-week program is designed to empower kids to discover their inner athlete and love of sport. Together we explore three sports with two weeks of concentrated play and practice for each, followed by a 'finale' game and an award ceremony. Your amazing athlete will have the opportunity to develop skills with practice, apply what they've learned with confidence, have fun with game-play, and discover sports they love! No class on March 25 and May 27.

## Amazing Athletes

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 4-Apr 29  
 5:35-6:10 pm | Ages 2.5-6  
 \$112R/\$122NR

Friendship Park  
 Mon, May 6-Jun 24  
 5:35-6:10 pm  
 Ages 2.5-6  
 \$128R/\$138NR

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. No class Mar 25 and May 27.



## Amazing TOTS

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 4-Apr 29  
 5-5:25 pm | Ages 18 months-2.5  
 \$120R/\$130NR

Friendship Park | Mon, May 6-Jun 24  
 5-5:25 pm | Ages 18 months-2.5  
 \$120R/\$130NR

A guided, discovery-based program helps children engage in structured physical activities tailored to toddlers. Amazing Tots uses age-appropriate developmental milestones and works with each toddler based on his or her attention span and physical abilities. Toddlers learn about one of four sports through our discovery lessons. Classes balance structured physical challenges and organized physical exploration activities designed with little ones in mind. We know that a healthy body and mind go hand in hand so we incorporate important reading and developmental properties into our physical activities, combining fitness, learning, and fun all in one! Imaginative fitness activities include color recognition, shape

classification, letter identification, and action vocabulary experiences (over, under, around, etc.). Research shows that when you link letters, words, sounds, and more to a physical movement, you keep your body active and boost your brain power with better concentration and recall. Amazing Tots gain physical and academic advantages that prepare them to excel

in preschool and beyond. Our toddlers gain skills and tools that last a lifetime. No class Mar 25 and May 27.

# MARCH

**1-3** Lake Orion  
DDA #Stronger  
Together Restaurant  
Week (starts Feb 24)

**1-31** Lake Orion  
DDA #Stronger  
Together Shopping  
Passport, *Downtown LO*

**4** Board of Trustees  
Meeting, *Township Hall*,  
7 pm

**5** Parent/Teacher  
Conferences, Middle  
School

**7** The Art of  
Storytelling Gallery  
Opening, *Orion Art  
Center*, 7 pm

**7** Parent/Teacher  
Conferences, Middle  
School

**8** Community Garage  
Sale, *Orion Center*,  
9 am-3 pm

**9** 5th Grade Battle  
of the Books, *Orion  
Library*, 10 am

**11** Deadline to register  
for Youth Spring  
Leagues

**14** Flashlight Egg  
Hunt, *Camp Agawam*,  
8 pm (registration  
required)

**15** Half day,  
Elementary, Middle,  
Pine Tree Center

**16** Bunny Bop, *Orion  
Center* (registration  
required)

**17** St. Patrick's Day

**18** Board of Trustees  
Meeting, *Township Hall*,  
7 pm

**19** SAT/ACT Tips and  
Tricks, *Orion Library*,  
6 pm



Photo by Bryan Tabit

**20** Beyond the  
Shelves: How to  
Download Books,  
Movies, Music, and  
more! *Orion Library*,  
7 pm

**22** Township Talks,  
*Township Hall*, 9:30 am

**25-29** Spring Break,  
schools closed

**26** Living in Space  
Workshop with Mad  
Science Detroit, *Orion  
Library*, 2 pm

**27** Car Bingo, *Orion  
Center Parking Lot*,  
1-2:30 pm

**28** Blood Drive, *Orion  
Center*, 12:30-5 pm

**29** Township Offices  
closed

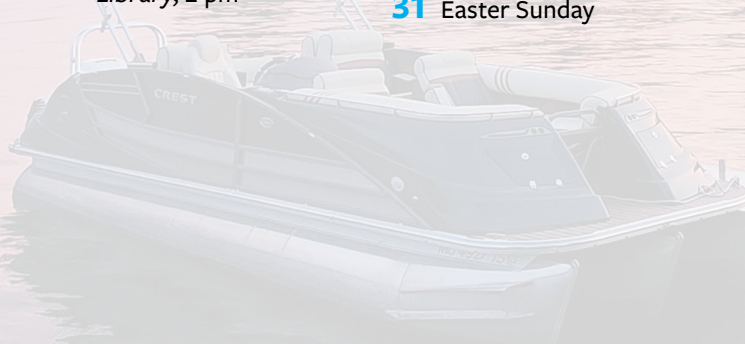
**29** Out of this World  
(Grades K-5), *Orion  
Library*, 2 pm

**30-31** Library  
Closed for Easter

**31** Easter Sunday



Photo by Lisa Thierry



Background photo by K Gedda Smith Images

# APRIL

**1-30** Lake Orion DDA #StrongerTogether Letterboxing, *Downtown LO*

**1** Registration opens for Adult Softball Leagues

**1** Board of Trustees Meeting, *Township Hall*, 7 pm

**4-5** Half days/exams, High School

**8** Solar Eclipse Viewing, *Orion Library*, 2 pm

**11** Puzzle & Game Swap, *Orion Center*, 9 am-5 pm

**15** Board of Trustees Meeting, *Township Hall*, 7 pm

**18** Orion Township State of the Township, *Woodside Church*, 7 pm

**19** Orion Green-Up, *Camp Agawam*, 5-7 pm

**20** Lake Orion Lions Club A Night at the Races fundraiser, *Boulder Pointe Golf Club & Banquet Center*, Oxford, 5:30 pm

**26** No School, all students

**26** Township Talks, *Township Hall*, 9:30 am

**27** Home Solar 101, *Orion Library*, 2 pm



Photo courtesy of Orion Twp Parks & Recreation



Photo by Howard Barager

**1** Registration opens for Fall Youth Leagues

**4** Mother's Day Market, *Orion Center*, 10 am-4 pm

**4** Fandom Fest & Free Comic Book Day, *Orion Library*, 11 am

**6** Board of Trustees Meeting, *Township Hall*, 7 pm

**9** Parent/Teacher Conferences, High School

**12** Mother's Day, Library closed

**18-19** Orion Art Center Art & Flower Fair, *Downtown LO*

**19** Dragon Dask 5K, *Orion Center*, 9 am

**20** Board of Trustees Meeting, *Township Hall*, 7 pm

**24** Township Talks, *Township Hall*, 9:30 am

**25-27** Library closed for Memorial Day

**27** Memorial Day, no school, all students, Township offices closed

**27** 8th Annual Orion Veterans Memorial Day Run/Walk, starting on *Anderson Street*, *Downtown LO*, 9 am

**27** Memorial Day Ceremony, *Orion Veterans Memorial*

**27** Memorial Day Parade, *Downtown LO*, 11 am

**31** Half Day, Elementary and Middle schools

**June 1** Outdoor Community Garage Sale, *Orion Center Parking Lot*, 9 am-3 pm

**1** Toy & Comic Expo, *Orion Center*, 9 am-3 pm



### Youth Archery Lessons—Beginners

ROA Archery Club | Thu, Jun 13–Jul 256–7:30 pm | Ages 8–14  
\$90R/\$100NR

Join the professionals from the Royal Oak Archers for this archery program for beginners. Six lessons will include understanding the different parts of the bow and arrows, proper shooting techniques as well as safety regulations. You will have fun learning these things! Equipment will be provided if needed. No class on July 4.

### Youth Pickleball Lessons—Beginner

Friendship Park | Ages 10–17 | \$45R/\$50NR

- Session 1: Mon & Wed Jun 3 & 5 12–2 pm
- Session 2: Mon & Wed Jun 17 & 19 3–5 pm
- Session 3: Mon & Wed Jul 8 & 10 2–4 pm
- Session 4: Mon & Wed Jul 15 & 17 11 am–1 pm
- Session 5: Mon & Wed Jul 15 & 17 3–5 pm
- Session 6: Mon & Wed Jul 15 & 17 5–7 pm

These beginner lessons will introduce you to the basic rules, proper grip, shots, scoring, and play of pickleball. Paddles and balls will be provided. Bring your own if you have one. Please note player minimum is 4, if that minimum is not met the lesson will be canceled.

## LEAGUES

### FALL YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Aug 5–Oct 12 | \$20 Multi-Child Discount | Registration begins May 1  
\$30 Early bird discount ends after Jul 8 | Registration Deadline Jul 15  
League schedules finalized in July

#### Orion Girls Softball League (OGSL)

\$90R/\$100NR | Civic Center Park

The Fall season will consist of two nights during the week. Fee includes a jersey, hat, and socks.

8U Clinic Division	Coach Pitch
10U Intermediate Division	Player Pitch
14U Junior Division	Player Pitch
16U Senior Division	Player Pitch

#### Lake Orion Youth Baseball League (LOYBL)

\$90R/\$100NR per player

The Fall season will consist of one night during the week and Saturday mornings. Fee includes a jersey, hat, and socks.

Tee Ball	Ages 4–6
Clinic	Machine Pitch Ages 6–8
Junior	Player Pitch Ages 9–10
Intermediate	Player Pitch Ages 11–12
Senior	Player Pitch Ages 13–15

Uniforms will be available to try on upon request during Orion Center business hours.

#### LOYBL Umpire Program

Spring & Fall seasons | Ages 14+ | \$10 Classroom Training | Orion Center TBD

On-Field Training | Friendship Park TBD

Interested in becoming a paid baseball umpire? LOYBL is seeking new and returning umpires for the 2024 Spring & Fall seasons. A \$10 registration fee gets you an umpire shirt, hat, indicator, use of umpiring equipment, on-field training, and online certification. Game fees start at \$30 per game! We provide everything you need to get on the field and start making calls and money!

*Spring Leagues are still enrolling!*

Deadline to register Mar 12. Visit [orionparks.com](http://orionparks.com) for details.

#### TR Hawk Softball

Friendship & Civic Center Park  
Tue & Thu, Apr–Aug | 6–8:30 pm  
Ages 13+ | \$38R/\$40NR

TR Hawk softball league is for persons with developmental disabilities, with or without physical impairments is for all ability levels. Practices at Friendship Park, games played at Civic Center Park and neighboring communities. Late registration is accepted but team shirts are not guaranteed after initial order.

**SUPPORT ORION RECREATION!**  
*Youth Athletics Team Sponsor*

**Orion Girls Softball League (OGSL) and/or  
Lake Orion Youth Baseball League (LOYBL)**

**\$300/team or \$250/2+ teams (either league)**

Call or email Jesse Sampson at 248-391-0304 x3506 or [jsampson@oriontownship.org](mailto:jsampson@oriontownship.org) for more information.

# WANTED!

## Volunteer Coaches

Visit [orionparks.com](http://orionparks.com) for more information about our Youth Leagues.

### YOUTH SOCCER

## Orion/Oxford Soccer League (OOSL)

Online registration available at [orionparks.com](http://orionparks.com)

Aug 5–Oct 19 | \$105R/\$115NR per player | \$35 Jersey if new player or replacement needed | Registration begins May 1 | \$30 Early bird discount ends after Jul 8 | Registration Deadline Jul 15 | League schedules finalized in Jul

If a player is new to U14, a new jersey will need to be purchased for \$45. Any child born between Jan 1, 2011 and Dec 31, 2021 is eligible and encouraged to play soccer in the OOSL Fall 2024 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	2021*
U-5	Coed	2020
U-6	Coed	2019
U-8	Coed or Girls	2018 & 2017
U-10	Coed or Girls	2016 & 2015
U-12	Coed or Girls	2014 & 2013
U-14	Coed or Girls	2012 & 2011**

\*U-4 operates entirely on Saturdays. With a 30-minute practice and a 30-minute game following. \*\*U-14 partners with local communities. Some games will be outside of Lake Orion.

## OOSL Soccer Referee

Civic Center & Friendship Park  
Ages 14+

Be a soccer referee with OOSL! Games are on Saturdays starting at 9 am. Pay varies based on the age division. All experience levels are welcome! Training happens throughout the year. Contact Tyler Carpenter, [tcarpenter@oriontownship.org](mailto:tcarpenter@oriontownship.org), for information. Spring Youth Leagues are still enrolling!



## Junior Golf League

Mulberry Hills Golf Course  
Tue, Jun 11–Aug 20 | 1–3:30 pm  
Ages 10–15 | \$145R/\$150NR

Designed for both boys and girls with some prior playing experience and a firm understanding of the game, not for beginners. Participants will play nine holes each week on a semi-competitive basis. Scores and handicaps will be calculated to maintain a level playing field. The league includes on-course supervision, a hot dog & pop, games, contests, awards, and prizes each week. No league on Jul 30. Must have own clubs and equipment. League is non-refundable.

## 2024 Esports League

Orion Center | Spring Season  
Feb 27–May 7 | \$250R/NR

Come play some of the fastest growing games with your peers in the new esports leagues! If you are experienced or a beginner, this will be a league for you! With the partnership of XP League, we will host in-person leagues and camps. Equipment provided. Programs will include practices with trained coaches, game days and custom jerseys! Follow our Facebook page and website for more information.

### ADULT LEAGUES

## 2024 Adult Summer Softball League

Men's Rec League | Friendship Park  
Tue, May 14–Jul 9 | 6:20–9:50 pm  
Ages 18+

Coed Rec League | Friendship Park  
Wed, May 15–Jul 10 | 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 1.  
Manager's Meeting May 6, Orion Center at 7 pm.

## 2024 Adult Fall Softball League

Men's Rec League | Civic Center Park  
Tue, Jul 30–Sep 24 | 6:20–9:50 pm  
Ages 18+

Coed Rec League | Civic Center Park  
Wed, Jul 31–Sep 25 | 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 Jun 10.  
Manager's Meeting Jul 22, Orion Center at 7 pm.

## 2024 Adult Cornhole League

Summer I | Orion Center  
Mon, June 3–Jul 22 | 6–8 pm  
Ages 18+ | \$80R Team/\$90NR Team

Summer II | Orion Center  
Mon, Jul 29–Sep 23 | 6–8 pm  
Ages 18+ | \$80R Team/\$90NR Team

Nothing better to kick off the start of summer with some friendly cornhole. Sign up your backyard team and show us your skills. Bring your own cornhole bags. Playoffs will be held the last week of the season. Each week you will play three teams. Each game is best two of three matches. Teams of two, one registration per team.



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



**HEALTH & WELLNESS  
WITH ASCENSION  
PROVIDENCE ROCHESTER**

Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital (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.

**Wellness Center Hours**

Ask a nurse/physician, to check your blood pressure, check your weight

Physician available every Monday  
9 am-12 pm

Nurse available every Friday from  
9 am-12 pm

**Breast Cancer Screening Seminar**

Orion Center | Thu, Mar 14  
6-7 pm |

Women are from Venus. Although women and men can both have heart disease there are some differences in their symptoms and how they present. Let's talk about what makes heart disease so deadly in women and discuss how we can prevent it.



**ADULT FITNESS  
& WELLNESS**



**TaikoFit Cardio Drumming**

Orion Center | Thu, Apr 4  
6:30-7:30 pm | Ages 16+ | Free

Orion Center | Thu, Apr 11-Jun 6  
6:30-7:30 pm | Ages 16+  
\$10R/\$11NR drop in only

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

**Hatha Gentle Yoga**

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 11-Apr 8  
4:45-5:45 pm | Ages 16+ | \$55R/\$58NR

Orion Center | Mon, Apr 15-May 13  
4:45-5:45 pm | Ages 16+ | \$55R/\$58NR

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

**Hatha Yin/Yang Yoga**

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 11-Apr 8  
6-7:15 pm | Ages 16+ | \$55R/\$58NR

Orion Center | Mon, Apr 15-May 13  
6-7:15 pm | Ages 16+ | \$55R/\$58NR

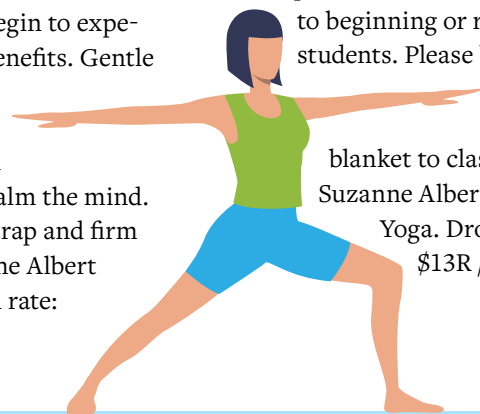
In this series, we will begin with some gentle movements to help to warm the body and open the energetic pathways related to the spring season. We will be integrating Yin/ Yang styles which help to develop flexibility in the body and yet create a deeper sense of relaxation. In the Yin portion of class, poses will be held for a couple of minutes closer to the Earth and have a meditative quality to them. Please 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, Mar 14 - Apr 11  
10-11:20 a.m. | Ages 16+ \$55R/\$58NR

Orion Center | Thu, Apr 18 -May 16  
10-11:20 am | Ages 16+ | \$55R/\$58NR

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



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at  
**ORIONPARKS.COM**

or call 248-391-0304, ext. 3500  
1335 JOSLYN ROAD, LAKE ORION



### Zumba Gold

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 4–Apr 22  
 May 6–Jul 1 | 9:30–10:30 am  
 Ages 40+ | \$68R/\$72NR

A Latin-inspired cardio workout, incorporating merengue, salsa, cumbia, belly dancing and more! This class provides more verbal instruction to better learn the moves and is done at a slower pace. Great class for someone new to exercise or someone hesitant to try regular Zumba. You will have so much fun dancing, you will forget you're working out! Instructor: Cyndy DuVal. Drop-in rate: \$11R/\$12NR No class May 27

### Zumba Gold Toning

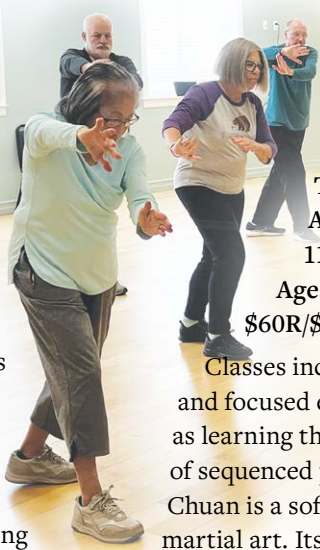
Orion Center | Wed, Mar 6–Apr 24  
 May 8–Jun 26 | 9:30–10:30 am  
 Ages 40+ | \$68R/\$72NR

Blends the Zumba party you love at a slower pace with a redefining total body workout using Zumba Toning Sticks (1 lb. 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! Want to dance without using the weights? No problem! Instructor: Cyndy DuVal. Drop-in rate: \$11R/\$12NR

### Tai Chi Continuing

Orion Center | Tue, Mar 12–Apr 16  
 Apr 23–May 28 | 10–11 am | Ages 18+  
 \$60R/\$66NR

Continuing class is for students who have learned the 12–posture forms. Includes warm-up and focused exercises, and 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 see a reduction of stress with an increase of natural energy, coordination, and power of concentration. Instructor Michael Dwyer. Drop in rate: \$12R/\$13NR



### Tai Chi Beginner

Orion Center  
 Tue, Mar 12–Apr 16  
 Apr 23–May 28  
 11 am–Noon  
 Ages 18+  
 \$60R/\$66NR

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: \$12R/\$13NR

### Line Dancing

Orion Center | Fri, Mar 8–May 17  
 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 18+ | \$68R/\$72NR

Join us and have fun staying fit! What a great way to exercise and meet new friends! We will learn new dances as well as some of your favorites. No experience necessary. Instructor: Kim McCool. Drop in rate \$11R/\$12NR space permitting. No class Mar 29, Apr 8, 12

### Adult Golf Lessons

Mulberry Hills Golf Course  
 Mon, Jun 3–Jul 8 | 6:30–7:30 pm  
 Ages 18+ | \$155R/\$160NR

Group lessons create a comfortable and affordable instructional environment for the new or intermediate golfer. Sessions will have a minimum of six participants and a maximum of ten. Review and improve existing skills, introduce variations of the golf swing, shot techniques and implement aspects of golf course management. Students will be approached as if they have some experience and some grasp of golfing

fundamentals. Participants in group lessons will be able to play Mulberry Hills Golf Club at a discounted rate during specified times throughout the season. Non-refundable.

### Women's Only Learn & Play

Mulberry Hills Golf Course  
 Mon, Jun 3–Aug 26 | 5–5:30 pm  
 Ages 16+ | \$265R/\$270NR

Mulberry Hills Golf Course  
 Mon, Jun 3–Aug 26 | 6–6:30 pm  
 Ages 16+ | \$265R/\$270NR

Mulberry Hills Golf Course  
 Tue, Jun 4–Aug 27 | 5:30–6 pm  
 Ages 16+ | \$265R/\$270NR

Mulberry Hills Golf Course  
 Thu, Jun 6–Sep 5 | 5:30–6 pm  
 Ages 16+ | \$265R/\$270NR

Mulberry Hills Golf Course  
 Thu, Jun 6–Sep 5 | 6:30–7 pm  
 Ages 16+ | \$265R/\$270NR

Ladies, learn to play golf in a relaxed outdoor environment from golf instructor Tony Frias. Each 30–minute group lesson covers putting, pitching, and chipping instruction, and full swing instruction with irons and wood. Nine holes of golf are also included weekly. Build personal and business relationships and get exercise in the great outdoors. Join individually or with a group of friends or co-workers. Space is limited to 14 players. Any weeks rained out will extend the program by one week. No class Jul 4, 29, 30, and Aug 1. Non-refundable.



### Pickleball Lessons—Beginner

Friendship Park | Ages 18+ | \$45R/\$50NR

Session 1:	Tue & Thu	May 14 & 16	3-5 pm
Session 2:	Mon & Wed	May 20 & 22	3-5 pm
Session 3:	Tue & Thu	Jun 18 & 20	12-2 pm
Session 4:	Tue & Thu	Jun 18 & 20	2-4 pm
Session 5:	Mon & Wed	Jul 1 & 3	5-7 pm

These beginner lessons will introduce you to the basic rules, proper grip, shots, scoring, and play of pickleball. Paddles and balls will be provided. Bring your own if you have one. Please note player minimum is 4, if that minimum is not met the lesson will be canceled.

### Pickleball Lessons – Intermediate

Friendship Park | Ages 18+ | \$45R/\$50NR

Session 1: Mon & Wed May 6 & 8 3-5 pm

Develop and improve your pickleball skills through drills and game situations. Learn advanced playing strategies to give you the edge over your opponents. Previous experience necessary. Please note player minimum is 4, if that minimum is not met the lesson will be canceled.

### Tang Soo Do

GLAC | Tue and or Thu, Feb 27–Apr 16

Apr 23–Jun 6 | 5:30–7:30 pm | Ages 8+

\$85R/\$95NR or \$105R/\$115NR

Tang Soo Do, more popularly known as “Korean Karate,” is a Korean Martial Art with roots in South Korea. This art has evolved into one of the most effective means of unarmed self-defense ever created. Master Floyd Soo has been involved in martial arts since 1966. He holds a 7th-degree Black Belt (Master Instructor Rating) in Moo Duk Kwan–Tang Soo Do. Instructor: Master Floyd Soo (Studio B)

### Guided Meditation

Friendship Park | Tues, Mar 26 | 6-7 pm

Ages 12+ | Free

Isha Kriya is a free guided meditation that takes only 12–18 minutes and can be easily practiced at home, work, or anywhere else. This meditation is designed to promote clarity, health, and joy, and its simplicity and effectiveness make it a truly special experience. Class is free but registration is required.



# ADULT ENRICHMENT

### Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden

Friendship Park | Thu, Apr 18

5:30–6:30 pm | Ages 12+ Free

Attract pollinators to your garden by choosing the right plants! Learn about good plants to attract pollinators, what grows good in our climate and soil types, native and non-native species and reasons

for choosing them. Class is free but registration

is required. Instructor: Conner Reiter



### Community Garden Plots

Friendship Park | May–Oct | \$25R/\$30NR

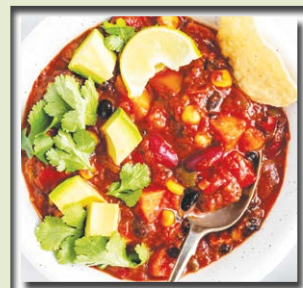
Community gardens promote environmental stewardship and sustainable living, all while providing healthful and affordable fruits and vegetables! Get your 4 x 8 Garden Plot at Friendship Park today! Registration will open to returning gardeners on Mar 1. Registration for unclaimed plots will be open to everyone beginning Apr 1—two plots maximum per household. Garden plots not planted by the first week in June are assumed abandoned and will be offered to a new gardener. Wheelchair-accessible plots are available. Call 248-391-0304 x 3500 or come to the Orion Center, 1335 Joslyn Rd, for more information.

### Plant Based Eating Class

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 18–Apr 15 | 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 for delicious plant based meals will be provided. Food will not be prepared or served during class. Couple discount \$79R/\$89NR



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at

**ORIONPARKS.COM**


or call 248-391-0304, ext. 3500

1335 JOSLYN ROAD, LAKE ORION

## Improv & Comedy Class for Adults

Orion Center | Thu, Mar 21–May 16 | 6–7:30 pm  
Ages 18+ | \$100R/\$106NR

Calling all those “Whose Line” wannabees! Come tickle your funny bone in this evening improv comedy class! Improv acting is great for boosting your confidence, public speaking skills, and, of course, your ability to make others laugh! This class will cover the basic rules of improv acting, focusing on 1–2 improv rules each week. You will also get to practice the rules of improv and hone your skills through the use of improv acting games. Participants will have a chance to show off their newly learned skills during a showcase on May 16 at 7 pm. Instructor: Megan Timberlake



**ONTV CLASSES**  
Classes held at ONTV Studio, 1349 Joslyn Road. Call 248-393-1060 to register.

## ONTV Podcast Classes

ONTV Studio | Ages 13+ | \$25R/NR

Learn how to record a podcast. Classes run two hours, can hold three people, and will meet at the ONTV Studio, located at 1349 Joslyn Rd. Call 248-393-1060 to schedule an appointment at your convenience.

## Studio Production Class

ONTV Studio | Mondays | Apr 22–May 20 | Ages 13+  
7–9 pm | \$55R/NR

You will learn about all the crew positions and equipment necessary to produce a program in the studio. During 10-minute mock productions, you will rotate into crew positions such as Director, Audio, Graphics, Camera, Floor Manager, Host, and Guest. The class will plan a final project that will be recorded in Week 5 and air as a real TV program.

## Field Production Class

ONTV Studio | Mondays | Jun 3–Jul 1 | Ages 13+  
7–9 pm | \$55R/NR

You will be introduced to the Canon XA11 professional camcorder and all the accessories that go with it, including light, microphones, headphones, and a tripod. Weeks 1 & 2 will focus on news-style shooting and interviews. Weeks 3 & 4 will focus on filmmaking. The final week will cover music videos and other experimental forms video production.



## Non-Linear Editing

ONTV Studio | Mondays | Apr 1–15 | Jul 8–22 | Ages 13+  
7–9 pm | \$55R/NR

In this class, you will be introduced to the CS6 version of Adobe Premiere Pro. In Week 1 you will learn about importing video, transitions, audio, titles & graphics, and exporting video. In Week 2 you will learn about advanced editing techniques such as color correction, green key effects, slow/fast motion, keyframing, and other special effects. The final week will include an introduction to Davinci Resolve, which is a sophisticated editing software that is free to download and use.

# ADULTS 50+

Interested in participating in one of our Senior Services programs? Become a member at the Orion Center for 50+ Orion Township Residents and Non-Residents. Membership to the Orion Center is free. Stop by (1335 Joslyn Rd.) or call 248-391-0304 x3500 to register. Once registered you may sign up for any of the programs below. The Orion Center also has many different resources available to community members. Call us today if you are in need of help in topics including: meals delivered to your home (Meals on Wheels), medical equipment, caregiver support, dental, housing, and many other support groups. Also, pick up a monthly newsletter at Orion Center to stay up to date on all senior offerings through [orionparks.com](http://orionparks.com).

## SPECIAL EVENTS (50+)

### St. Patrick's Day Lunch



Orion Center | Fri, Mar 15 | 12 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.

### Bunny Lunch

Orion Center | Wed, Mar 27 | 12 pm | \$5R/\$7NR

Hippity Hoppity Easter's on its way! Enjoy an Easter Lunch with friends at the Orion Center.

### Cinco De Mayo Fiesta

Orion Center | Tue, May 7  
12 pm | \$8R/\$10NR

Come join us for a fiesta! Enjoy some music and an authentic Mexican lunch. Membership and registration is required.



### Ask the Attorney

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 4, Apr 15 | 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.

### Financial and Medicare Counseling Services

Orion Center | Mon-Fri | 9 am-4 pm | Free

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

### TRIPS



#### DIA

**Detroit Institute of Art**  
Wed, Mar 20 | Leaving Orion Center at 12 pm  
Return at 4 pm | Free

This service is provided by the DIA free of charge as a millage benefit for tri-county (Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb)

residents and includes museum admission and bus transportation. Enjoy all the DIA has to offer with a 2-hour self-guided tour and a free cookie and coffee/tea after.



### Shop Shipshewana

Shipshewana | Wed, May 15 | Leave Orion Center at 7:45 am  
Return at 10:15 PM | \$129N/\$139NR

Welcome to the home of the Midwest's Largest Flea Market! Held every Tuesday and Wednesday of each week from the first of May through the end of October, you can find hundreds of vendors selling everything from fresh fruit to handcrafted furniture at the Shipshewana Flea Market. The small community comes alive with travelers from all over to visit this "do not miss" Hoosier tradition. The atmosphere surrounding the Flea Market is one of a kind. It is not hard to find a friendly face on these streets, nor is it difficult to keep one busy with the numerous activities Shipshewana has to offer. Grab lunch at one of the many vendors on the grounds of the Flea Market. The day will be capped off with a family-style dinner at Das Dutchman Essenhaus. Reservation deadline is April 21, 2024

### Discover Saugatuck

Saugatuck | Wed, Jul 31 | Leave Orion Center at 6:30 am  
Return at 6:00 pm | \$104R/\$109NR

First stop will take you to Saugatuck Dune Rides. This exciting adventure takes you along one of the many sand dunes along Lake Michigan. After, you'll have time to grab lunch at one of the many restaurants in Downtown Saugatuck. There are many unique shops and a stroll down the boardwalk is a must! Reservation deadline is July 9, 2024.

### CLUBS 50+

*Membership and registration required.*

#### K4 Knit/Crochet

Mon | 12:30-3:30 pm

#### American Mahjong

Mon | 10:30 am-3:30 pm  
You must bring your own 2024 Official Standard Hands and Rules card

#### 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

#### 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+

#### Ukulele and More

Wed & Fri | 11 am-1 pm

#### Orion Center Band

Thu | 10:30-11:30 am

#### Euchre

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

#### Movies

Fri | 1:15-3:15 pm

#### Quilting

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

#### Walking Club

Fri | 10 am

#### Cardmaking/Scrapbooking

Thu | 10 am-12 pm



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

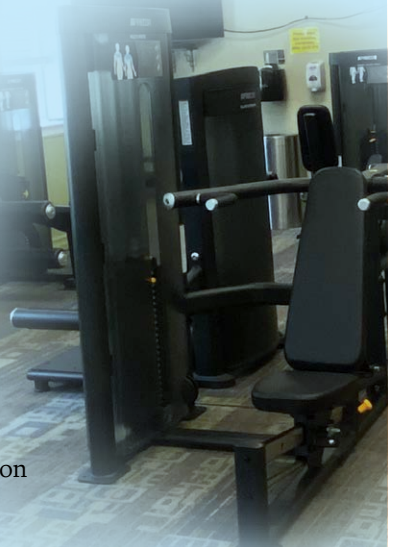
Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activities for daily living. A chair is available if needed for seated or standing support. Instructor: Becki Doyle (Wed)/ Cheryl Sussman (Fri)



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.



Instructor Profile: Master Floyd Soo

Martial Arts teaching and training spans decades

Master Floyd Soo began his Martial Arts training as a young boy in the mid-60s. He and sister Annie began with Judo lessons; and after a year or so, started their training in Moo Duk Kwan Tang Soo Do in Royal Oak, Michigan, when the karate club opened up a few blocks from their home.

Their first instructor was Dale Drouillard, a 3rd Dan Black Belt at the time. Master Drouillard is now a 9th Dan and is still actively teaching Tang Soo Do in the Detroit area.

In the mid-70s, Masters Floyd and Annie moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan to attend Western Michigan University. There, they met Mike March, a 3rd Dan Black Belt at the time. Once they watched a class or two taught by Master March (now a 6th Dan Black Belt), Masters Floyd and Annie knew they had found a new home.

From the mid-70s to the present, Masters Floyd, Annie and Vince are still training with Master March. He demanded the highest standards in technique, speed, power, skill, courage and honor from his students, just like Masters Drouillard and Shim did.

The United States Korean Karate Association was formed just a few short years after they (Master Vince too) all met in Kalamazoo. As anyone who has trained in the USKKA knows, these

standards have not been compromised in any way, even three decades later!

Master Floyd Soo now teaches and trains in the Clarkston, Waterford, Lake Orion area, while Masters March, Soo-Mott and Soo are still training and teaching in the Kalamazoo area.



# Chamber Restaurant & Eatery Guide

## Alibi Express

786 S. Lapeer, LO  
248-693-2999  
alibipizza.com

## Anita's Kitchen

45 W Flint, LO  
248-929-8914  
anitaskitchen.com/  
ak-lake-orion

## Bad Brads BBQ

3437 S Baldwin, LO  
248-977-5910  
badbradsbbq.com

## Bitter Tom's Distillery

120 S Broadway, LO  
248-690-9535  
Bittertomdistillery.com

## Black Cat Beanery

1192 S. Lapeer, LO  
248-453-MEOW (6369)  
Blackcatbeanery.com

## Buffalo Wild Wings

770 N. Lapeer, LO  
248-814-8600  
buffalowildwings.com

## Cookies & Cream

by Sprout Bake  
20 Front, LO  
248-475-2256  
cookiesandcreamlo.com

## Culver's of Lake Orion

4963 Interpark Drive N,  
LO | 248-276-2222  
culvers.com/restaurants/  
lake-orion

## Culver's Brown Road

4979 Grand Ave, LO  
248-292-3663  
culvers.com/restaurants/  
orion-twp-brown-rd

## Domino's

979 S Lapeer, OX  
248-628-3202  
dominos.com

## Fancy Sushi & Thai Food LLC

1166 S Lapeer, LO  
248-929-8130  
fancysushithaimi.  
smiledining.com

## Fork n' Pint

51 N Broadway, LO  
248-845-4476  
forknpint.com

## G's Pizzeria

2775 S. Lapeer, LO  
248-393-0000  
gspizzeria.com

## HomeGrown Brewing Company

28 N Washington, OX  
248-800-4244  
homegrownbrewco.com

## Italia Gardens

1076 S. Lapeer, OX  
248-628-4112  
italiagardensoxford.com

## Jet's Pizza

1091 S. Lapeer, LO  
248-814-7559  
jetspizza.com

## Lake Rock Fusion Grill & Cantina

780 S. Lapeer, LO  
248-690-7053  
Lakerockbar.net

## McDonalds

435 S. Broadway, LO  
248-929-8085  
mcdonalds.com

## Nothing Bundt Cakes

3074 Walton Blvd, RH  
248-963-0060  
nothingbundtcakes.com/  
bakery/mi/rochester-hills

## Oat Soda Lake Orion

197 S Broadway, LO  
248-558-2900  
oatsodalakeorion.com

## Old Detroit Bar & Grill

741 S. Lapeer, LO  
248-814-8109  
olddetroitburgerbar.com

## Orion Boat House

256 S. Broadway, LO  
248-929-8145  
orionboathouse.com

## Palazzo di Bocce

4291 S. Lapeer, LO  
248-371-9987  
palazzodibocce.com

## Rainforest Cafe

4310 Baldwin, AH  
248-333-0280  
rainforestcafe.com

## Standard & Co. Cafe

3800 S. Baldwin #100,  
LO | 248-977-4212  
instagram.com/  
standardcoffee.co

## Swirlz Lake Orion

1035 S Baldwin, LO  
248-391-2222  
yelp.com/biz/  
swirlz-lake-orion

## Texas Roadhouse

4999 Grand Avenue, LO  
248-340-3385  
texasroadhouse.com

## The 313 Pizza Bar

37 E. Flint, LO  
248-690-9362  
313pizza-bar.com

## Tim Hortons Lake Orion

740 S. Lapeer, LO  
248-693-8954  
locations.timhortons.  
com/en/locations-list/mi/  
lake-orion/

## White Pine Coffee Roasters

33 Pleasant, OX  
248-221-5136  
whitepinecoffee.com

## Wine Social

135 S Broadway, LO  
248-783-7111  
wine-social.com

## Yates Cider Mill at Canterbury Village

2375 Joslyn Ct, LO  
248-481-9203  
yatescidermill.com/  
canterbury



243-693-6300  
1335 Joslyn Road, Suite 1  
Lake Orion, MI 48360  
orionareachamber.com

## HOURS

Monday-Friday  
9:00 am-4:00 pm

## CHAMBER STAFF

Joyce Donaldson, IOM  
President and CEO  
joyce@orionareachamber.com  
Jillian Nolan  
Operations Manager  
jillian@orionareachamber.com

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE



### ELITE MEMBERS



# Meet our 2024 Board of Directors

The Orion Area Chamber Leadership Team is dedicated to creating a healthy local economy and building a strong environment for economic growth and sustainability.



TONYA HAMILTON

In keeping with this vision, the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce three recently elected Board Members to serve a three-year term: **Tonya Hamilton**, Executive Director of North Oakland Community Coalition;

**Chase McMunn**, Director of Orion Township Public Library; **Janice Zale**, LPL Financial Advisor at Zale Group Wealth Management.



JANICE ZALE

They join newly appointed Chairwoman of the Board **Angela DelPup** of Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital; Vice Chair **Jimmy Johnson** of Graphic Takeover; Vice Chair **Theresa Doan** of Genisys Credit Union; Treasurer **Steve Wandrie** of Steve Wandrie Caliber Home Loans; Secretary **Nicki North** of Hershey Insurance; Immediate Past President **Wayne Haney** of Haney Farm Bureau Insurance; **Aaron Whatley** of Orion Township Parks & Recreation; **Jennifer Whitteaker** of DTE Energy.



CHASE MCMUNN

## A warm welcome to our newest members

November 2023–January 29, 2024

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| TMI Properties, LLC ( <i>President's Circle Member</i> ) | Designhaus                      |
| All Natural Hippie                                       | Fancy Sushi & Thai Food LLC     |
| Beatty, Betts & Associates                               | LO Printing                     |
| Bed and BARKfest   | Next Level Wellness             |
| Daniel Mahoney, Associate Broker,                        | Orion Boat House                |
| Tall Oaks Realty   | Texas Roadhouse                 |
|  | Trinity Health Oakland Hospital |
|  | Yeah It's Vegan                 |



A heartfelt thank you to our Ambassadors.

## About the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce

The Orion Area Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to creating a healthy local economy and building a strong environment for economic growth and stability. In ongoing efforts to achieve this lofty goal, we represent business to government, coordinate

educational forums, host networking events, advocate for business-friendly legislation, and promote community.

The Chamber is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization, funded through chamber membership investments, sponsors, and fundraisers. We are a passionate team of 11 volunteer Board of Directors, two

paid staffers, and 300+ enthusiastic members that generously share their time, talents, and treasures. Together we are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the Orion area and are proud to offer an energetic and friendly environment in which businesses can joyfully flourish!

**For information on the Chamber contact Joyce Donaldson, President and CEO at 248-693-6300 or [joyce@orionareachamber.com](mailto:joyce@orionareachamber.com).**



## FEATURED NEWS &amp; EVENTS



Save the Date for Summer Reading Kickoff  
Saturday, June 8

## Eclipse Viewing

Mon, Apr 8 | 2 pm

Southeast Michigan will not see another near-total eclipse until 2099! Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse beginning at 2pm and watch from our Reading Garden as 99% of the sun gets covered by the moon. The library will have Eclipse glasses available at the reference desks beginning April 1, but supplies are limited!

## General Info

## New Website

We are proud to unveil our new and improved website! Visit [orionlibrary.org](http://orionlibrary.org) for the latest library news and events, search our catalog, access your account, and more!

## Upcoming Library Closings

Easter: Sat, Mar 30–Sun, Mar 31

Mother's Day: Sun, May 12

Memorial Day: Sat, May 25–Mon, May 27

## Library Department Numbers

Adult 248-693-3001

Outreach 248-693-3000 ext. 411

Teen 248-693-3000 ext. 414

Youth 248-693-3002

IT 248-693-3000 ext. 540



## Fandom Fest Crafts

Sat, May 4 | 11 am

May the 4th be with you!

Participate in a variety of geeky crafts, activities, and games for all ages.

## Fandom Fest Trivia

Sat, May 4 | 1:00 pm

Which Pokemon has no eyes? What is Naruto's favorite food? What is Captain America's shield made from? If you know any of these answers, register your team of 2-6 players and try out Fandom Fest Trivia!

## Free Comic Book Day

Sat, May 4

Join the nationwide celebration of comics by picking up a free comic book. While supplies last.

## MAKERSPACE

## Resin Bookmarks

Sat, Mar 9 | 2 pm

Join Emily Adelman from i3Detroit to make colorful custom bookmarks from liquid resin. Register online.



## Cricut Flower Pots

Wed, Apr 10 | 6 pm

Sat, Apr 13 | 2 and 3:30 pm

Using the Cricut die cutter to make stencils and patterns, design and paint a flower pot just in time for growing season. Register online.



## Makerspace Office Hours

Thur, Mar 14, Apr 11, May 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-served basis.

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





# ADULT PROGRAMS

Program registration opens one month prior to the program date.

## Orion Historical Society

**Mondays: Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20  
7 pm**

The library is proud host the Orion Historical Society's monthly meetings. With new dates and a fresh new format, including a theme and/or speaker each meeting, OHS works on projects to preserve and promote the history of Orion Township and The Village. Check out OHS on Facebook for more information.



## The Write Stuff Writer's Workshop

**Wednesdays: Mar 13, Apr 10, May 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.

## Ask a Lawyer Series

### Q&A at the Library with Spresser Ogden PLLC

**Wednesdays | 7 pm**

Mar 20: Any general legal questions

Apr 17: Divorce/Family

May 15: Estate Planning

## 2024 Academy Awards Preview

**Wed, Mar 6 | 7 pm**

The library is excited to welcome Tom Santilli, Executive Producer of Movie Show Plus and Rotten Tomatoes film critic, for an exciting discussion on the 2024 Oscar nominations. Tom will discuss the categories, why certain films were nominated, and participants will get to vote for their favorite movies of the year.

## Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

**Tuesdays: Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14  
10:30 am**

This monthly support group is for individuals who care for those with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia. This program is sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Chapter and led by a trained facilitator.

## Magic the Gathering Club

**Sat, Mar 9, Apr 13 | 10 am**

**Thur, May 16 | 6:30 pm**

Beginners and experienced players are welcome to learn to play this popular trading card game or battle it out against your friends. Bring your own cards or use a pre-made deck provided by the library. All ages welcome!

## North Oakland Genealogical Society (NOGS)

**Thursdays: Mar 21, Apr 18, May 16  
7 pm**

Do you have an interest in genealogy and family history research? Everyone from beginners to experts in genealogy are welcome to join NOGS meetings at the library.

## Beyond the Shelves: How to Download Books, Movies, Music, and more!

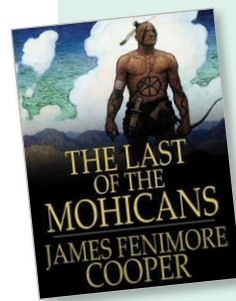
**Wed, Mar 20 | 7 pm**

Join us for a discussion with Troy, the Tech Librarian to learn about all the (free!) digital content you can download or stream from home on hoopla, Kanopy, and Libby! Bring your mobile device and we'll help you get set up. All are welcome, but please note that **only Orion residents can access OTPL digital content services.**

## Drink, Dine, Discuss

**Mondays | 7 pm**

Join us at Opa Food & Spirits, **600 S Lapeer, Lake Orion**, for this monthly book discussion.



March 18: *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper

April 15: *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

May 20: *The Silent Patient* by Alex

Michaelides

## Thursday Afternoon Book Club

**Thursdays | 1:30 pm**

Mar 21: *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

Apr 18: *Weyward* by Emilia Hart

May 16: *Vacuuming in the Nude* by Peggy Rowe



## Cook the Book

**Tues, Apr 9 | 7 pm**

Every other month we choose a cookbook, you choose a recipe from it, then we meet to snack

and discuss! Call 248-693-3001 if you need assistance acquiring a cookbook.



*The Preppy Kitchen* by John Kanell



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

## The Art of Storytelling Gallery Opening

Thur, Mar 7 | 7 pm

Join local artists as they display their work at the Orion Art Center, 115 Anderson St., Lake Orion, based on the book *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradal. The winners of the contest will be announced during the reception, and refreshments will be provided.

## Learn to Meditate Series

Wednesdays: Mar 13, April 10, May 8  
7 pm

Pushna Wellness will guide you as you take this opportunity to hone your thoughts and breath and discover the many physical and mental benefits of meditation. Any person can meditate no matter where you are in life. If you are not able to sit on the floor for extended periods of time, you can lay down or sit in a chair.



## Songs and Stories of Ireland

Sat, Mar 23 | 2 pm

Let the songs of Ireland take you across the Atlantic through the voice of Irish singer and songwriter Enda Reilly. Originally from Dublin, Ireland and now living in Michigan, Enda Reilly's shows delight, educate, and entertain with the Irish drum, Celtic guitar, and vocal arrangements of Celtic folk songs. Enda is a seasoned performer and enjoys bringing his unique flavor of Irish music and culture to the USA.

## Home Solar 101

Sat, Apr 27 | 2 pm

Blake Alexander from The Green Panel will introduce us to solar panels and what they can do for homeowners. He will go over the history and science behind the solar panel and its many implementations in our modern world, then go over why solar panels in Michigan make sense financially.

# OUTREACH

Program registration opens one month prior to the program date.

## OTPL Book Bike

Keep a look out for our Book Bike as we visit parks, parades, community events and on bike trails throughout our community. We answer questions, talk about upcoming programs, and give away books, treats, and library swag; sometimes we even have crafts! Our Book bike has been a terrific opportunity to bring the Orion Township Public Library outside our walls to where our residents are. If you see us when you are out, stop by and say hello!

## Home Delivery Services

Are you or someone you know unable to physically visit the library, even for a brief time? We offer delivery services for library books and audiobooks! Give us specific titles or let us know what you like, and we can introduce you to new favorites. Material is delivered either by car or through our Books by Mail program. Call 248-693-3000 ext. 411 for more information.

## English Language Learning Conversation Group (ELL)

Wednesdays | 10:30 am



The group is open to all who wish to practice their English language skills in a relaxed setting. Topics vary widely, and the group offers a great learning experience and an opportunity to meet people.

## Special Needs Adult Programming (SNAP)

Mon, May 20 | 12:30 pm

Adults with special needs and their caregivers can join us for stories, songs, movement, and activities.

## Orion Center Library Branch

For a slower pace and a smaller venue, the Orion Center Library Branch caters specifically to seniors. Located in the Orion Center, 1335 Joslyn Rd., this small but mighty space features large print books, audiobooks, movies, put and take paperbacks, puzzles, and magazines for all. Computers and a printer are also available. The Orion Center Library Branch will host following programs:

## Basic Tech Help for Seniors

Make an appointment at the Orion Center Branch Library by calling 248-693-6840; appointments are preferred but walk-ins are possible if time allows. Whether you bring your device or use our computers, our Branch Associate Kurt can troubleshoot basic technology questions and needs. No grandchild needed!

## Senior Social Hour

Fridays: Mar 8 and 22, Apr 12 and 26,  
May 10 and 24 | 11 am

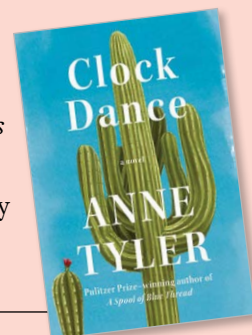
Join us the 2nd and 4th Fridays of most months for a chance to get out and socialize. Each week will feature a different topic so that participants can enjoy the company of other seniors!

## Book Bunch

Join us at the Orion Center Library Branch for this monthly book discussion.

Wednesdays | 1 pm

Mar 13: *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn  
Apr 10: *Paper Ghosts* by Julia Heaberlin  
May 8: *Clock Dance* by Ann Tyler



# TEEN PROGRAMS

Program registration opens one month prior to the program date.

## Teen Tuesday

Tuesdays | Mar 5, 19, Apr 2, 16,  
May 7, 21 | 6:30–8 pm



All teens are welcome to this casual hang out at the library. Enjoy getting together with friends for a different theme each time. Themes include board games, card games, video games, D&D, crafts and more! Snacks always provided.



## Melted Crayon Pendant Jewelry

Sat, Mar 16 | 2 pm–3 pm  
Registration required

See how easy it is to turn melted crayons into beautiful jewelry! Participants will take crayons, melt them down, and create a colorful pendant.



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

## SAT/ACT Tips and Tricks

Tue, Mar 19 | 6 pm

Do you have an 11th grader taking the SAT/ACT in April? Maybe even an eager 10th grader looking for tips for the May AP Exams? Spend an hour at OTPL with Rob Osterman for last-minute tips and tricks going into your college board test.



## Think Link @ OTPL

Mondays | Apr 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6  
After school–4 pm | Registration required

Join the latest GAP activity at the Library. Lake Orion Middle school students in grades 6–8 are invited to participate in an exciting after-school program featuring crafts, activities, games, snacks, and more. Every week, students will be bussed from their respective middle schools to OTPL. Our school outreach librarians will be eagerly awaiting their arrival, ready to engage them in a different fun activity each time. Parents can pick up their children directly from the library. Sign up forms will be in your child's school office.

# YOUTH SERVICES

Program registration opens one month prior to the program date.

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### Doggone Movie in Space

Mon, Mar 25 | 6:30 pm | All ages

Join our furry therapy friends as we gather to watch a fun movie about some four-legged companions... in space!

### DIY Fairy Garden Craft

Mon, Apr 22 | 6:30 pm | All Ages

Spring is here! Come and design your very own fairy garden container with the library's supplies.



## BABY, TODDLER, AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

### SENSEsational Storytime

Fridays | Apr 5, May 31  
11 am | Ages 0–7

In partnership with LOCS Early Childhood Special Education's Parent Involvement Day, we offer this welcoming, interactive environment designed for children with special needs and sensory seeking kids. All preschoolers outside of the ECSE program are welcome.

### Bounce and Boogie

Saturdays | Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4  
11 am | Ages 0–5

A music and movement-based program just for ages 0–5! Join us as we dance, groove, jump, and move to our favorite songs and rhymes, promoting gross motor skills alongside early literacy.



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



### Busy Baby

Thursdays | Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9  
11 am | Infants

This is a meetup for infants 0–12 months old and their caregivers. Come play together and meet new friends. Best suited for non-walkers.

### Little Lit

Mon, Tues, & Wed | Mar 12–20,  
Apr 1–May 8 | 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 per storytime.

### Special Space Storytime

Thu, Mar 28  
11am  
Ages 0–5

Get ready to blast off! Join us for stories, rhymes, and activities all about outer space.



### SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS



### Book Buddies

Tuesdays | Mar 12,  
Apr 9 | 6 pm  
Grades K–2, Register Online

Kids 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.

### Doggone Readers

Mondays  
Apr 8 & May 13  
6:30 pm  
Grades K–5, Register Online

Visit with Claire, Crush, Daisy, Henry, Jasper, Merlen, or Woody to practice your reading skills to a silent listener—the dog! Readers can collect stamps for a free book.



### The Joys of Art for Kids: Collage

Fri, Mar 15 | 2 pm | Grades K–5,  
Register Online

Explore different techniques and materials while you create your very own masterpieces.

### Reverse Book Club

Wednesdays  
Mar 6, Apr 17  
6 pm | Grades 3–5

You didn't read the book? No problem! This is a book club in reverse. We will have activities based on a book and read the first chapter together. You have the rest of the month to read the remainder of the book.



### If You Give a Kid a Book Club

Wednesdays | Mar 20, Apr 24,  
May 22 | 1 pm | Grades K–2

We will get together to read from an early reader or picture book series. We will read, discuss, and do activities based on the books. Books in the series will be available to check out after the meeting to continue the reading fun. No pre-reading is required.

### Rather Be Reading Book Club

Wednesdays | 2 pm  
Grades 3–5

If you would rather be reading, then join us for this new book club. Read the title ahead of the meeting date and then we will gather to discuss and enjoy activities based on the book. Titles for the meetings are:

Mar 20: *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Apr 24: *Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity* by Mac Barnett

May 22: *Year of the Dog* by Grace Lin



### Intergenerational Storytime @ Pomeroy Senior Living

Tuesdays | Mar 26,  
May 21 | 10:30 am  
Ages 0–5, Register Online

We welcome caregivers and children ages 0–5 to join senior residents for a storytime, encouraging social interaction between generations. Librarians will read stories, sing songs, and provide a snack, craft, and social time for all attendees. Intergenerational programs come with many benefits for both children and seniors, including decreased loneliness, delayed mental decline, and new connections, along with increasing the amount of smiling and conversation among all involved!

## Spring Break in Space

Even though the eclipse is happening during school, we still have plenty of space-themed programming for the event! The library will also have eclipse glasses available in limited supply.

### Living in Space Workshop with Mad Science Detroit

Tue, Mar 26 | 2 pm | Grades 2-5, Register Online

Live the life of an astronaut as you suit up for space flight! Participate in a space mission and repair a torn solar panel on a satellite. Use teamwork to complete an important space mission and build your very own Spacewalk Mission™ at

### Doggone Movie in Space

Mon, Mar 25 | 6:30 pm

See page 43 for details.

### Special Space Storytime

Thu, Mar 28 | 11 am

See page 44 for details.

### Out of this World

Fri, Mar 29 | 2 pm | K-5

Explore the galaxy with space-themed crafts and activities.



### 3D Print Star Lanterns

Sat, Apr 13 | 12 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm  
Grades 3-8, Register Online

Back by popular demand: another 3D print class! Bring the starry skies inside by creating your own one-of-a-kind star lantern.

### Wrapped Rainbow

Fri, Apr 26 | 2 pm | Grades K-5

Cloudy, rainy skies bring one great thing: Rainbows!!! Create your own unique rainbow design with various pieces of yarn in this hands-on craft project.



### Lego Building: Outer Space

Mon, May 6 | 6 pm | Grades K-5

Junior architects are invited to join us for building fun with LEGO bricks! The library will supply all the LEGOs you will need. The challenge is to create a space themed masterpiece. All LEGO creations will be displayed in the library lobby during May.

### Hack that Painting

Fri, May 31 | 2 pm | Grades 3-8, Register Online

Add your own creative spin to these already prepared canvases. Do you think this landscape painting needs some aliens? You take these generic pieces and make them into a new masterpiece. A big thank you to the Orion Art Center for donating the canvases.



## Beginning Ukulele Workshops at OTPL!

Sat, Mar 23 | 11 am | Ages 8-108

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 used to chording and strumming. Bring your own instrument or borrow one of ours. Sponsored by Music is the Foundation 501(c)(3). Registration is required. There are two distinct sessions, sign up for the one that's right for you.



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

## Storytime at the Flower Fair

Sat May 18th | 11am

We are excited to be coming back to the Orion Art Center's 2024 Art & Flower Fair in Downtown Lake Orion with our annual Flower Fair Storytime for all ages! Children and their families are invited to join us for stories, songs, and activities that promote the five staple early literacy practices: reading, writing, singing, talking, and playing! Then stop by our book bike for some fun flower-themed crafts, books, and information about the library!



Photo by Jennifer Meier



## Volunteering

You're invited to join our team of volunteers! Whether you're a student (age 12 and up, please) or adult, employed or retired, you will be a welcome addition to our library team. Visit [orionlibrary.org](http://orionlibrary.org) for more information and to fill out an application. Completed applications can be submitted in person or emailed to Lori Morris, Volunteer Engagement and Shelver Coordinator, at [lmorris@orionlibrary.org](mailto:lmorris@orionlibrary.org).



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



## FRIENDS OF THE ORION LIBRARY

# Gently Used BOOK SALE

Tuesday, May 14

10 AM-8:30 PM

Friends of the Library  
Member Day & Teacher Day  
*(Membership available for purchase at the door)*

Open to the Public  
4:30-8:30 pm

Wednesday, May 15  
& Thursday, May 16

10 AM-8:30 PM

Open to the Public



Friday, May 17

10 AM-4:30 PM

Open to the Public  
Half Off Books Day

Saturday, May 18

9:30 AM-1:30 PM

Open to the Public

\$5 Bag Day  
*(Fill a bag supplied by the Friends for \$5)*





# FRIENDS OF THE ORION TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

248-693-3000 x470 • friends@orionlibrary.org • orionlibrary.org/friends

Book sales and donation protocol at [orionlibrary.org/friends](http://orionlibrary.org/friends).

## Annual Holiday Basket Auction's success benefits future library programming

The Friends of the Orion Township Library would like to thank all the donors, volunteers, and silent auction bidders that made the 2023 Friends Annual Holiday Basket Auction a success. The Friends annual silent auction took place from November 19th to December 9th in the Friends Reading Room at the library. The 2023 Basket Auction featured 59 baskets on which to bid. Over 300 bids were placed, which raised \$6,035. Auction items included a Jarod Goff autographed Detroit Lions mini football helmet, skin care products, gift cards from local businesses, and so much more. The money raised from the auction will be gifted to the library to fund future programming such as Battle of the Books, adult and children workshops, Summer Reading, and more.

The Friends would like to extend a huge thank you to the following businesses for their generous donations to the 2023 Friends Holiday Basket Auction:

- Ace Hardware (Lake Orion)
- Aesthetic Theory
- Baldwin Barbershop
- Belle Tire
- Broadway Embroidery
- Buffalo Wild Wings (Lake Orion)
- Costco
- Detroit Lions
- Downtown Development Authority
- Ed's Broadway and Gifts
- Fogler's Greenhouse
- Green Hippo Gifts
- G's Pizza (Lake Orion)
- Haney Farm Bureau
- Harvest Time
- Healthy Dogma
- Holistic Health by Valerie
- Home Depot—Lake Orion
- Italia Gardens
- Jet's Pizza (Lake Orion)
- Johnny Black's on the Lake
- Lo's Beauty Bar + Med Spa
- LaVida Massage
- Lou Lou's Boutique
- Lucky's Natural Foods
- Lux Hair Lounge
- Meadowbrook Hall
- MI Body Works

- Muffler Man—Lake Orion
- Nail Spot
- ONTV
- Optimum Chiropractic
- Orion Oaks Animal Hospital
- Orion Township Parks & Rec
- Palazzo di Bocce
- Pete's Coney Island II
- Professor Soups
- Silver Fox Barbershop
- Spencer Kelly and the Expedition Soap Co
- Tim Hortons—Lake Orion
- Trella's Cleaners
- Twice Blessed
- Werner's Hallmark
- WLIV: jimmy@graphictakeover.com

Additionally, donations were received from patrons, board members, and library staff. If you or your business would be interested in donating an item for the 2024 Friends Annual Holiday Basket Auction, please email the Friends at [friends@orionlibrary.org](mailto:friends@orionlibrary.org). Donations are accepted beginning in late September.

Follow us: [f/Friends of Orion Township Library](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfOrionTownshipLibrary)

# Empowering communities through media

In the landscape of community engagement through media, entities like Orion Neighborhood Television (ONTV) stand as beacons of empowerment and unity.



Public access television, exemplified by ONTV, transcends traditional

broadcasting by offering a platform for community members to produce and share content that resonates deeply within their neighborhoods.

ONTV, like many community media stations, embodies the spirit of community togetherness. Through its diverse programming, including locally produced shows, event coverage, and educational content, ONTV has become a catalyst for fostering unity and connection in the Orion Township area.

## Diversity in content creation

At the heart of ONTV's success lies its commitment to inclusivity. The station welcomes a wide array of programming,

reflecting the diversity of the community it serves. From showcasing cultural events, highlighting local talent, to discussions on pertinent neighborhood issues, ONTV provides a canvas for residents to express themselves and share their stories.

## Community collaboration and engagement

ONTV thrives on collaboration. The station actively involves community members in content creation, fostering a sense of ownership and pride. Through workshops, training programs, and support for local non-profits, community service organizations, ONTV empowers individuals to become active participants in the media landscape.

Furthermore, the station serves as a bridge that connects residents to local events, initiatives, news, and organizations. By covering and promoting these events, ONTV not only boosts community engagement but also helps strengthen the bonds between residents, local businesses, and civic institutions.

## Community media funding is at risk

With the decline of traditional cable TV viewing, ONTV's funding model is in severe jeopardy. Seven percent of all cable television profits come back to the Orion area to fund 98% of Orion Neighborhood Television's operations. Cord cutting and the move by cable TV companies to an all-streaming model will cause funding for community media to go to zero.

Modernization of the laws in Michigan which regulate community media funding and the preservation of our public rights of way, is needed. ONTV is helping lead this fight to preserve community media across our state. Without action in 2024, ONTV and community television could go dark.

If you'd like to help preserve ONTV and community media, give ONTV a call at 248-393-1060, or visit our website at [orionontv.org](http://orionontv.org) for more information. Your voice is needed.

*Ian J. Locke, Executive Director, ONTV*







## Watch ONTV!

Comcast Channel 10, 20, 22

ATT Uverse Channel 99



ROKU, Fire-TV, Apple TV

Lives Stream at  
OrionONTV.org

YouTube, Facebook, Twitter

Get The ONTV Phone App!



Download and Search Orion  
Neighborhood Television



ONTV News Wins 2023 Philo Award.  
Excellence In News Directing and Editing.



## Classes and Workshops

Classes held at ONTV Studio, 1349 Joslyn Road. Call 248-393-1060 to register.

### ONTV Kids Video Camp

ONTV Studio | Mon-Fri, Jun 10-14  
1-4 pm | Ages 11-13 | \$145R/NR

During this week-long camp students will meet at the ONTV Studio daily to learn television production, filmmaking and more. The group will produce a program that will air on local cable TV. Camp includes T-shirt, pizza party and DVD.

### ONTV Podcasting Class

ONTV Studio | Ages 13+ | \$25R/NR

Learn how to record a podcast. Classes run two hours, can hold three people, and will meet at the ONTV Studio. Call 248-393-1060 to schedule an appointment at your convenience.

### Studio Production Class

ONTV Studio | Mondays  
Apr 22-May 20 | Ages 13+  
7-9 pm | \$55R/NR

Learn about the crew positions and equipment necessary to produce a program in the studio. During 10-minute mock productions, you will rotate into crew positions such as Director, Audio, Graphics, Camera, Floor Manager, Host, and Guest. The class will plan a final project that will be recorded in Week 5 and air as a real TV program.

### Field Production Class

ONTV Studio | Mondays  
Jun 3-Jul 1 | Ages 13+ | 7-9 pm  
\$55R/NR

You will be introduced to the Canon XA11 professional camcorder and all the accessories that go with it, including light, microphones, headphones, and a tripod. Weeks 1 & 2 will focus on news-style shooting and interviews. Weeks 3 & 4 will focus on filmmaking. The final week will cover music videos and other experimental forms of video production.

### Non-Linear Editing

ONTV Studio | Mondays  
Apr 1-15 | Jul 8-22 | Ages 13+  
7-9 pm | \$55R/NR

You will be introduced to the CS6 version of Adobe Premiere Pro. In Week 1 you will learn about importing video, transitions, audio, titles & graphics, and exporting video. In Week 2 you will learn about advanced editing techniques such as color correction, green key effects, slow/fast motion, keyframing, and other special effects. The final week will include an introduction to Davinci Resolve, which is a sophisticated editing software that is free to download and use.

# Passion, fun and love of learning

## Media Specialists use reading, technology, experiences to nurture lifelong learners

Each winter, Lake Orion Community Schools middle school students embark on a unique journey.

With reading as their guide, the students who choose to participate in the Battle of the Books begin in November by receiving a list of books to read and highlight, absorbing even the smallest details.

Creating teams within their schools, the students begin to quiz each other on trivia from the four titles. Each team develops an identity and connected costume, building to the February morning event when they compete against other LOCS middle school teams with multiple choice and short answer questions about the common books for a trophy.

The competition and celebration is one of the year's middle school highlights, now in its 21st year.

"It's a great experience," Waldon middle school media specialist Kevin Kast

explained at the 2023 event. "They spend a lot of time digging into the books, finding out and understanding what the book is all about."

The Battle reflects the dynamic nature of the Lake Orion Community Schools media program.

At all three levels (elementary, middle and high school), media specialists in each school work to create a creative experience for students in the evolving media landscape.

That was reflected in 2022, when Scripps Middle School media specialist Rebecca Lowe received the Michigan Association for Media in Education School Librarian of the Year Award.

"There's so much room to grow any program," Lowe said at the time. "You've got to have passion, you've got to have a love, you've got to realize you're creating all of these incredible opportunities for students. But you've got to have fun doing it too."

That commitment is reflected in all the media specialists throughout the district, bringing wonderful opportunities to the Dragons.

### Elementary

With reading as the foundation of students' school education, creating a love of books begins at the elementary level.

The lower elementary focus is on a love of literature, with many read-aloud sessions, introducing them to authors and illustrators and how books are organized in the library and how to find them, along with introducing various technology skills.

The upper elementary students focus heavier on the technology skills, with students gaining access to their Microsoft 365 accounts in 3rd grade. Learning the apps within these accounts, as well as conducting research, creating multimedia presentations, and discussing digital citizenship are all a part of the media classes. Reading and books remain a strong part of the program and support reading skills that the students have already acquired. With impressive classroom libraries, they've developed that passion for books

already and the media specialists are enhancing it through read-alouds and collections that appeal to elementary-aged students.

Both groups learn about coding at the appropriate developmental level, with the youngest students doing block coding with apps and programmable cars, and the older elementary students using small robots.





LOCS district media chair Jeannine Crissman is the longtime media specialist at Carpenter Elementary and helped guide the elementary curriculum created eight years ago.

Because elementary media specialists receive a full class multiple times each week, they can extend a topic over the course of weeks or a month.

Much of the elementary experience is being exposed to new processes and opportunities and refining those skills before entering middle school.

For Crissman, that means connecting with the classroom teacher and helping them use technology features while also imparting those skills to the upper elementary classes when they visit for a specials period. She'll ask the teacher about the current class lesson focus and impart that into the technology lesson using PowerPoint, Sway or Canva.

"That collaboration makes it more meaningful," Crissman said.

Each of the elementary schools received a refreshed media center space (or entirely new with the new Blanche Sims Elementary school,) providing an area more conducive for learning, as well as a media productions area.

Media productions is the next step as part of the district initiative to lean into media and technology.

The pilot for the elementary media productions is being led by Stadium Drive

media specialist Dan Dabrowski, who has students volunteering to be part of the morning announcements a few times each week.

The students have video interviews, reports and segments they produce and Dabrowski helps them put it together to air in each classroom in the morning. As the weeks progressed from fall to winter, the students began to take more ownership.

With the youngest students growing up with such a handle on technology, handing them the controls of the show with huge screens and dozens of buttons is no problem.

"The real push is for the kids to have the overall control of the announcements, the setup, the broadcast," he said. "It's really trying to empower our kids to have a morning news show. Our high school does an award-winning news show. The kids see that from time to time and just trying to build a platform from the high school down to the elementary schools."

For the students, managing a news show allows them the chance to share their work with the whole school.

"It's really fun to do everything by yourself," said Clara, a Stadium Drive student. "We have a lot of new segments this year. We're trying to make it different than the rest of the years. The rest of the years didn't have current events or three questions."

Students Sofia and Shreeya act as producers and are involved in coordinating the show—most which is designed the day before—and determine the backgrounds, the transitions and helping with scripts.

There is significant opportunity for reading from the media specialist to students as a group and the students reading themselves individually—including school-wide March is Reading Month activities planned by the media specialists — the modern media center is evolving.

"Most kids enjoy looking at a book and enjoying the feel of the paper in their hands but media is so much more than books," Dabrowski said. "In the library we have the opportunity for iPads and coding.

"We work on all realms of media."

## Middle School

The middle school media center is often about opportunity.

"It's about literacy, a major component about connecting with their curriculums," said Oakview Middle School media specialist Katherine Montei. "Whether that's digital literacy, whether it's visual literacy, artistic literacy or our traditional reading and writing literacy, we want to be able to connect with all curriculums.

"Whereas in the past we were seen as just a connection to ELA (English Language Arts) ... Now it is so much bigger than that because of the technology focus."

An example came in December when the Hour of Code week, during computer science education week, was held nationwide. In the LOCS middle schools, the goal was to show the students resources they could create on their own or see different types of coding and make that career connection."

The middle school media specialists have a varied role. At times, they provide class



Between the Battle of the Books, the connection with the Orion Township Public Library, the opportunities are endless. The middle school media centers are as passionate and connected a location as exists in the district, providing a home for many students.

## High School

With Lake Orion High School students independent with their education, having classes around the school at different times, with different lengths and locations, the media center is more free flowing.

A few years ago, the media center was rebranded as the Learning Center.

“We want students to know this is a place for learning in all forms,” said LOHS media specialist Cathy Srock, in her first year guiding the LC. “Sometimes that’s digital learning, sometime that’s learning through research sometimes that’s learning through collaboration.”

The LOHS LC has a variety of different areas, each with a unique purpose.

Books are still there—Srock purchases 5-to-15 new books each week to supplement the collection, including e-books and audio books—and shares on Instagram with the students a few times each week, offering popular or interesting titles.

Those diverse sections are reflected in the physical layout of the LC space.

In the center of the giant high-ceiling room are the collaboration stations, with a few tables, bisected by monitors on each side and a curved table for a few students to chat and look at/connect with a monitor with their computer. This was an area where the Literature and the Big Screen class was able

teachers with research and resources to supplement their lessons and other times they find out what the class unit is and offer a few small activities to be conducted by the teacher.

On other occasions, the media specialist teaches the full lesson, using whatever subject that class is experiencing.

The American Library Association curriculum and the International Standards for Technology and Education guide their process as the media lessons are developed, working in parallel to the district curriculum.

Montei and Lowe are among the most respected members of their profession, presenting annually to their colleagues at the state conference.

Each month, there are dozens of projects run by the middle school specialists trying to create a place for students to feel comfortable.

Escape room activities, virtual reality, laser cutting, 3-D printing, fantasy clubs and more are some of the opportunities available.

The media centers have also become a comfortable alternative location for students.

“We want to offer that opportunity that, if that lunchroom is too loud or too busy, we’re the safe space,” said Montei, who has a consistent group of 15-20 sixth and seventh graders who prefer being in the media center. “In the morning before school, during lunch, during class time, and after school—it is about making connections with students, about helping to make sure they feel like a part of the library community.”

The students lean into their comfort zone, even asking for a knitting club or offering to be a part of the library/media center as assistants.



# Media matters

The mission of the media program is to nurture an interest in reading, to assure that both students and staff are effective users of ideas, technology, and information, and to develop in students the skills to become lifelong learners. A few examples of connections at each level:

## Elementary

- Critical thinking
- Reading growth
- Research skills
- Information ethics
- Media Productions
- Read-alouds
- Orion Twp. Librarian visits
- Coding
- Digital citizenship

## Middle School

- Searching online catalog
- Bibliographic information
- Escape Rooms
- Library skills
- Makerspace
- Virtual reality
- Hour of Code

- Book speed dating
- Battle of the Books
- Assist with tech, navigating Teams/online resources

## High School

- Genres of books
- External resources
- Quiet room
- Collaboration stations
- Use of variety or organizational systems
- Locates appropriate resources

## Content standards

- A student educated in library/media and technology...
  - accesses information efficiently and effectively.

- evaluates information critically and competently.
- uses information accurately and creatively.
- pursues information related to personal interests.
- appreciates and enjoys literature and other creative expressions of information.
- strives for excellence in information seeking and knowledge generation.
- recognizes the importance of information to democratic society.
- practices ethical and legal behaviors in planning, using, and evaluating information technology.
- participates effectively in groups to pursue and generate information.

funds lead directly to scholarships for senior students at the end of the year. Last year, the funds given out to students totaled \$9,000.

“It’s something that gets kids into our LC and we’re able to do great things with the money,” Srock said.

Srock is assisted in the LC by Greta Bailey, as well as a number of student volunteers to earn service learning hours and occasionally special education students who need work placement hours.

“We want to welcome any student that wants to be in here,” Srock said. “We’ll find a way for them to be a part of our team.”

Though Srock does not teach classes, she offers mini-lessons, such as when she taught AP classes how to use the databases for research.

She seeks to grow the LC in new and innovative ways.

“The top goal is to create an environment where students feel welcome and encouraged,” said Srock, in her first year guiding the LC. “They’re encouraged to pursue to the love of reading and learning.”

## District

With the approaches catering to the age-appropriate location for each level, the media centers become a critical supplementary piece in the LOCS student’s education.

It provides an introduction at the youngest levels, a connection at the middle levels and a resource for the oldest students.

In LOCS, learning extends beyond the individual classroom teachers.

to come in and watch separate movies at each table for their assignment following their book club books.

The book genres (fiction, non-fiction, bios and memoirs, graphic novels, children’s stories, and story collections) ring the outside of the room.

At the far end of the space is the soft-seating areas where classes can meet in a casual area without desks and mostly large lounge-style chairs and couches.

In the front of the LC, near the circulation desk is a quiet room, where students can work without the noise of

the rest of the LC.

The high-top table area is where a small group of students can eat their lunch and/or teachers can be there when their students are working.

One of the most unusual and appreciated spaces is the café.

Coffee and other drinks are available for purchase and those



Sign up for Spring & Summer Enrichment programs at [lakeorionschools.org/departments/enrichment-services](https://lakeorionschools.org/departments/enrichment-services).

## Orion Veterans Memorial

# HONORING DR. JOSEPH MASTROMATTEO, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

After more than 30 years, Orion Veterans Memorial Chairman Dr. Joseph Mastromatteo decided in January it was time to step down and pass the torch. With that, he took on another title, one just a token of the great things he has contributed to the Orion Veterans Memorial, located at Odonah and M-24. The board unanimously bestowed him the title of Chairman Emeritus.

Dr. Joe's heart and soul sits on that street corner in one of the most beautiful Memorials around. When he speaks of it, his eyes still twinkle and a smile emerges on his face. Without Dr. Joe's persistence, and a lot of other people's "blood, sweat and tears," that street corner would not be the magnificent piece of land it is today. It is a "living memorial."

JoAnn Van Tassel, a community icon in her own right, detailed the history of the memorial: "The Orion Veterans Memorial exists today primarily because of the efforts of one man," Van Tassel wrote, "Dr. Joe Mastromatteo had the vision to create a memorial to veterans and brought it to the Orion Area Chamber. They supported his vision and authorized him to go with the idea. This enthusiasm prompted Leonard Els to do the initial design for the memorial. Dr. Joe's persistence in seeking funds led the Lake Orion American Legion Post 233 and VFW Post 334 to donate the funds to get things started.

When M-24 was widened to five lanes in the early 1990s, Dr. Mastromatteo asked Orion Township to buy the parcel at the northwest corner of M-24 and Odonah, which it did. Others stepped forward to help. Joe Guinn, Sr. and his family did much of the construction work to bring the Memorial to fruition. The sale of bricks provided much needed funds to complete the job. Dr. Mastromatteo's idea to emphasize the family unit as the prime focus of the main monument won out over an eagle or other patriotic symbol. Over the years, hundreds of people and organizations have contributed to the Memorial as the Benefactors Wall shows. However, there never would have been such a wall

without Dr. Mastromatteo starting everything. Thank you, Dr. Joe. The title of Chairman Emeritus suits you well. Wear it with pride for a job well done."

Dr. Joe had a vision to honor veterans of every war, conflict, or police action to ensure they were remembered and never forgotten. A veteran himself—he served in the U.S. Army as a dentist—Dr. Joe saw many things that made him a fierce patriot of the United States and what our great country stands for. If you talk to him and mention someone else who has worn the uniform, one of his first comments will be, "They are a great patriot."

Many have known Dr. Joe. He practiced dentistry in Lake Orion for many years. His office was located at M-24 across from Atwater. Once you saw it you knew it was his, as the American flag flew proudly over it. We have interacted with many veterans over the years, but you'd be hard pressed to find another veteran who holds patriotism and the American flag as close to their heart as Dr. Joe does. The only thing he holds more dear is the Orion Veterans Memorial.

Thank you, Chairman Emeritus Dr. Joseph Mastromatteo, for all you have provided this little community of Lake Orion, for your contribution and over 30 years of leading the committee who oversees this magnificent Memorial.

We invite the public to stop by and walk through the Orion Veterans Memorial. The bricks you walk on have names of veterans from Lake Orion and surrounding area who served proudly in the Military, some of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice. Also, you will notice the names of many benefactors who have contributed to this beautiful place. We are seeking volunteers to help preserve this beauty, veterans and others who want to honor our veterans by maintaining this piece of land that Dr. Joe envisioned over 30 years ago.

*Gratefully,*

*The Orion Veterans Committee*  
[Orionveteransmemorial.com](http://Orionveteransmemorial.com)

*Photo by Lee Smith*



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# ORION LIVING

Charter Township of Orion  
2323 Joslyn Road  
Lake Orion, MI 48360

*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.*



## **Swinging into Spring.**

Warmer nights, stunning sunsets and leisure time on a lakefront park define the upcoming season that we welcome after a traditionally cold Michigan winter.

*Photo by K Gedda Smith Images*