

ORION LIVING

Issue 8

Spring 2021

Charter Township of Orion, Michigan

Celebrate Freedom AND SPRING'S ARRIVAL

What's Inside

Get out and move this spring

In-person and virtual events
at the Orion Township
Library and Parks &
Recreation

Chamber helped businesses
and community through
challenging year

There's a dragon watching
you in downtown Lake Orion

A new space is coming for
Orion's little learners

YOUR QUARTERLY
guide
TO LIFE IN ORION

Photo by Lee Smith



Orion Area
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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

248-693-3377

**COVER: A member of VFW Post 334 plays
taps at a past Memorial Day celebration at
the Lake Orion's Veterans Memorial.**

Background photo by Nancy Bennett

Many voices BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY

Since *Orion Living Magazine* was first published two years ago, it has been a valuable resource for the community. It's another voice to help us tell the constantly changing story of Orion Township and to keep you connected to what's going on.

It is incredible to have the Township, the Orion Township Public Library (OTPL), the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce (OACC), the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and the Lake Orion Community Schools (LOCS) all working together in one publication for the community.

In the spirit of all working together, I am going to ask for your input this year—in a community such as ours, there is a need for many voices. The Township has started the process to prepare a new Master Plan. Public input will be key to developing an effective long-range plan. This summer you will also see a community survey which helps show us how we are doing and what types of things you would like to see happen in the community. In the last community survey (2019) we saw that our community loves

its outdoor recreation, and we continue to make that a priority. Most recently, we have added a new pocket park on Baldwin Road and a safety path along Clarkston Road that connects the Paint Creek and Polly Ann Trails.

This spring take some time to get outside and enjoy all that our community has to offer. See you on the trails!

Chris Barnett
Orion Township Supervisor

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

Chris Barnett, *Orion Township*

Jenny Bhatti, *Orion Township*

Becky Bolin, *Orion Township Public Library*

Noelle Champagne,
Orion Area Chamber of Commerce

Theresa Fiorani, *Canoe Circle Graphics*

Karen Knox, *Orion Township Public Library*

Molly LaLone, *Lake Orion DDA*

Mark Snyder, *Lake Orion Community Schools*

Jennifer Vezina,

Orion Township Parks & Recreation

Aaron Whatley,

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

Graphic Design by Canoe Circle Graphics

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The days of large community gatherings are still on hold but there is no denying the good a group of individuals can do when they come together for a common goal. The building of the KaBoom! playground at Camp Agawam a couple years ago couldn't have happened without community involvement.



Photo by Lee Smith

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Photo by Kristen Smith

Looking ahead into Orion's future

Township embarks on Master Plan process

Orion Township has started the year-long process to prepare a new Master Plan. This is a big-picture, long-range document that guides policy and decision-making about how land in the township is used for housing, transportation, commerce, and recreation. It provides a clear statement of community goals and objectives, establishes a vision of the future, and includes plans to achieve the vision including Housing, Employment, Land Use, and Complete Streets.

If carefully followed, the Master Plan will have a lasting impact on the built and natural environment. The Plan will be implemented over short-, medium-, and long-term timelines as specified in the Plan's Action Strategies.

People choose to live, work, and play in Orion for many reasons, including the

township's ideal location in southeast Michigan and northern Oakland County, beautiful neighborhoods, access to parks and trails, lakes and natural resources, great schools, and access to quality goods and services, and much more. What can the township do to preserve and enhance features that make the community livable and productive, while managing and guiding development and redevelopment that meets the diverse needs of current and future residents and businesses? What non-motorized transportation improvements would enhance the quality of life? The Orion Township Planning Commission will be asking these questions and many more as it prepares for the new Master Plan.

Through 2021, the Township's Planning and Zoning Department and the Planning Commission will work with consultants, Giffels Webster, to review

and understand existing conditions (*demographics, economics, and how our land is currently being used*) and explore trends and projections over the next 10 to 20 years. Several community profile graphics will provide a snapshot of existing conditions and trends.

With public input and the guidance of Orion Township leaders and staff, the Township will revisit the goals and objectives of previous planning documents to see if they still align with the collective vision for the future and identify appropriate land use strategies that support current and future residents and businesses. Most importantly, the 2021 Plan will include imple-

mentation strategies that the Township can use to achieve the vision of the plan.

Public input welcome

Public input is key to developing an effective long-range plan. There will be opportunities posted on oriontownship.org/masterplan for residents, business owners, and others to participate in a future community survey. There will also be an option to contribute to an online platform for photo sharing, PictureThis™. Additionally, Orion Township plans to launch an art contest that allows local student artists to share what they like best about Orion Township and their vision of the future.

The Planning Commission plans to hold a public Master Plan Open House, tentatively scheduled for April 2021. If COVID-19 restrictions related to public gatherings are still in place, the open house will be conducted in a virtual setting. This will be an excellent opportunity for interested citizens, business owners, and other stakeholders to share ideas before the Master Plan draft is prepared.

For more information on the Master Plan, visit oriontownship.org/masterplan.

Your voice matters!

A community survey is a great way to engage with residents and get the pulse of the community. Orion Township releases

a community survey on odd-numbered years, so expect one this summer. The value of these surveys grows over time, as it shows trends and what direction the community envisions. Feedback provided will help guide future decisions by the Board of Trustees, as well as each

department. The survey will be posted on our website and on Facebook, so stay tuned.



Real Estate Trends in 2021

Pandemic aftermath affects buying trends

With the new year underway, we continue to see stronger trends towards home health, fitness, and outdoor recreation. This, combined with government mandates and concerns for health and safety, is shaping the demands of home buyers.

One shift in buyer demands is the transition from open-concept floor plans to separate and specialized spaces within the home. Driving this change are individuals working from home, remote learning for students, and gyms that were temporarily shut down, leaving fitness enthusiasts seeking alternatives to the gym to meet their fitness goals.

Even as gyms have reopened, requirements for wearing masks, social distancing, and many amenities being closed, the appeal of going to the gym has diminished for some. Although nationally, home-gym equipment sales

skyrocketed in 2020, Orion residents have had the benefit of living in a community conducive to a healthy lifestyle.

Orion Township residents have many outdoor options to exercise. Almost one quarter of the township is preserved for recreation, including three major trail systems, one state park, one county park, five local parks, and 89 bodies of water. In addition, the Township has over 47 miles of safety paths available for walking, running, or biking. Orion's park and outdoor features surpass those of any other surrounding community. This is one attributing factor to Orion's median home sales prices being greater than those of Oakland County.

Another trend in buyer demand is outdoor living space. Outdoor kitchens and inviting outdoor space for entertaining and/or relaxing is a draw for many home buyers. Fire pits,

pools, and patio lighting all add to a home's appeal. Lake Orion saw a 137% increase in the average sales prices for lakefront homes in August 2020 compared to August 2019. With residents spending more time in their homes and the community, this past year more so than any other, Orion Township lived up to its tagline of "Where Living is a Vacation." Lake Orion waterfront homes listed for sale were down almost 52% from the previous year at the peak of the waterfront market in June 2020. This lack of inventory and strong demand is attributed to the increase in average sales prices.

As we continue to move into the spring, which is historically a busy real estate market, Orion home sellers will continue to see a favorable demand. With interest rates staying at historically low levels, 2021 is an advantageous time for both buyers and sellers in the real estate market.

*By Orion Living Contributor
Tracy Woodrum*

*Tracy is a Lake Orion-based
real estate agent with Dobi Realty.*



Backflow device testing ensures drinkable water

The Charter Township of Orion Water & Sewer Division is responsible for providing safe drinking water to all township residents and businesses. State and Federal laws (*Safe Drinking Water Acts*), the Plumbing Code, Michigan Residential Code, and the Charter Township of Orion Ordinance requires Orion 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 cross connection control?

A cross connection is any arrangement of piping on a plumbing system that could allow a

backflow of containments 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

Mandatory watering restrictions reduce strain on the system

From the beginning of May until the end of September, a **mandatory watering restriction** has been adopted for **everyone** who is connected to Orion Township water and has an automatic sprinkling system.

Orion Township enters into a contract each year with the Great Lakes Water Authority based on our overall water usage and usage during the peak hours of demand. The peak hours of demand are from 6 to 8 am and a floating time range in the evening (*usually around 5 to 8 pm*). With normal demand in the morning hours, adding irrigation across the township increased our usage and added an additional strain on the system resulting in low water pressure throughout the township.

The water restrictions were adopted by the township board because it reduces the usage during the peak hours of demand and the strain on our system. The water tower contributes to offsetting our demand by filling during the day when the demand on our system is low and having the water available to use when the demand on our system is high.

By irrigating from midnight to 5 am, residents help regulate our system and keep the township within the parameters of our contract. Many factors were considered when adopting the watering restrictions. We hope by explaining, residents will have a greater understanding and give more attention to following the guidelines.

Mandatory summer watering restrictions

- **Monday through Saturday:** Watering may only be done between **midnight and 5 am**.
- **Sunday:** Watering may be done at any time.

Watering of any kind **may not** be done during the hours of 5 and 10 am, Monday through Saturday. If the restrictions for Monday through Saturday are not followed, then your water service could be discontinued.

If you are connected to Orion Township water, and 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.

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. Since May 2019, Orion Township requires all testable backflow devices in residential properties be tested every three years. Residents required to submit test reports will receive a letter with information regarding the testing requirements and due date.

Only Licensed Plumbing Contractors who are ASSE 5110 certified can test, repair, and install Backflow Assemblies pursuant to State of Michigan Law—Public Act 733 (*State Plumbing Act*) of 2002. If a new backflow device is being installed, or a repair is needed, a

plumbing permit must be pulled through the Building Department.

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

More information regarding cross connection is available at oriontownship.org under the Department of Public Services page.

If a water or sewer emergency occurs:

Monday through Friday during Township hours, call
248-391-0304 ext. 8500.

During non-business hours contact the Oakland County Emergency Dispatch at
248-858-4911.

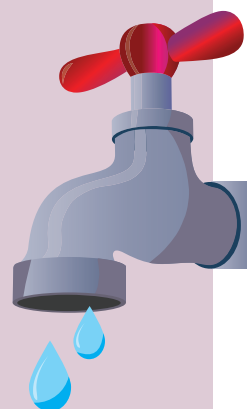
Summer water bill high? Check for leaks

When warm weather arrives and your outside water usage begins to increase you should anticipate a higher water bill that cover the summer months. Watering lawns and gardens, power washing such items as your house, lawn furniture, boats, and filling a pool will all increase your water usage.

With increased water usage, there will also be the possibility of outdoor water leaks. Most common are irrigation leaks that can be hard to detect and most often are not discovered until a bill is received reflecting high usage. Our department is frequently asked if the water bill can be adjusted due to an outdoor water leak. For any type of leak, once water has gone through the water meter, water billing cannot be adjusted.

We recommend if you are concerned about how much water your household is using, monitor your water usage. This can be easily done by writing down all the numbers on your water meter before and after heavy water usage. You can call our office with those numbers and we can give you an estimate of how many units of water you have used. If you keep a diary of your water meter reads and usage you can track your usage and possibly determine a leak before you receive a high bill.

If you are interested in reducing your water usage, there are resources online that can provide water conservation tips around your home.



Facilities maintenance

If you notice any unsafe conditions at any of our Buildings & Grounds facilities, or if you have an idea on how to improve our facilities to better serve you, please contact our department at 248-391-0304, ext. 8500.



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

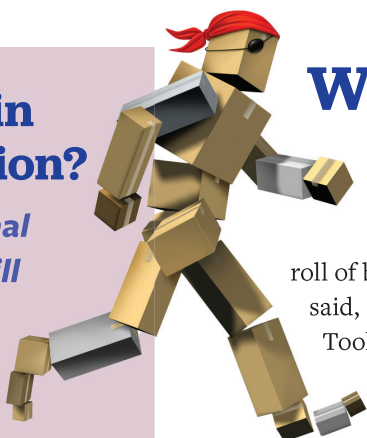
Moving in or out of Orion?

Schedule your final Water & Sewer bill

If you are moving out of Orion Township, schedule your final water/sewer bill through the Water & Sewer department. Filing a Property Transfer Affidavit (PTA) at the township **does not** automatically transfer the water and sewer account from the existing to the new owner. Occupancy can differ from the closing or sale date so accounts are left in the existing owners' name until the Water & Sewer department is contacted.

Final bills are sent to the title company for payment, as they hold an escrow for the final bill. Any final bills that remain unpaid will be transferred to the new owner, as per Ordinance 68.

Call 248-391-0304 ext. 8500 to schedule a final water and sewer bill. Have this information available: property address, date of closing, new owner's name, name and address of title company.



Ways to sink those pernicious porch pirates

Had to deliver a giant roll of bubble wrap. The man said, "pop it in the corner." Took me three hours. Ba-dum-tss.

For all the convenience that ordering online gives us, there is an unfortunate downside—porch pirates. Thieves are on the hunt for easy targets. Therefore, one of the most effective ways to prevent package theft is to not allow packages to sit outside for too long. Consider these tips and solutions to make sure your package makes it off your porch and into your home, where it belongs.

- Ship items where you have the best chance of receiving them, such as your place of employment, P.O. box, or to a FedEx/UPS location.
- Enlist your neighbors' help. If you have a neighbor or friend who is usually home, see if they can keep an eye out for your package and grab it for you. Or, have your package delivered directly to their home.
- Require a signature. Consider requesting a signature for your package to be dropped off. If you are not home during delivery, this adds a layer of security because it prevents your package from sitting unattended on your porch for any length of time.
- Sign up for alerts. It's easy to sign up for delivery alerts to track your package and stay up-to-date on delivery times.
- Keep your porch clear and visible. This one may seem counter-intuitive, but if a thief has no place to hide, they're less likely to take the risk of going up to your porch in the first place.

- Get technical. Consider investing in low-cost technologies like automatic light timers and motion-censored lights.
- Request nondescript packaging. Whenever possible, ask senders not to announce where the package is coming from, especially if it's from a high-end store. Sometimes it's possible through requesting a gift shipping option. Check the box labeled "Gift" to ensure your package comes in a plain box.
- Install a security camera or doorbell camera on your doorstep. The visibility of a camera discourages porch pirates by as much as 300%. Additionally, cameras on your doorstep allow you to capture evidence that may be helpful if you need to try to recover stolen packages.

Not any one measure can fully prevent porch pirates, but a combination of several of the above can greatly reduce your chance of a thief stealing your packages.



Oakland County Sheriffs Lake Orion 2020 Stats

Deputies responded to 18,947 calls for service from the public during 2019. Deputies responded to **20,926 CALLS** for service during 2020.

Deputies saw an increase of **10.4%** in calls for services from 2019; one of the largest increases over the previous decade.

While calls for service increased (*many relating to COVID issues or related domestic conflict*), the actual crime reports are **ABOUT THE SAME** from 2019 to 2020.

Don't be a victim

Deter crime by following these best practices

The majority of crimes are crimes of opportunity. Offenders will search for easy opportunities or victims as they want to protect their identities and do not want to be seen, heard, or detected. Always remember, your phone, your computer, your house—your rules!

Deter crimes by following these basic practices:

Never provide ANY information over the phone, in-person or online, especially to someone you did not reach out to. Any legitimate business or agency will allow you time to verify their information. If they pressure you to act immediately this is a red flag to stop.

Never wire, transfer money, or use money cards such as Green Dot, PayPal, Amazon, Bitcoin, or any other electronic form of money transfer to conduct business without due diligence. When someone asks for payment in this form, it is a huge red flag. The goal of a scam is to obtain money that cannot be easily traced. Most scams require victims to do something such as wire money or send money cards. Stop!

Hackers prey on social networks because you are more likely to click on something from what “appears” to be a reliable source. Also be wary of offers with the word “free” in them, or ones that sound

too good to be true, as they usually are. Scammers and hackers will only provide words and will never provide any real proof of their words.

Program the Oakland County Sheriff's Department non-emergency immediate response phone number into your phone: **248-858-4911**. Label it “A Dispatch.” It will be conveniently located at the top of your contact list morning, noon and night.

If you see something—say something!



Park name honors Orion's first supervisor

In April 2010, the Orion Township Board of Trustees voted to name a township park at Squirrel and Silverbell Roads “Jesse Decker Park.” Who was Jesse Decker and why was the park named after him?

Jesse Decker was one of a few pioneers who came to this area back in 1825 to help create the first permanent settlement. He proved to be energetic and quickly became “everything to everybody”. This settlement soon became known as “Decker's Settlement”. The name was later changed to “Canandaigua” after the town in New York state where the majority of settlers originated. In 1828, a power dam was built uniting several small lakes and forming the mile-wide Lake Canandaigua, just west of the village. (*Learn more from our Lake Orion history feature on page 12.*)

In 1830, Jesse Decker raised the first frame barn in the area with the help of local Indians. The settlement grew and expanded into a bustling commercial center with a sawmill, tavern, post office, general store, blacksmith shop, school and cemetery.

In 1835, a group of settlers gathered at Decker's home to organize and establish the township government. At this meeting he was elected the first township supervisor for an annual salary of two dollars. Around this time the community's name was changed from Canandaigua to Orion, and as a result, Lake

Canandaigua would be renamed Lake Orion.

Decker served as supervisor almost continuously until 1854. He was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1837 and he also served as postmaster and justice of the peace (1836–38). By 1840 he operated one of the first taverns in Orion Township and owned 440 acres of land. A historical marker can be found on Greenshield Road, west of Kern Road, where part of the original Decker settlement was located.

In 2010, it was requested to rename the township park on Squirrel Road, formerly referred to as Stonegate Park, as Jesse Decker Park because he was instrumental in the establishment of Orion Township and because he served as the township's first supervisor.



A wilderness workout awaits you on Orion's trails

Now that spring is officially here (*March 20th this year*), it's time to spend even more time outside. This winter was cold and dark, so it's nice to see the sun shining again. That being said, this is the perfect year to bring your workout outdoors. Some people feel as though they have no choice but to head to the gym to get in a great workout, including strength training, but they're wrong.

This year, we're hitting the trails. You'll gain more than fresh air and a new view, powering up hills helps tone your glutes and descending them sculpts your quads. Navigating the varied terrain requires more energy and uses more muscles as compared to flat surfaces, which means you'll burn more calories and help fend off plateaus.

Have fun with three different wilderness workouts, designed by Vindum and Nikki Kimball, three-time winner of the prestigious Western States 100-mile endurance race. These workouts and more can be found on [active.com](https://www.active.com).

Option 1: Circuit Play

As you move along the trail, vary your pace. Go easy for two minutes, pick up the pace for another five minutes, then sprint or speed-walk hard for 30 to 60 seconds. Recover at an easy pace until your breathing returns to normal. As soon as your breathing returns to normal, launch into a strength move (*push-ups and triceps dips on a sturdy log or large rock, calf raises, squats, lunges*) for 60 to 90 seconds. That is one cycle. Repeat for 5 cycles, switching up the strength moves and your speeds throughout your workout.

Option 2: Cardio Hills

Run up hills at a strong but comfortable pace (*you're breathing hard, but you can still say a few words*). Make sure to keep your chest lifted and your shoulders in a down, relaxed position. On steep grades, switch to a quick walk, using medium to long strides. If the trail you choose has only one or two hills, do repeats: run or walk the hill, jog back down, then take the climb again. Aim for 4 to 8 total hill climbs.

Option 3: Ups and Downs

When you get to a hill, perform a strength move (*lunges, lateral sumo squat, and walking heel lift*). Then run down the other side (*or the same side*). If the hill is long enough, perform 20 reps of the strength move on the way up.

Walking Hill Lunge: Facing the hill with your chest lifted and abdominals engaged, step forward into a lunge. Toe off with the back foot while pushing through the heel of the front foot to take the next step.

Lateral Sumo Squat: Face the hill sideways and step into a

squat, keep your core engaged, back straight, and chest lifted. Remain in this squat stance as you press through the arch of the lower foot to push off—this really works the adductors (*inner thighs*)—and take another step uphill laterally. That's one rep. Continue for 10 reps, then change sides so you're leading with the opposite foot.

Walking Heel Lift: Walking uphill naturally strengthens and tones your calves. To intensify the move, exaggerate the heel lift and push off with greater force. To add an additional challenge, bring your knee above your waist with each step.



Fun facts about money

Did you know...

- That all 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of a \$5 bill? Can you find them? Grab a bill and check it out. Hint: you might need a magnifying glass in order to see them!
- That the blue ribbon in the new \$100 bill dances? The ribbon contains thousands of micro lenses that give the appearance of the Liberty Bell “dancing” and turning into the number “100”.
- That secret designs on the \$1 dollar bill links it to the original 13 colonies? If you look closely at the \$1 dollar bill you will notice a few interesting things tied to the number 13, which is a reference to the original 13 colonies. How many can you find? There are 13 different representations of the number 13 on the bill—13 steps on the pyramid, 13 vertical bars on the shield, 13 stars above the eagle, 13 leaves and 13 berries on the olive branch in one of the eagle’s talons, and in its other talon there are 13 arrows; 13 stars above the key on the Department of Treasury seal on the front of the bill.
- There are 293 ways to make change for \$1? How many can you come up with?



Invasive phragmites threaten wetlands

Phragmites australis, also known as common reed, is a perennial, wetland grass that can grow to 15 feet in height. While Phragmites australis is native to Michigan, an invasive, non-native, variety of phragmites is becoming widespread and is threatening the ecological health of wetlands.

Invasive phragmites creates tall, dense stands which can degrade wetlands by crowding out native plants and animals, blocking shoreline views, reducing access for swimming, fishing, and hunting and can create fire hazards from dry plant material.

Invasive Phragmites can be controlled using an integrated pest management approach which includes herbicide treatment and could be followed up by a mechanical removal (e.g., cutting, mowing) and annual maintenance.

Orion Township currently has a phragmites control program and holds a permit for application. Herbicide treatment for phragmites usually occurs before the first frost of the year (September or October).

For more information on treatment, email Jeff Stout at jstout@oriontownship.org.



Take our money quiz

1. What is the most counterfeited denomination of money?
2. What Country is the largest counterfeiter?
3. What Government Agency was originally created to fight counterfeiting?
4. What is the typical lifespan of a \$1 bill?
5. Who is the only woman to have appeared on paper money?

Answers on page 12.

Yard waste collection resumes

Yard waste collection begins April 1 and is collected on your regular collection day. Yard waste must be placed in large capacity craft/paper bags, placed loose in a reusable container clearly labeled “yard waste” or “compost” (*free stickers are available at Township Hall and the Orion Center*), or bundled, as required. There is no limit on how much yard waste you may set out each week.

Yard waste includes lawn debris, grass clippings, weeds, leaves, small twigs, shrub clippings (*tied and bundled*), old potting soil, tree branches and logs (*less than three inches in diameter and less than four feet long*) tied or secured with string or twine in bundles less than 18 inches in diameter, and more.

The National Wildlife Federation suggests not raking the leaves in your yard, as they can benefit various species of wildlife and form a natural mulch. However, if you decide to rake and bag your leaves, you can burn 350 to 450 calories an hour! Now that’s a great workout!

By weight, grass make up half of all yard waste. Leaves and brush each make up one quarter. Leaves tend to be the biggest component by volume.



Lake Orion History

Canandaigua, Lake Orion's birth name



Did you know Lake Orion's first name was Canandaigua (*can-an day-gwah*)? In 1836, auctioneer James Stillson bought 40 acres from Atwater Street south to Heights Road, and from the lake shore east to the section line, considered Section 2 at that time. He created this “paper city” by creating full color pamphlets showing wharves, steamships, businesses, residences, and paved streets, dubbing it “Canandaigua City” aka “New Canandaigua”.

In 1825 the Erie Canal opened connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean via the Hudson River. This made travel easier from New York to the new settlements known as Michigan. James traveled to New York and sold pieces of this “paper city” property at exorbitant prices and what he could not sell he would unload them in Detroit at \$.06 each. New York already had a city named Canandaigua so by naming it “New Canandaigua” it must have been equally as great. By the way, the name Canandaigua derived from the Native American word meaning “chosen spot”.

As people traveled here to build on this new land they purchased, they soon discovered it was nothing but swampland and quickly left in disgust. James Stillson was no where to be found. Years later in 1859 the Village of Orion was chartered as government unit and the “New Canandaigua” name was dissolved.



There are many Michigan cities of the same name in New York: Utica, Rochester, Farmington, Waterford, Bloomfield and the list goes on.

By Orion Living Contributor Jimmy Johnson

Jimmy owns Graphic Takeover and shares Orion history at WhereLivingisaVacation.com and on Facebook @WhereLivingisaVacation.

Photo courtesy of Paul M. Scott & Images of America: Lake Orion

Answers to the Money Quiz on Page 11: 1. **The \$20 bill.** The next most counterfeited bill is the \$100 bill. 2. **North Korea.** They specialize in our \$50 and \$100 bills. 3. **The Secret Service.** About the time of the Civil War, counterfeiting was a big problem. About one third to one half of all paper currency in circulation at that time was counterfeit. In 1985 the Secret Service Agency was created to fight this problem. 4. **18 months.** Here is the lifespan of the rest of our bills: \$5 bill: 2 years, \$10 bill: 3 years, \$20 bill: 4 years, \$50 bill: 9 years, \$100 bill: 9 years. 5. **Martha Washington.** She was on paper money back in 1886, 1891 and 1896.

Firepit Safety

Safe campfires are s'more fun

There's something about sitting around a campfire that puts a smile on everyone's face. The crackle of the fire signals that nicer weather is upon us. The s'mores are a nice bonus too! Before you start splitting your logs, take a minute to brush up on basic fire pit safety.

- Campfires need to be at least 25 feet away from any structure and anything that can burn. Bonfires need to be 50 feet away from structures, anything else that can burn, and lot lines.
- Clear away dry leaves and sticks, overhanging low branches and shrubs.
- Start building your fire with small sticks and twigs. Gradually work

your way up to larger pieces of wood.

- When placing larger pieces of wood on the fire, point them inwards and use another piece of wood to shift them to their desired spot.
- Watch children closely while the fire is burning. Never let children or pets play or stand too close to the fire.
- Attend to the campfire at all times. A campfire left alone for only a few minutes can grow into a damaging fire.
- Keep your campfire a manageable, easy to control size.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids in or around a campfire.

Tip:

If roasting marshmallows, help young children. Never shake a roasting marshmallow; it can turn into a flying, flaming ball. A heated metal skewer can also cause burns.



- Always have a hose or shovel and dirt/sand nearby to put out the fire. Stir it with a shove. Make sure it is completely out and cold before leaving the site.
- Stack extra wood upwind and away from the fire.

Permits are no longer needed for open burning in Orion Township. You can view the ordinance and FAQ page about open burning on our website. Please note that all residents **must call** the burn hotline at 248-693-1838, before each and every burn (*even if it's the same day*).



Orion Township Fire Department 2020 Stats

Responded to **2,549 CALLS** for service in 2020. Of those, over 1,800 were EMS related.

The hour of day with the most calls was **12 PM**, followed closely by 11 am, and a tie for 3rd at 10 am and 6 pm.

The hour of day with the least calls was **4 AM**.

The day of the week with the most calls was **THURSDAY**, followed by Sunday.

The day with the least calls was **SATURDAY**.

The busiest month was **DECEMBER**.

The least busiest month was **AUGUST**.



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

A Memorial Day Lake Orion tradition

Orion Veterans Memorial Day Run

This year the Orion Veterans will host the 5th Annual Memorial Day Run/Walk. Details and registration information for this event can be found in the community calendar at oriontownship.org. The event will begin and end on Anderson Street, adjacent to the Children's Park parking lot. The race begins at 9 am, allowing most to be back in time for the wreath ceremony on the bridge at Children's Park.

New for 2021 is the 5-Mile Distance which will take you over the Van Tassel Pedestrian Bridge and along the new section of path on Clarkston Road. The original 5K distance and virtual options are also available.

Proceeds from this event support the long-term sustainability of the Orion Veterans Memorial.



Photo by Lee Smith

Cook Safely

Cooking brings people together and can be relaxing. But cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. Follow a few safety tips to prevent these fires.

Cook with caution

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stove top.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling or broiling food. If you leave—even for a short time—turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly. Remain home while cooking and set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains—away from the stove top.



Facts: Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen. Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.

To fight a small grease fire

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt

- Just get out! Close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 911 or local emergency number from outside the home.

Cooking and kids

Have a kid-free zone of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.



For more information on how to prevent kitchen fires, visit the National Fire Protection Association at nfpa.org/education



Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt

Orion Township has over 380 miles of trails and safety paths. That's a lot of miles to explore. Hiking is a versatile activity—it's great for those who want a good workout, for those who want a casual stroll, and for those who want to observe nature and animals alike. Before you head to the trails, here are a few things to keep in mind.

Take your experience level into account when deciding on how far to go and what trail you select. For example, are you comfortable with hills or would a flatter surface suit you better? Pick the right trail for you and your group (*it's always safer to hike with a companion*). Pick a trail that everyone can successfully complete and enjoy safely.

It's a good idea to leave a trip plan with a trusted friend or family member who isn't going with you. The trip plan should include the details of where you will be walking or hiking, your contact information, when you plan to arrive and return, and who is going with you. Have another way

to communicate, don't rely on your cell phone because you may not have reception. Consider having a personal locator beacon, should you need to call for help.

Make sure you have proper footwear. Heels, open-toed shoes, and flip flops are not ideal for hiking. You'll want sturdy, rubber-soled hiking boots with ankle support for dirt and gravel trails and tennis shoes for paved, urban pathways.

It's important to be weather-ready. Check the weather before you head out. If conditions aren't ideal, don't take the chance.

Make sure you bring enough water. If you'll be hiking in hot weather, think about how much water you will need. Plan ahead to prevent dehydration or a heat-related illness. Think about how long you will be out on your hike. If you're going to be out there for a while, you'll want to pack food—make sure it's food that doesn't need to be cooked with good nutritional value in order to keep your energy level high.

Mosquitoes are a common problem when the nice weather hits, so be sure to use mosquito repellent, wear long sleeves and long pants, and opt for light-colored clothing. Also, be sure to check for ticks when finished with your hike.

Lastly, it's important to make sure you leave no trace. Collect all of your trash throughout your hike. Make it a goal to leave the trail more pristine than you found it. Stay on designated trails and help protect this beautiful community amenity.

Orion Abundance!

The national median for park land per 1,000 people is **9.6 ACRES.**

Southeast Michigan is a little higher at **17.3 ACRES.**

Orion Township has **142 ACRES** of park land per 1,000 people!

Enter the Dragon

Public art, courtesy of the Detroit Institute of Arts, brings joy and pride to downtown Lake Orion

From most sidewalks in Downtown Lake Orion, it is possible to look up and see a huge eye reflecting a scene from the shores of Lake Orion amid a skin of mottled purples, blues and reds. It is *Enter the Dragon*, the mural sponsored by Detroit Institute of Art (DIA) as part of their Partners In Public Art Program.

The Village of Lake Orion and the DIA entered a collaborative partnership in 2019 to create a highly visible public art

project. *Enter the Dragon* is on the north face of Downtown Lake Orion's newest building at 120 S. Broadway.

The mural is based upon the original artwork of Nicole MacDonald, a Detroit-based artist known for her Motor City murals. DIA staff artists, Ani Garabedian and Stephanie Sucait-Felczak began work on the mural last fall, completing it in December 2020. They wore climbing safety harnesses and used a 125-foot boom lift that hovered along the 3700-square-foot span of the mural site.

They started out by underpainting in bold vertical stripes that originally puzzled local residents strolling through town. It wasn't until they had finished

the dark detail work and began the overpainting process that people started to express their excitement with Lake Orion's newest public art.

"Creating this mural and bringing Nicole MacDonald's vision to life, from the planning stages and initial meetings with the Village, to the final paint strokes on the wall, has been a true highlight of my career thus far," says Ani.

Stephanie says, "Knowing that this mural was solely designed and created by a 3-woman team is empowering. We even named the dragon subject Lady D (*for Detroit Institute of Arts and dragon!*) to further illuminate a feminine presence."

The experience of seeing the dragon mural being created high up on our building was a gift, and one sorely needed and appreciated by our community during the current pandemic. It is a treasure and a testament to the DIA's commitment to being a community partner in all the places art lovers reside.

DIA artists Ani Garabedian and Stephanie Sucait-Felczak used climbing safety harnesses and a 125-foot boom lift to paint the 3700-square-foot mural.



A tragic LOss for our community

Downtown Lake Orion lost one of its biggest cheerleaders and advocates in January with the untimely passing of 43-year-old Anthony Reighard. Anthony owned and operated M&B Graphics, supplying the community with its printing needs.

Anthony was a DDA Board Member from 2016 to 2020, and served as Design Committee Chair, Treasurer in 2018, Vice-Chair for 2019 and 2020. When the DDA Board talked about the need for more street-level space for retail and dining, he decided to move his business below Valentino's to make room for Oat Soda, which opened in 2020.

As Design Committee Chair, Anthony shared his expertise to help us craft the family of signs in Downtown Lake Orion to direct people to parking, parks, and other places like the police department. He and his father, Robert, also helped rebuild the award-winning Flint Street Alleyway along with Jordan Knudsen and his family.

Anthony was also selected as the Orion Area Chamber's Business Person of the Year in 2019.

When COVID hit last year, Anthony launched an 'Orion Strong' brand and supplied masks, stickers, T-shirts and other logo items. The campaign raised funds for LOVE Inc. and bolstered community spirit during a troubled time.

Anthony embodied the spirit of Lake Orion: hardworking, supportive of his community, a friend to many, as well as a loving father, husband, and son. His friendly demeanor and unfailing willingness to help in any situation will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Downtown Lake Orion businesses, the DDA extends its deepest sympathies to his wife Christina and daughter Hailey, and his parents, Rob and Donna.



Over 150 of Anthony's friends and family attended a Celebration of Life ceremony in his honor at Children's Park in January. His energy and love for Lake Orion will be missed.

WE LOVE YOU ANTHONY



SPECIAL EVENTS

Bunny Bop

Orion Center | Sat, Mar 27
9:30–10:30 am | 11 am–12 pm
12:30–1:30 pm | Ages 1–8 | \$9R/\$12NR

Spring is in the air! Hop on over for a photo visit with a special bunny, refresh-

ments, craft projects and egg hunt with toys and candy stuffed

eggs and a few other surprises.

Bring your own basket for filling

with candy and prizes.

Youth will be broken

down by age for equal

opportunity

hunting for all. Preregistration required, spaces are limited! Egg hunt will be held indoors in the event of inclement weather. Don't forget your camera! Walgreens will be on site to capture the moment, optional photo purchase available. Children in carriers and adults with registered participants are free.



Flashlight Egg Hunt

Camp Agawam | Fri, Mar 19
7:45–8:45 pm | Ages 9–15 | \$9R/\$12NR

Don't let those older kids miss out on all the fun! Egg hunt will be held outdoors at Camp Agawam, Fort Pontiac. Dress for the weather, the event is held rain or shine. Preregistration required, spaces are limited! Pizza and pop included.



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

Spring Break Car Bingo

Orion Center Parking Lot
Tue, Mar 30 | 1–2:30 pm | Free

Need something to do over Spring Break? Join us for some safe fun in the Orion Center Parking Lot playing Car Bingo! All participants will receive a set of bingo cards and a marker to mark their card when they hear the numbers on the radio. If you get a BINGO you'll honk your horn and flash your lights and we will come out and give you a prize! Thank you to our Sponsor: Tim Horton's of Lake Orion

Orion Green Up

Orion Center | Sat, Apr 24 | TBD

Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day with us, make a difference in your community, and help make Orion Township a little greener. We provide the trash bags—you bring gloves, shovels, rakes, etc., anything you may need to help make us clean and green. For more information check out Greener Orion on Facebook.

Mother's Day Market Art & Craft Show

Orion Center | Sat, May 1
9–5 pm

Looking for locally made, unique and one of a kind crafters and local artists to join us for the Mother's Day Market at the



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at

ORIONPARKS.COM

or call 248–391–0304, ext. 3500

Orion Center. Only locally handcrafted items will be considered, a limited number of vendors and products will be accepted. Contact jvezina@oriontownship.org for additional information. Free parking & admission.



Community Garage Sale

Orion Center | Fri, Apr 23
9 am–3 pm | \$10R/\$13NR

Orion Center Parking Lot
Sat, Jun 5 | 9 am–3 pm | \$12R/\$15NR

Shop from 40+ 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, Apr 24
Sat, Jun 5 | 9 am–3 pm | \$12R/\$15NR

Buy, sell or trade comic books, collectibles, antiques and memorabilia at our annual Expo! Vendor setup opens at 8 am. Free parking & admission.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT



THE ARTIST'S APPRENTICE

Taught by Artist/Instructor Pamela Palmer, BFA



Concerts in the Park at Wildwood

Wildwood Amphitheater

Tue, Jun 22–Aug 10 | 7–8:30 pm

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.

Summer Sizzle

Orion Center | Thu, Jun 24

6–8 pm

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.

Slow Row LO

Join an informal social group of kayakers on area lakes. Each participant is required to provide their own craft, PFD and any user fees to gain access to boat launch. Visit SlowRowLO on Facebook for event dates, details

and exact location. Parking permits/ passes may be required for some locations.



Drawing Eyes

Orion Center | Mon, Apr 5–26

6:30–8 pm | Ages 7+ | \$60R/\$62NR

We will be drawing eyes until the cows come home and then draw their eyes too! Eyes of every shape, size and color will be explored in these informative classes where kids will learn fun facts about human and animal eyes as we work. So don't be surprised if your family becomes well aware that an ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain or that the shark cornea is nearly identical to the human cornea, and has been used in human eye surgery! Students will be working in a variety of mediums to learn how to draw human and animal eyes in a life-like fashion. A \$15 material fee, payable to the instructor, due at the first class.



Kids Painting Landscapes

Orion Center | Thu, Apr 15–May 6

6:30–8 pm | Ages 7+ | \$60R/\$62NR

Let's discover the work of famous painters of the great outdoors! John Constable, J.M.W. Turner, Claude Monet, and Camille Pissarro are among the artists we will attempt to emulate as we learn about atmospheric perspective. Attention will be placed on brush strokes and the mixing of colors. A \$20 material fee, payable to the instructor, due at the first class.



Drawing and Painting Animals

Orion Center | Mon, May 10–Jun 7

6:30–8 pm | Ages 7+ | \$60R/\$62NR

Does your child love animals? These classes will be all about learning to draw and paint animals of all varieties, from cute puppies and kittens to fierce lions and tigers. Your child will be learning about master painters such as Franz Marc and William Stubbs and trying their hand at painting on rice paper with bamboo brushes! A \$15 material fee, payable to the instructor, due at the first class. No class May 31.

Inuit Art for Kids

Orion Center | Thu, May 20–Jun 10

6:30–8 pm | Ages 7+ | \$60R/\$62NR

The spirit of the wolf, polar bear, and other Nordic beasts will be actualized in the artwork we create in this interesting series! Our young artists will be working with clay, canvases and paper to create totem animals, while capturing the unique and wonderful style of these indigenous people! A \$20 material fee, payable to the instructor, due at the first class.



Better Robotics Workshop

Friendship Park Meeting Room
Sat, Apr 17 | 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Ages 7–14 | \$35R/\$40NR

Students will work with a partner to build a robotic model that helps make the world a better place. Students will learn to program and customize their model to solve a variety of problems such as cleaning up pollution, helping people with disabilities or solving transportation issues.

Adventures with Star Wars®

Camp Agawam Alberici Lodge
Sat, May 22 | 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Ages 5–12 | \$32R/\$37NR

If you love Star Wars®, this is the workshop for you. Come participate in Star Wars® themed activities using LEGO® bricks and other interactive learning tools, build scenes from the movie, build ships, light sabers, you name it... May the force be with you.

Awesome Robotics Adventure Jr. Workshop

Friendship Park Meeting Room
Sat, Jun 5 | 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Ages 4–6 | \$36R/\$41NR

Children will begin to explore the world of robotics as they build simple models that teach the fundamentals of robotic design. Whether learning about sensors while building drills and magic wands, or discovering ways that gears and pulleys create movement while building helicopters and robotic dogs, your child is sure to have a great time.

Home Alone Training

Orion Center | Mon, May 3
6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 9+ | \$16R/\$19NR

Is your young teen staying home alone after school? Prepare yourself and your child for this new adventure with Home Alone Training. Instructor Merry 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, May 6
6–8:30 pm | Ages 11–14 | \$19R/\$22NR

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. Program incorporates the American Red Cross guide and video into the curriculum. Suggested prerequisite class: Home Alone Training.



Horseback Riding Lessons

Times Square Riding Academy
Sat, Apr 17–May 22 | Jun 5–Jul 10
1:30–2:30 pm | Ages 7+ | \$150R/\$160NR

Each lesson consists of basic grooming, riding and horse care for beginner riders in the English Saddle style with Times Square Riding Academy, 4835 Oakwood Road in Ortonville. Looking for that special time with your child? Take lessons together. Register early for a rewarding and unforgettable experience. Additional lesson times are available Mon–Fri evenings, Sat and Sun afternoons.

Instructor Highlight: Merry Lewis

Orion Parks and Rec is grateful to have a passionate and caring instructor who has taught in our community for the more than eight years.

Merry Lewis started working with youth and adults with developmental disabilities in South Carolina and Pennsylvania. She developed her personal curriculum for her classes in the 1990s, teaching Babysitter Training and Home Alone Training in Romeo, Capac, Oxford and Lake Orion. She gets satisfaction from sharing her knowledge and life experiences with her students. Merry also enjoyed volunteering at Oxford Youth Assistance and Orion/Oxford FISH food pantry. Her upcoming classes are May 3 and 6 at the Orion Center.



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at

ORIONPARKS.COM

or call 248–391–0304, ext. 3500

YOUTH FITNESS

Kiddie Kickers

Friendship Park, Soccer Field #1 | Wed, May 5–Jun 9
6–7 pm | Ages 3–4 or 5–6 | \$57R/\$60NR



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. Participants are encouraged to bring a size 3 soccer ball. Soccer

balls are available for purchase at the time of registration for \$12 (*limit of 1 per registered participant*). Rain date scheduled for June 16 if needed.

Youth Golf Lessons

Mulberry Hills Golf Course | Mon, Jul 12–Aug 16
6:30–7:30 pm | Ages 7–15 | \$120R/\$125NR

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 July 5.



Amazing Athletes

Friendship Park | Tue, Apr 6–Jun 29*
6:30–7:05 pm | Ages 3–6
\$192R/\$202NR

Friendship Park | Thu, Apr 8–Apr 29 | 6:30–7:05 pm
Ages 3–6 | \$64R/\$74NR

Friendship Park | Thu, May 6–Jun 24 | 5:00–5:35 pm
Ages 3–6 | \$128R/\$138NR

*No Class Tue, Jun 22

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

Amazing Athletes PE

Friendship Park | Tue, Apr 6–Jun 29* | 7:15–8 pm
Ages 7–12 | \$216R/\$226NR

Friendship Park | Thu, Apr 8–Apr 29 | 7:15–8 pm
Ages 7–12 | \$72R/\$82NR

Friendship Park | Thu, May 6–Jun 24 | 5:45–6:30 pm
Ages 7–12 | \$144R/\$154NR

*No Class Tue, Jun 22

Amazing Athletes P.E. is a game-based sports program designed to engage older children in active wellness through advanced physical fitness challenges and interactive sports lessons.

Children between the ages of 7 to 12 display a wide range of physical abilities and strengths. Our coaches work with each child to help them strive for their personal best. Each 45 minute class engages athletes in non-competitive, sport-specific training for focused development. Athletes work in pairs to develop teamwork, motor skills, and patience.



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

ADULT ENRICHMENT

Community Garden Plots

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

Community gardens create awareness, sense of ownership, sustainable living principles, environmental stewardship and much more. Get your 4' x 8' Garden Plot at Friendship Park today! Registration will open to returning gardeners on February 1. Registration for unclaimed plots will be open to everyone beginning April 1. Any returning gardener who does not reserve their plot by March 31 may not be guaranteed the same plot as the previous year. Call 248-391-0304

x3500 or come into the Orion Center for more information. Wheelchair accessible plots are available. \$5 discount per plot when reserving 2 or more plots.



Coffee With Chris

Orion Center | Fri, Mar 26, Apr 23, May 28 | 9:30-10:30 am

Stop in the Orion Center for an informal meeting with Supervisor Barnett. Feel free to come with questions or join in on the discussion. Topics will include current events in the Township and other matters of interest. If you have a request that may take some research, submit it in advance to cbarnett@oriontownship.org or schedule an appointment. No registration is necessary, discussion is held virtually when necessary.



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

ADULT FITNESS AND WELLNESS

TaikoFit Cardio Drumming

Virtual | Thu, Apr 8-May 27

6:30-7:30 pm | Ages 16+

\$10R/\$11NR per class



Japanese drumming uses big drums, big sticks and big moves. Combine the Taiko drumming style with high energy music and cardio and you have a really fun workout that reduces stress and is good for your mind, body,

and soul. No drumming experience is necessary. Classes will be held via Zoom until indoor restrictions change. Zoom link will be sent by email Thursday afternoons to those who are registered. Registration is per class. No equipment? No problem, we have a list of comparable items you can use at home! Instructor: Cindi Carter

High Energy Fitness Classes

Beyond the Ears/Virtual

Mon-Sat, Mar 1-May 31

varies | Ages 18+

\$135R/\$145NR

Exercise is so good for your body and mind! HEF Members will be able to workout with me "live"

or watch the recording anytime! The virtual classes are about 30 minutes, but don't let that fool you. You will work! In-person classes are 60 minutes and those are recorded as well. Workouts are posted to a private Facebook group page. Don't have Facebook? Not a problem, we've got you covered. All fitness levels welcome. Get fit, get strong, be healthy! In person classes are Tue—Cycle Hybrid and Thu—Intervals from 7-8 pm held at 155 S. Washington St Oxford. Register for all 3 months and save, that's less than \$50 a month!



Hatha Open Yoga Class

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 22 & 29

Apr 19 & 26 | 6-7 pm | Ages 16+

\$22R/\$24NR

Orion Center | Thu, Mar 18 & 25

Apr 22 & 29 | 10-11:10 am

Ages 16+ | \$22R/\$24NR

Exploring gentle yoga asanas to bring flexibility to your body. Breathing and relaxation techniques to help to relax your mind. Please bring a yoga mat and firm blanket to class. Instructor: Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

Hatha Yoga Gentle Class

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 22 & 29

Apr 19 & 26 | 4:35-5:35 pm | Ages 40+

\$22R/\$24NR

Learn the foundational yoga poses and experience all the wonderful benefits, including breathing and relaxation techniques to help calm the mind and relax the body. Please bring a yoga mat and firm blanket to class. Instructor: Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.

Hatha Yoga with Ease

Orion Center | Thu, Apr 22 & 29
1-2 pm | Ages 40+ | \$16R/\$18NR

Join us for adaptive yoga as we explore gentle stretches to bring flexibility into the body, strengthen muscles and relax your mind. With the support of chairs and the wall we will explore Yoga with Ease. Bring a yoga mat to class. Instructor: Suzanne Albert of Heartfelt Yoga.



Zumba Gold

Orion Center/Virtual | Mon, Mar 29–May 17 | 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 40+
\$64R/\$68NR

Drop in fee: \$10R/\$11NR

Choose in person or virtual classes! A Latin inspired cardio workout, incorporating dances such as merengue, salsa, cumbia, belly dancing and more! This class is different from regular Zumba in that it provides more verbal instruction to better learn the moves and is done at a slower pace. Great class for someone new to exercise or someone hesitant to try the regular Zumba. You will have so much fun dancing, you will forget you're working out! It's exercise in disguise! Instructor: Cyndy DuVal.



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

fit4mom

EAST OAKLAND COUNTY

Visit eastoaklandcounty.fit4mom.com to view the schedule and enroll in your first class for FREE!

Stroller Strides®

Friendship Park | Fri | 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 18+

Stroller Strides® is a total fitness program that moms can do with their babies. It includes power walking/jogging and intervals of strength and body toning exercises using resistance bands, the stroller and the environment. Taught by certified and specially trained fitness instructors, it is a great workout for any level of exerciser.

Stroller Barre®

Friendship Park | Mon & Wed | 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 18+

Stroller Barre® is a unique blend of ballet, Pilates, barre, yoga and stroller-based exercises designed to help moms build strength and muscle tone and improve posture. Stroller Barre® focuses on strengthening and creating an ideal length/tension relationship in all the postural muscles.

Body Back Transformation®

Friendship Park | Mon & Wed | 7–8 pm | Ages 18+

Body Back Transformation® this is a results-based program designed for moms who want their body back, whether they just had a baby or their last child was born twenty years ago! Body Back clients experience targeted HIIT workouts, inspiration and motivation in every class.

FIT4BABY®

Friendship Park | Mon & Wed | 6–7 pm | Ages 18+

FIT4BABY® is designed specifically for moms-to-be. All exercises are carefully selected to prepare your body for the many changes you will experience during pregnancy. The 60-minute workout includes cardio, strength, balance, and flexibility training and ends with a relaxing meditation; everything you need during this precious time!

Zumba Gold Toning

Orion Center/Virtual | Wed, Mar 24–May 12 | 9:30–10:30 am | Ages 40+
\$64R/\$68NR

Drop in fee: \$10R/\$11NR

Choose in person or virtual classes! Zumba Gold Toning blends the Zumba party you love at a slower pace with a redefining total body workout using Zumba Toning Sticks (1 lbs. weights recommended, no more than 3 lbs.) to shake

up those muscles! Walk in ready to have a blast and tone up, leave exhilarated and empowered! Just want to dance without using the weights? No problem! Come to class for the same Zumba fun without using the weights and enjoy the party! Instructor: Cyndy DuVal.

Intro to MELT Method Class

Orion Center/Virtual | Mon, Mar 15 | 10:30–11:00 am | Ages 18+ | Free

Learn what this self-treatment technique is all about from the comfort at your home on Zoom or live in person at the Orion center! Melt helps to get rid of pain in your body and move better by using small balls for the hands and feet and a soft body roller.

MELT Method Class

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 22–Apr 12 | 10:45 am–12 pm | Ages 18+ | \$45R/\$48NR

Drop in fee: \$15R/\$16NR

MELT is a simple compression technique that uses a soft body roller and balls for the hands and feet to address the connective tissue in order to get out of and stay out of pain. It helps with back & neck pain, arthritis, headaches, tension and stress, and alignment and posture. MELT improves all over body movement, and makes you feel more vibrant and youthful! (*must be able to independently get on and off the floor*). Roller and mini ball kits will be available for purchase but not necessary to buy to participate in the class. Instructor: Cyndy DuVal.

Heartfulness Meditation Program Learn to Meditate

Virtual | Tue, May 4–25 | 7–8 pm | Ages 13+ | Free

The Heartfulness Meditation Program offers a simple set of relaxation and meditation exercises, which when practiced daily, help restore balance in life, manage stress, better your health, and most of all will lead you to inner calm and peace. Class is free, but registration is required.



Adult Golf Lessons

Mulberry Hills Golf Course | Mon, May 17–Jun 28 | 6:30–7:30 pm
Ages 18+ | \$145R/\$150NR

Group lessons are designed to create a comfortable and affordable instructional environment for the new or intermediate golfer. Group 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. *No class Monday, May 31.*



Mulberry Hills Golf Course
Thu, Jun 3–Aug 26 | 5:30–6 pm
\$264R/\$269NR

Mon, Jun 7–Aug 30 | 6–6:30 pm
\$264R/\$269NR

Tue, Jun 1–Aug 24 | 5:30–6 pm
\$264R/\$269NR

Ladies, learn to play golf in a relaxed outdoor environment from golf instructor Tony Frias. Each week includes a 30-minute group lesson covering putting,

pitching and chipping instruction, full swing instruction with irons and wood. Nine holes of golf 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 program by one week. *No class July 5, 6 or 8.*

Women's Only Learn & Play

CPR CLASSES

American Heart Association HeartSaver CPR/AED

Fire Station #2 | TBD
5–9 pm | Ages 12+ | \$40

Fire Station #2 | TBD
10 am–2 pm | Ages 12+ | \$40

Class will cover CPR/AED/Choking for all age groups.

American Heart Association HeartSaver CPR/AED/ First Aid

Fire Station #2 | TBD
10 am–5 pm | Ages 12+ | \$50

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



American
Heart
Association®

Pickleball Lessons— Beginner

Jesse Decker Park | Mon & Wed,
Apr 12 & 14 | 10 am–12 pm
\$40R/\$42NR

Jesse Decker Park | Tue & Thu,
May 4 & 6 | 6–8 pm | \$40R/\$42NR

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

Pickleball Lessons— Intermediate

Jesse Decker Park | Mon & Wed,
Apr 12 & 14 | 5:30–7:30 pm
\$40R/\$42NR

Jesse Decker Park | Tue & Thu,
May 4 & 6 | 10 am–12 pm
\$40R/\$42NR

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

ADULTS 50+

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

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Java Joes

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

Java Joes meets the 4th Tuesday of the month. Each month the Orion Center will have a special guest be the group discussion leader. Join us for a fresh cup of joe, tasty treat, and great conversation with your neighbors.

Ask the Financial Guru/ Medicare Guidance

Orion Center | Every Thu
10 am–12 pm

The Michigan Retirement Agency can help with Medicare enrollment and plan reviews, Life Insurance policy reviews and provide unbiased annuity support. Schedule a one-on-one session with The Michigan Retirement Agency, Don't Be Sold, Be Informed. Appointments are 30 minutes. If you need a different day, please let us know.

Ask the Attorney

Orion Center | Mon, Mar 8 & May 10
1–2:30 pm | 50+

Attorney Dana Wilson provides private consultations at the Orion Center. If you need assistance with legal problems or if you have legal questions, call the center for a 15-minute appointment.

Let's Craft Together!

Orion Center | 2 pm

St. Patrick's Day Gnome
Tue, Mar 23 | \$3R/\$5NR

Macrame | Thu, Apr 15
\$3R/\$5NR

Spoon Keychain
Tue, May 11
\$4R/\$6NR

Let's get crafty! In this class we will work together to learn a craft that you may not have had the confidence to do at home by yourself. All supplies are provided. Registration Deadline is 24 hours before the class meeting time.



Clarity of Cognition with Kathleen Housey

Orion Center/Virtual | Tue, Mar 23
Apr 20 | May 18 | 1:00 pm | Free



Clarity of Cognition
KAH PRESENTATIONS LLC

Choose in person or virtual classes! This series is designed to keep your brain healthy and provide you with key tools for a healthy, productive way of life.

Each class has a different theme, come to all or pick the ones you want. Learn new tips to increase your memory skills, trivia and have fun doing it. Preregistration required. Thank you to our Sponsors: American House of Elmwood, Pomeroy Living of Lake Orion, and Next Step for Seniors.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Grab and Go lunches

St. Patrick's Day | Orion Center
Wed, Mar 17 | 11:30 am
\$6R/\$8NR

May the luck of the Irish be with you! Join us for a boxed festive meal and entertainment while we celebrate this popular Irish holiday.

Bunny Lunch | Orion Center
Thu, Apr 1 | 12 pm | \$4R/\$6NR

Hippity Hoppity Easter is on its way! Come drive thru the Orion Center and pick up an Easter Lunch to enjoy in the comfort of your own home. You also may have a guest hop on by and say hello!

Cinco de Mayo | Orion Center
Wed, May 5 | 11:30 am
\$6R/\$8NR

Come join us at the Orion Center for a fiesta! Enjoy some music and take home a boxed Mexican lunch. Thank you to our Sponsor: American House of Elmwood.

Happy Mother's Day
Orion Center | Fri, May 7 | 1 pm
Free

The Orion Center wants to celebrate all our members who are moms! Come stop by the Orion Center to pick up a goodie bag of treats. Registration is required.



EXERCISE CLASSES

Standing Exercise

Orion Center/Virtual | Every Mon
10–11 am | \$3R/NR per class

Combine fun with fitness to increase your cardiovascular and muscular endurance power with a standing circuit workout. A chair is used for standing support, stretching and relaxation exercises. Instructor: Becki Doyle



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at

ORIONPARKS.COM

or call 248–391–0304, ext. 3500



Chair Exercise

Orion Center/Virtual | Every Wed
10–11 am | \$3R/NR per class

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

EXERCISE ROOM AT THE ORION CENTER

You must be 54 or older with a membership to use the Exercise Room.

Mon–Fri | 9 am–4 pm (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

\$6/month Resident, \$12/month Non-Resident

- All members will need to make an appointment with Orion Center staff prior to entering the Exercise Room. Participants will be limited per MDHHS Guidelines.
- Each membership will need to have up to date contact information in our software system. Once you arrive for your scheduled appointment all participants will need to fill out the designated wellness form confirming they do not have any symptoms.
- Before entering the Exercise Room, all participants will need to scan their key fob that is to the right of the door. This will log the date and start time in our software system.
- All participants must wear a facial covering at all times. Please maintain 6 foot distance from other participants in the room. Some equipment will be marked as “out of order” to ensure 6 foot distance.
- All patrons must disinfect exercise equipment after use. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be readily available at all times. When exiting all participants must scan their key fob. This will log the date and end time in our software system. The room will be disinfected twice daily (7 am and 12:30 pm).



CLUBS

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

K4 Knit/Crochet

Mon | 12:30–3:30 pm

Chinese Mahjong

Mon | 12:30–3:30 pm
\$4R/\$5NR

Ham Radio

Mon & Thu | 6–8:45pm

Car Bingo

Tue, Mar 30 & Tue, Apr 27
1–2:30 pm

Painting

Tue | 10 am–2 pm

Spanish Club

Virtual | every other Tue | 3 pm

Walking Club

Wed | 10 am

Pinochle/Euchre

Wed | 12:30–3:30 pm

Library Book Club

Virtual | Wed, 2nd of the month
1–2 pm | Ages 30+

Orion Center Band

Thu | 10–11:30 am

Game Day

Fri | 12:30–3:30 pm

Movies

Fri | 1–3 pm

Quilting

Fri | 9 am–12 pm

American Mahjong

Fri | 11 am–3:30 pm | \$4R/\$5NR

You must bring your own 2021 Official Standard Hands and Rules card.



Park Highlight: Playful Dragon Pocket Park

A mythical friend awaits your visit

Is that a dragon lurking on Baldwin just north of Brown Road? It sure is!

The Playful Dragon is one of two pocket parks located along the newly-transformed Baldwin Road corridor. The vision for Baldwin Road has always been pedestrian focused, with safety paths and lighting lining both sides of the street. Restoration is underway and when finished, this corridor will be completely walkable and bikeable. The addition of two pocket parks only adds to the pedestrian friendliness of this area.

The Playful Dragon was made possible by a Play Everywhere Challenge grant from KaBOOM! and the Built to Play initiative, supported by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. When

visiting the new Playful Dragon, please be mindful of the surrounding business parking and the limited availability of parking spaces.

Visit OrionParks.com to see the full list of recreational amenities.



Visit all our Orion Township Parks!

FRIENDSHIP PARK

3380 W. Clarkston Road

CAMP AGAWAM

1301 W. Clarkston Road

CIVIC CENTER PARK

2525 Joslyn Road

WILDWOOD AMPHITHEATER

2700 Joslyn Court

ORION COMMUNITY CENTER & PARKS OFFICE

1335 Joslyn Road

JESSE DECKER PARK

4100 N. Squirrel Road

PLAYFUL DRAGON

4805 S. Baldwin Rd.



LEAGUES

FALL YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Aug 9–Oct 16 | \$20 Multi-Child Discount | \$30 Late Fee after Jul 11 |
Registration Deadline Jul 18 | League schedules finalized in July



Orion Girls Softball League (OGSL)

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

The Fall season will consist of one night during the week and Saturday mornings. Late fee may be waived up to one week after deadline, call Jesse Hayes at 248-391-0304 x3506. Fee includes jersey, hat, and socks.

8U Clinic Division | Coach Pitch

10U Intermediate Division | Player Pitch

14U Junior 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 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.

Spring Youth Leagues

Visit orionparks.com for more information about our Youth Leagues.

Spring Youth Leagues are still enrolling! *Late fee may apply, Deadline to register March 15th. Visit orionparks.com for more info.



LOYBL Umpire Program

Spring & Fall seasons
Ages 14+ | \$10

Classroom Training
Orion Center | Time TBD

On-Field Training
Friendship Park
Time TBD



Are you interested in becoming a paid baseball umpire? LOYBL is seeking new and returning umpires

for the 2021 Spring & Fall seasons. A \$10 registration fee will get you an umpire shirt, hat, indicator, use of umpiring equipment, on-field training, and online certification. Game fees start at \$30 per game! We will provide everything you need to get out on the field and start making calls and money!

Adaptive Softball

Friendship & Civic Center Park
Tue & Thu, Apr–Aug | 6–8:30 pm
Ages 13+ | \$35R/\$38NR

Orion Township Community Programs in cooperation with Northwest Parks and Recreation Association are offering a TR softball league for persons with developmental disabilities, with or without physical impairments. All ability levels are encouraged and welcome to participate. Practices will be played at Friendship Park, games will be played at Civic Center Park. Come on out and join the fun! Go Hawks! Late registration is accepted but shirts are not guaranteed.

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 Hayes at
248-391-0304 x3506 or
jhayes@oriontownship.org for
more information.



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



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs at

ORIONPARKS.COM

or call 248-391-0304, ext. 3500

FALL YOUTH SOCCER

Orion/Oxford Soccer League (OOSL)

Online registration available at
orionparks.com

Aug 9–Oct 16
\$95R/\$105NR per player
\$35 Jersey if new player
or replacement needed
\$30 Late Fee after Jul 11
Registration Deadline Jul 18
League schedules finalized
in July

Any child born between Jan 1, 2008 and Dec 31, 2018 is eligible and encouraged to play soccer in the OOSL Fall 2021 season. The season will consist of one practice

during the week with games on Saturdays (*weekday games if necessary based on number of teams in division*).

U-4 | Coed | 2018

U-5 | Coed | 2017

U-6 | Coed | 2016

U-8 | Coed or Girls | 2015 & 2014

U-10 | Coed or Girls | 2012 & 2013

U-12 | Coed or Girls | 2011 & 2010

U-14 | Coed or Girls | 2009 & 2008

Volunteer Coaches Needed!

Visit orionparks.com for more information about our Youth Leagues.



Junior Golf League

Mulberry Hills Golf Course | Tue, Jun 15–Aug 24
1–3:30 pm | Ages 10–15 | \$135R/\$140NR

The Mulberry Hills Junior Golf League is designed for both boys and girls, with some prior playing experience and a firm understanding of the game. All participants will play nine holes each week on a semi-competitive basis. All 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 July 6.

ADULT LEAGUES

2021 Adult Summer Softball League

Men's Rec League | Friendship Park | Tue, May 11–Jul 6
6:20–9:50 pm | Ages 18+

Coed Rec League | Friendship Park | Wed, May 12–Jul 7
6:20–9:50 pm | Ages 18+

\$305/Team | \$20/Non-Resident Player | Refundable Forfeit
Deposit: \$100 | Umpire Fees: \$20/Team/Game

Open Registration begins Apr 5 | Manager's Meeting May 3
7 pm | Orion Center

2021 Adult Fall Softball League

Men's Rec League | Civic Center Park | Tue, Jul 27–Sep 21
6:20–9:50 pm | Ages 18+

Coed Rec League | Civic Center Park | Wed, Jul 28–Sep 24
6:20–9:50 pm | Ages 18+

\$305/Team | \$20/Non-Resident Player | Refundable Forfeit
Deposit: \$100 | Umpire Fees: \$20/Team/Game

Open Registration begins Jun 21 | Manager's Meeting Jul 19
7 pm



SUMMER CAMP

Go Wild! Youth Camp

Camp Agawam | Mon–Thu, Jun 21–24 | Jul 26–29
10 am–12:30 pm | Ages 4–7 | \$45R/\$48NR

Does your little camper love to get dirty in the great outdoors? Join us at Camp Agawam for hands-on, Growing Up Wild, nature investigation! Use all 5 senses to explore animal habits, recycling for a cleaner environment, animal tracks and become aware that Wildlife is Everywhere!

Play It Safe Camp

Friendship Park | Mon–Thu, Jun 28–Jul 1 | 10 am–12:30 pm
Ages 4–7 | \$45R/\$48NR

I hear...and I forget, I see...and I remember, I do...and I understand. Learn by doing with daily hands-on activities and guest speakers, including many of the following topics: stranger danger, bus safety, bike safety, 911, health and nutrition.

Youth Sports Camp

Civic Center Park | Mon–Thu, Jul 12–15 | 10 am–12:30 pm
Ages 4–7 | \$45R/\$48NR

Basketball, soccer, hockey and t-ball too! Is your little camper becoming interested in sports? Not sure which sport is right for them? Come and join us for Youth Sports Camp, each day they will learn different basic sport skills. Preregistration required. Beginner level.

Young Scientist Youth Camp

Camp Agawam | Mon–Thu, Jul 19–22 | Aug 2–5
10 am–12:30 pm | Ages 4–7 | \$45R/\$48NR

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.

Horseback Riding Camp

Times Square Riding Academy | Mon–Fri, June 21–24 | Jul 19–22 | Aug 2–5 | Aug 23–26 | 9 am–4 pm | Ages 7+
\$300R/\$310NR

Give your child a summer they will never forget with two hours of daily riding, bathing, grooming, feeding, as well as fun crafts and games on and off horseback at Times Square Riding Academy. Campers need to bring a sack lunch each day. Lessons are for beginner riders and are in the English Saddle style of riding. Riders will require long pants and hard sole shoes with a 1 inch heel. Times Square Riding Academy is located at 4835 Oakwood Rd in Ortonville.

Junior Golf Camp

Mulberry Hills Golf Course | Mon–Thu, Jun 21–24
Jun 28–Jul 1 | Jul 12–15 | Jul 19–22 | 9:30 am–1 pm
Ages 7–15 | \$214R/\$219NR

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!

SNAPOLOGY SUMMER CAMPS

Full Day Option: Camp & Creative Play will occur from 9 am–4 pm. Pick-up can occur as late as 5 pm. Children should bring a packed lunch for each day.

Wonderful Wizarding AM Camp

Friendship Park Meeting Room | Mon–Fri, Jun 14–18
9 am–12 pm | Ages 6–11 | \$142R/\$152NR

Enter the world of wizards and witches in Snapology's Harry Potter Wizarding camp! Students will attend Hogwarts classes where they will learn how real life connects to the magic world and allow their creativity to explode. This camp will spark their imaginations and encourage creative reasoning in new ways, allowing them to build amazing things they have only dreamed of before! They will enjoy themselves so much, you might think we have them under a spell!

Incredible Inventions Robotics PM Camp

Friendship Park Meeting Room | Mon–Fri, Jun 14–18
1–4 pm | Ages 6–11 | \$159R/\$169NR

Whoever said you could not solve the world's problems with LEGO® bricks? In this camp students learn about the process real inventors go through to create new inventions while designing, building, and programming robotic machines to solve real world problems. If your student likes open-ended problem solving and tinkering, this camp is for them!

Awesome Robotics Adventure AM Camp

Friendship Park Meeting Room | Mon–Fri, Jul 19–23
9 am–12 pm | Ages 6–11 | \$159R/\$169NR

Come to enjoy a fun morning of Robots and Programming. During the camp children will build many different Robotic Lego® models that use gears, axles, pulleys, sensors, and

motors. The camp is designed so that children of all ages and building abilities can build and work together to create some really fun and engaging projects. Some of the sample models include a Mars Rover, Robotic Creatures, and various games just to name a few.

Poké-Heroes PM Camp

Friendship Park Meeting Room | Mon-Fri, Jul 19-23
1-4 pm | Ages 6-11 | \$142R/\$152NR

In Snapology's Poké-Heroes camp, students will explore the Pokémon world and practice their Pokémon training skills! They will create their own training gyms, unique battles, and even their very own generation of Pokémon. Your student will also explore some real-world science as they examine the habitats, characteristics, and needs of different Pokémon. They will do more than catch 'em all; they will build and examine them all very closely and have a blast doing so!

Space Wars Robotics AM Camp

Friendship Park Meeting Room | Mon-Fri, Jul 26-30
9 am-12 pm | Ages 7-12 | \$159R/\$169NR

Robotics inspired by Star Wars® and space travel! Come on an adventure building and programming functional robots using LEGO® bricks in this super-fun program. Learn about space, space travel, and of course Star Wars®! Build different robots each day! Learning is enhanced through the use of laptops in this class!

STEAM Survivor PM Camp

Friendship Park Meeting Room | Mon-Fri, Jul 26-30
1-4 pm | Ages 7-12 | \$142R/\$152NR

Does your learner have what it takes to be a STEAM Survivor? If your child enjoys taking on engineering and design challenges, working with a team to complete timed tasks, and using partnerships to brainstorm and explore new possibilities to solve unique problems, this program is the perfect place for them to push their STEAM and building skills to the next level! Throughout the camp, students will be challenged to design and build objects, work cooperatively with others, and compete to be the fastest and most precise competitors in the class. Although the tasks will be challenging, we'll all work together in this fun and enriching camp to be true STEAM survivors!

Ocean Exploration AM Camp

Friendship Park Meeting Room | Mon-Fri, Aug 2-6
9 am-12 pm | Ages 5-8 | \$159R/\$169NR

Students will discover all sorts of fun in the ocean in this interdisciplinary camp that uses robotics, coding, art and engineering concepts to teach children about their underwater friends. Your learner will be too busy underwater exploring, building and creating to realize that they are also gaining critical social and developmental skills.

Story Builders PM Camp

Friendship Park Meeting Room | Mon-Fri, Aug 2-6
1-4 pm | Ages 5-8 | \$142R/\$152NR

Students will explore the primary elements of storytelling as students design their own unique stories focused on the characters and plot lines of stories they've heard before. Maybe they will dazzle us with tales of faraway lands, with amazing adventures of superheroes, or even science experiments gone very, very wrong. The possibilities for creation are endless!

Mining & Building AM Camp

Friendship Park Meeting Room | Mon-Fri, Aug 9-13
9 am-12 pm | Ages 6-11 | \$142R/\$152NR

Travel to the Nether with Snapology but watch out for those creepers! Come join us as we bring Minecraft® to life using LEGO® bricks. Create your own world, including animals, creepers and your very own Minecraft® character.

Science of Superpowers PM Camp

Friendship Park Meeting Room | Mon-Fri, Aug 9-13
1-4 pm | Ages 6-11 | \$142R/\$152NR

Students explore the world of their favorite superheroes. Students will learn about forces, energy, gravity, and problem solving as they build models inspired by Superman, Batman, and all their favorite heroes. Experimentation and fun are crucial components of this 'super' camp!

Amazing Athletes Summer Camp

Friendship Park | Mon-Thu | Jun 14-17 | Jul 12-15
Aug 2-5 | 1-1:45 pm | Ages 3-6 | \$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.

MARCH

1 Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm

4 Early Childhood Center Open House, CERC, 4–7 pm

4 LOHS Parent Teacher Conferences

4 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

11 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

14 Daylight Savings Time Begins

15 Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm

15 OGSL/LOYBL/OOSL Registration Deadline

15 Parent Information Night for 2021–22 kindergarten families, *location TBD*, 6:30–7:30 pm

17 St. Patrick's Day

18 Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences

18 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm



Photo by Lee Smith

23 Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences

23 Enrollment for 2021–22 kindergarten families, *at each elementary school*

25 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

26 Coffee with Chris, *virtual*, 9:30 am

27 Take and Make: All Ages Makerspace, *Orion Library*

29–Apr 2 No School, Spring Break



Photo by Lee Smith

1 April Fool's Day

1 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

2 Good Friday

4 Easter

5 Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm

8 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

11 Seed Library Kickoff, *Orion Library*

APRIL

15 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

19 Board of Trustees Meeting, Township Hall, 7 pm

22 Earth Day

22 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

23 Coffee with Chris, 9:30 am

23 Community Garage Sale, *Orion Center*, 9 am–2 pm

24 Antique, Toy & Comic Expo, *Orion Center*, 9 am–2 pm

24 Orion Green Up, *TBD*

24 Take and Make: Suncatchers, All Ages, *Orion Library*

29 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

MAY

1 Mother's Day Market, *Orion Center*, 10 am–5 pm

1 Fandom Fest, *Orion Library*

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

5 Cinco de Mayo

6 LOHS Parent Teacher Conferences

6 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

7–8 Flower Fair, *Downtown LO*

7 Outside: Family Movie, register online, *Orion Library*, 8 pm

8 Take and Make: Terracotta Pot Gardens, all ages, *Orion Library*

9 Mother's Day

13 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

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

20 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

23 Outside: Pavement Picassos, all ages, *Orion Library*, 2 pm

27 LOHS Senior Exams



Photo by Lee Smith

27 Social District Night, *Downtown LO*, 5–8 pm

28 Coffee with Chris, 9:30 am

28 LOHS Senior Exams

31 Orion Veterans Memorial Day Run, 9 am

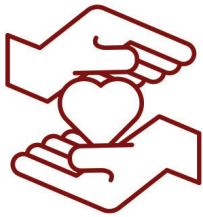
31 Memorial Day



Photo by Nancy Bennett

Background Photo by Nancy Bennett

2020 *in Review*



The investment in our community by our 275 members allowed us to make a difference in the Orion Area in 2020.



We assisted in securing more than
\$5.75 million
in funds to our business community!

We stayed connected with social media while social distancing.



2,856 Followers
195,278 Reach



Video Views were up
967% from 2019



1,005 Followers
36,801 Impressions



1,000 Followers
Up 33% from 2019



86 Followers
3,461 Impressions

Orion Area
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

How have we been helping our community stay safe?



We helped to organize and distribute 300 'Safe Start' PPE kits from Oakland County to area businesses.

We helped secure much needed winterization grants for supplies for our local restaurants.



How we spread the word about our members:

Chamber Website



177,941 Website Visits
1,270 Job Board Visits
3,934 Hot Deals Visits

Member Directory



97,562 Member Directory Visits
25,563 Member Page Visits

Email Communications



1,608 Subscribers
137 Newsletters and Emails
175,211 Sends

What Chamber events have we been up to?



12 Ribbon
Cuttings



14
Webinars



7 Breakfasts/
Luncheons



Annual Golf
Outing

New and renewing members

Orion Area CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEW MEMBERS

Mid-October 2020 to
Mid-January 2021

BUSINESS BASIC MEMBERS

Beyond Mindful
Counseling and Wellness
Bitter Tom's Distillery
Contract Source Group
ITC Michigan
K & S Automation LLC
New Moon Healing
Orion Oaks Assisted
Living and Memory Care
Russell B Gregory Winery

PREMIER MEMBER

The Wooden Tulip

RENEWING MEMBERS

Mid-October 2020 to
Mid-January 2021

NON-PROFIT MEMBERS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Bill Kokenos
Crossroads for Youth
Good Lutheran Church
and Preschool
Grace Centers of Hope
Love Inc of North
Oakland County
Joe Kent
Polly Ann Trail/PATMC

BUSINESS BASIC MEMBERS

120 South Broadway
AAA—Craig Zmijewski
Advance Carpentry
Advanced Nutritional
Solutions
Builders Custom Flooring
Broadway Embroidery
DTE Energy
Glennan Medical Group
Greater Oakland
Republican Club
Hoffman IT Group
Home Depot
(Lapeer Rd Lake Orion)

Jaime A Abbott DDS
PLLC

LegalShield and IDShield

May Audiology &
Hearing Aid Center

MIBodyworks

Michigan Shooting
Centers

Mount Ruffmore
Doggy Salon

Northern Wholesale
Flooring

Orion Kennel Club

Palazzo di Bocce

Pedal Boat Pub

Royal Oak Heating
& Cooling

Thai Fix LLC

The Boutrous Companies

Tim Horton's Lake Orion

PREMIER MEMBERS

Beaumont Health

ELITE MEMBERS



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



Culver's of Lake Orion
4963 Interpark Drive N
Lake Orion, MI 48359



Golling Buick GMC
1491 S Lapeer Rd
Lake Orion, MI 48360



Pomeroy Living Orion
101 E Scripps Road
Lake Orion, MI 48360



Find out more about how being a Chamber member can
help your business grow and thrive in challenging times at
orionareachamber.com.

2021 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Garrett Hoffman, President
The Hoffman Agency

Kathy Birney, Vice President
The Birney Directive

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Aaron Whatley, *Parks & Recreation
Director, Orion Township*

CHAMBER STAFF

Noelle Champagne, *Executive Director*

Jillian Nolan,
Director of Membership Services

Melissa Griffith, *Office Manager*

LOCATION

1335 Joslyn Road, Suite 1
Lake Orion, MI 48360

HOURS

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

CONTACT

info@orionareachamber.com

248-693-6300

www.orionareachamber.com

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

Facebook: [orionareachamber](https://www.facebook.com/orionareachamber)

Twitter: [@orionchamber](https://twitter.com/orionchamber)

Instagram: [orionchamber](https://www.instagram.com/orionchamber)

LinkedIn: Orion Area Chamber
of Commerce

MISSION STATEMENT

*The Orion Area Chamber of Commerce
is committed to advance the general
welfare and prosperity of the business
community in the Orion Area.*

In the Know: Memorial Day

SACRIFICES NEVER FORGOTTEN

Before it became a federal holiday in 1971 and its observance moved to the last Monday in May, Memorial Day was called Decoration Day, observed on May 30. But what is Decoration Day?

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any other conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. Three years after the Civil War ended, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the head of an organization of Union veterans, established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. In 1868, Major General John A. Logan issued an official proclamation that the day should be observed on May 30. The date is believed to have been chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. Others believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country on that day. After World War I, the observance was expanded to honor all those who had died in service during any American war.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington Mansion. Various Washington officials, including General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, spreading flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers, and singing hymns.

Small American flags were also placed on each grave. There was approximately 5,000 people in attendance that day who decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.

It is believed that local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead had already been held in various places. One of the earliest claimed observances comes from Columbus, Miss., on April 25, 1866. A group of women visited the local cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in the battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers that were left neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves as well.

Today, cities in both the North and South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Approximately 25 have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial, many of them happen to be in the South.

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, NY as the official 'birthplace' of Memorial Day. Back in May 1866, a ceremony was held to honor local veteran who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say any earlier observances were

either informal, not community-wide, or simply a one-time event. By the end of the 19th century, events were being held across the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

It wasn't until after WWI that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress. It was then also moved to the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

To ensure their sacrifices are never forgotten, in December 2000, Congress passed, and the President signed into law the "The National Moment of Remembrance Act", creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their county, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 pm local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

Photo by Lee Smith



From the Director Visit us curbside!

With the writing of this quarterly publication, we are still in uncertain times due to COVID-19. I continue to monitor the changes with the pandemic daily, and I work with the Library Board of Trustees to make decisions that are in the best interest of our library staff and patrons. At the January 28th board meeting, the library board voted to move forward to Stage 4, which means we are scheduling patron appointments to come into the library and use computer equipment and other resources. We are unable to allow patrons to browse or gather yet as of the publication deadline, and we are still limited in total occupancy. All library materials can be picked up curbside.

We now have technology (*wireless hotspots, Chromebooks, and iPads*) available for pickup curbside, along with all of our well-loved collections of books, movies, audiobooks, kits, and more. Have you used our digital collections, which are available online at any time? E-books and downloadable audiobooks from Overdrive and CloudLibrary, movies from Hoopla and Kanopy, and so much more are available at orionlibrary.org with your library card number!

Have a question? Staff are available to help! Email us or call 248-693-3000 for assistance. We look forward to the day that we can once again invite patrons into the library building for additional access in a safe manner. We miss you! Be sure to check out all our new programs and activities, with more details and the most recent information always posted online at orionlibrary.org.

Karen



General Info

Notary Services

Virtual Notary services available at least through June 30, 2021. To schedule an online notary appointment, please contact Joyce Becker at jbecker@orionlibrary.org or at 248-693-3000 x431.

Upcoming Library Closings

Easter: Fri, Apr 2, Sat, Apr 3,
Sun, Apr 4

Mother's Day: Sun, May 9

Memorial Day: Sat, May 29,
Sun, May 30, Mon, May 31

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

Department Numbers

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

General Federation of Women's Clubs—Lake Orion



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

Library Board of Trustees

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

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



"Libraries show us anything is possible by encouraging a love of learning, discovery and exploration."

NATALIE PORTMAN
National Library Week Honorary Chair

WELCOME TO YOUR LIBRARY

ALA American Library Association | Library Champions | LIBRARIES TRANSFORM

Library Service Updates

Thank you for all your patience as we work through this challenging time. As of February 1st, the library has moved to Phase 4 and is allowing patron appointments once again by calling **248-693-3000 x545**. The Take and Make pickup table is now located in the library lobby. Curbside Pickup and Home Delivery services are still available during the following hours (*weather permitting*):

Monday thru Thursday
9:30 am to 8:30 pm

Friday & Saturday
9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday: 1 to 4:30 pm

In addition, we are staffing the building during these hours, so library staff is available to answer any questions you may have or provide any assistance possible. Call or email us anytime. We are also active on social media through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Questions about your account status, items checked out, and holds
248-693-3000
notices@orionlibrary.org

Questions specifically for staff helping Teens, Adults, & Seniors
248-693-3001
reference@orionlibrary.org

Questions specifically for staff helping Children & Parents
248-693-3002
youth@orionlibrary.org

Don't forget about all of our services for all ages, listed online and updated frequently at **orionlibrary.org**.

Please know that we continue to put patron and staff safety at the forefront of our plans and services during this pandemic. As with everything related to COVID-19, these plans are subject to change. Please call **248-693-3000** if you have any questions or visit us at **orionlibrary.org** for more information.

Leave Your Legacy

Community members are invited to leave their legacy in Orion Township by donating to our library. Whether it is a gorgeous and anonymous bronze sculpture, like 'Books, Most Wonderful Friend in the World,' or it is your name or the name of a loved one on a stone in our Reading Garden, or it is by including the library in your estate, all of your support will help our library for years to come.

If you are interested in donating to the library, please see **orionlibrary.org/donations** or contact the library director at **248-693-3000 x430**.

Books, most wonderful friend in the world

The library anonymously received a third donation of a life-size, one-of-a-kind, bronze sculpture of two little boys, each holding a book and pointing toward the library's front doors, welcoming all. Local sculptor, Suzanne Young with the Fine Arts Centre, created this beautiful piece, and it is on display near the garden just outside the front entrance to the library. Young earned her Masters of Fine Arts degree from Eastern Michigan University. The library is so grateful for this donation!



Personalize a stepping stone in the Orion Library's Reading Garden

Stepping stones in the Reading Garden at the Orion Township Public Library can now be engraved with a personalized name or thoughtful message. Proceeds will benefit the library. There is a limited number of engravable stones in the Reading Garden, and orders will be filled in a first come, first served basis. The library director will approve all requests before orders are placed. After an order is placed, a proof will be sent for final approval before the stone is engraved. A 50% deposit is due when order is placed, and balance due with final approval. You can submit an order by completing the form online at **orionlibrary.org/donations**, or contact Joyce Becker at **248-693-3000 x431** for more information.



Estate gifts

Near the end of 2019, we lost our beloved friend and previous Library Director, Linda Sickles, at the age of 72. Linda gave so much of herself to the Orion Township Public Library over the 31 years that she was its director. To that end, Linda remembered the Orion Township Public Library once again in her estate, as she named the library as a beneficiary. The generous gift from her estate will help the library continue to provide the services that Linda was proud of to our Orion community.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

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

Virtual/Take and Make: Harry Potter Book Day

Sat, Mar 6 | 2 pm

We are pleased to inform you that you have been invited to our Harry Potter Book Day where we will discover the secrets of Dragon Alley. Witches, wizards and muggles from all around Lake Orion are invited to discover the secrets of its spellbinding shops and stores. Wands at the ready! Wizarding robes or Harry Potter fancy dress are encouraged. Take and Make kits available for pickup beginning Fri, Mar 5 at 9:30 am.

Take and Make: All Ages Makerspace

Sat, Mar 27

This makerspace program features a variety of maker projects for youth, teens, and adults.



Take and Make: Suncatchers

Sat, Apr 24

Create beautiful window stars and more that catch and reflect the spring sunshine with this kit available for all ages.

Outside: Family Movie

Fri, May 7 | 8 pm | Register online

Bring your blankets and snacks for a family-friendly movie in our Reading Garden. Arrive at 8 pm with the movie starting at 8:30 pm. Registration is limited to 50 people but the library will follow current MDHHS gathering restrictions at the time of this program. Registration may be increased closer to the program date and walk-ins may be welcomed depending on those restrictions. Rain reschedule date is May 21. Movie TBD.



Take and Make: Terracotta Pot Gardens

Sat, May 8

Create an original window sill garden with this kit containing a small terracotta pot, seeds, and paint.



Fandom Fest Returns!



Join us on **Saturday, May 1** for Fandom Fest, where we celebrate anime, video games, comics, costumes, and more for all ages! Visit orionlibrary.org/calendar for details and registration.

Take and Make: Pokémon Pom-Poms

Using yarn and a pom-pom tool, learn to make fun Pokeball Pom-Poms.

Take and Make: Among Us Pencil Toppers

Make them with a group of friends and decide who the imposter of the group is!

Take and Make: Ghostbusters Slime

Make your own Slimer-green Ghostbusters slime with this fun take and make!

Costume Contest

Show off your costumes during our costume contest! Post a photo to the library's Facebook page and be entered to win a JoAnn Fabric's gift card. Judging categories will be ages 0-11, 12-18, and adult costumes.

Free Comic Book Day

Free Comic Book Day is a single day—the first Saturday in May each year! Children, teens and adults are welcome to stop by the library and select a free comic book of their choice (*while supplies last*).

Outdoor Escape Room

11 am–4 pm | Register online

Work with a group to solve a variety of nerdy riddles and puzzles. Escape rooms will begin promptly on the hour beginning at 11 am. Only registered participants may join the escape room. If you are planning to participate with a family of 4, please register each member individually for all to participate.



Outdoor Bounce & Boogie: Video Games

11 am | Ages 0-5

Join us for a special music and movement program featuring your favorite video game music!



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

ADULT SERVICES

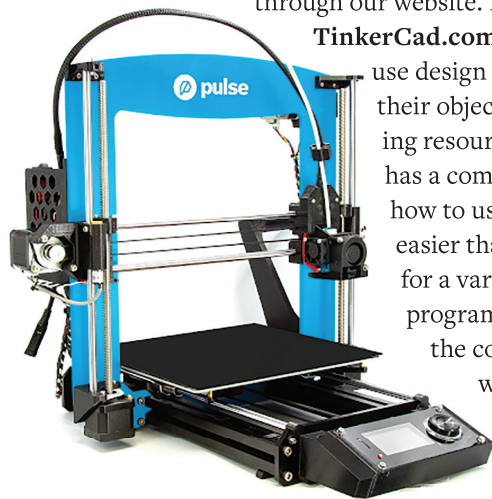
All Take and Make supplies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 9:30 am on the day of the program.

3-D Print from Home!

The Orion Township Library recently added a Pulse 3-D printer to their Makerspace. 3-D printers can print an incredible variety of plastic objects and we have 10 colors of material to choose from. With this new machine, patrons are able to use our Makerspace from home by submitting 3-D print files through our website. Patrons can use

TinkerCad.com, a free and easy-to-

use design program to create their objects. Our online learning resource, **Lynda.com** even has a comprehensive class on how to use TinkerCad, and it's easier than you think! Look for a variety of 3-D printing programs and offerings in the coming months, and we hope you'll learn how to use this exciting machine.



50 books in 52 weeks

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

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

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



HEAL Research Project

The Orion Township Public Library is proud to be one of 19 communities in the United States chosen to take part in the research project Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) at the Library. This project is funded by the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program through

the IMLS. The first stage of the research project focused on interviews of library staff and community organizations, discussing how we have collaborated to offer Healthy Eating and Active Living programming. The second stage focuses on bringing together representatives from the 19 communities to begin to share successes, struggles, and to confirm the findings; the final stage will focus on building a national conversation on this topic.

Virtual: Michigan Works Assistance

Oakland County Michigan Works! Pontiac will assist you with upcoming workshops, youth and adult programs, resume ideas, job searches, interview skills and much more. They can point you in the right direction for inquiries about local resources. Contact Beth Sheridan, **esh Sheridan@orionlibrary.org** or 248-693-3000 x411 to set up your ZOOM appointment with a staff member from Michigan Works.

Virtual: Tech Help

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

Call-In: Dial-a-Story for Adults

Mar-May

Simply call us to listen to essays, short stories, or poetry read by library staff. Every week a new reading is posted so that you can listen anytime from anywhere that works for you. To access Dial-a-Story for Adults call 248-287-8028.



Summer Reading Kickoff

June 12

11 am to 2 pm

Look for more details coming soon for the whole family to enjoy!

Virtual: Orion Historical Society

Mondays | Mar 8, Apr 12, May 10
7 pm

Come to an Orion Historical Society (OHS) meeting to learn about our township's history and work on projects to preserve the past. Newcomers are always welcome! For the spring quarter, this group will meet online.

Virtual: Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Tuesdays | Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11
10:30 am

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

Virtual: Writer's Workshop

Wednesdays | Mar 10, Apr 14,
May 12 | 7 pm

Meet the second Wednesday of each month and connect with a group of like-minded writers to learn from each other, share ideas, and practice your writing skills. For the spring quarter, this group will meet online.



Virtual: Monarch Butterflies

Tue, Mar 16 | 7 pm

The library is excited to welcome Angie Babbit from Monarch Watch for a virtual presentation about monarch butterflies and how we can help conserve them. All participants will get their own packet of milkweed seeds that can be picked up the week of the program.



Take and Make: Glass Gem and Glue Sun Catcher

Wed, Mar 17

Come to the library and pick up the materials and directions to make a sun catcher to hang in your window just in time for spring! Staff will also offer the glass gem sun catcher kits while making deliveries to homebound Outreach patrons so they can enjoy this Take and Make as well.



Book Discussions

New members are always welcome!

Monday Evening Book Discussion
7 pm

Virtual: Mon, Mar 15: *American Dirt*
by Jeanine Cummins

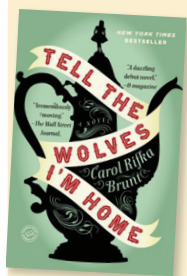
Outside: Mon, Apr 19:
Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Outside: Mon, May 17:
The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi

Dine, Drink & Discuss | 7 pm

Virtual: Mon, Mar 22: *Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson

Virtual: Mon, Apr 26: *The End of Her*
by Shari Lapena

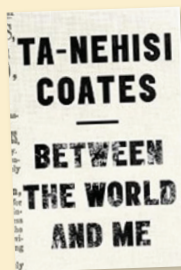


Outside: Mon, May 24: *Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt

Book Bunch Book Club | 1 pm

Virtual: Wed, Mar 10: *The Last Train to London* by Meg Waite Clayton

Outside: Wed, Apr 14: *Willa's Grove*
by Laura Munson



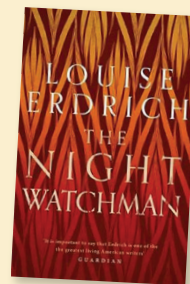
Outside: Wed, May 12: *Be Frank with Me* by Julia Claiborne Johnson

Thursday Afternoon Book Club
1:30 pm

Virtual: Thur, Mar 18: *I'll Be Gone in the Dark* by Michelle McNamara

Virtual: Thur, Apr 15: *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich

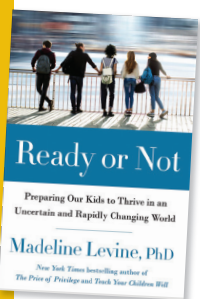
Outside: Thur, May 20: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez



Outside: Cook the Book
Mon, Apr 5 | 7 pm

Select and prepare a recipe from America's Test Kitchen Twentieth Anniversary TV Show Cookbook: Best-ever Recipes from the Most Successful Cooking Show on TV and meet virtually to discuss recipes.

Please either put on hold or inter-loan your own copy of the cookbook for the meeting. Call 248-693-3001 if you need assistance acquiring a cookbook.



Virtual: Parenting Book Discussion

Thu, Mar 11 | 7 pm
Register online

Join Lake Orion Community Schools Assistant Superintendent Heidi Mercer and Librarian Kathleen

Kwiatkowski as we lead a virtual discussion of the book *Ready or Not: Preparing Our Kids to Thrive in an Uncertain and Rapidly Changing World* by Madeline Levine, PhD. Contact the library to get your copy of the book.



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

OTPL Bookbike is on the move!

As the weather warms up watch for the OTPL bookbike on sidewalks, trails, and at community events as we bring the library outside our walls to where you are. Stop by our bookbike for books, information, giveaways, and answers to all your questions. We start our bookbike season at the Lake Orion Flower and Art Fair, which has historically been scheduled for Mother's Day weekend. We hope to see you this May through September as we pedal all over the Orion community!



Virtual: Board Game Night

Mondays | Mar 22, Apr 26, May 24
6:30 pm

Join us on Board Game Arena to play a variety of popular board games virtually.



Virtual: Intro to 3-D Printing

Thu, Apr 22 | 6:30 pm

Using an interactive video from **Lynda.com**, learn to design and print 3-D objects with Tinkercad. You can use the library's 3-D printer from home and your registration comes with one free 3-D print! A link to the class will be emailed to registered patrons.

Outside: Daughters of the American Revolution Genealogy Workshop

Sat, May 22 | 10 am | Register online

The John Crawford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be having a genealogy

workshop for any women 18 years old and older who wish to find information about their American Patriot or wish to join the DAR.

Researchers from
John Crawford



DAR and state genealogists will be available to work with patrons on their research.

Take and Make: Glass Painting

Sat, Apr 10

Pick up the supplies to create a floral design with acrylic paint on glass.



Seed Library Kickoff

Sun, Apr 11 | 1 pm

Get your garden started early this year with our new seed library! Come 'check out' up to five seed packets of a variety of plants. At the end of the growing season, you will return seeds that you have harvested from your plants to be used for next year's seed library.



Virtual: The Normal Aging Process

Mon, Apr 12 | 6:30 pm

Join Vicki Klanke RN, a Nurse Consultant/Educator, as she discusses the normal aging process. She will be focusing on the impact of nutrition, exercise, sleep, and medication management on our quality of life as we grow older. A recording of this presentation will be available for a week following the live presentation.



Literacy beyond the pages

Human beings learn in many different ways, with reading and writing as only one aspect of literacy. Literacy can be defined as competence or knowledge in a specified area. Beyond pages in a book, what kinds of literacy are important? Digital, nature, and health literacy are three areas important to a community as a whole, and the library supports community growth in these areas through our services and programming. Beginning this spring, we will offer a seed library and a few other nature related programs aimed at all ages. Our tech help and in person computer assistance improve digital literacy, along with our technology collections available for checkout: iPads, Chromebooks, wireless hotspots and more. Finally, the library is offering programming that promotes health literacy like family yoga, meditation, storywalk partnerships and more through our participation in the project Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) at the Library via Co-Developed Programming, which is funded by the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, through the IMLS. Beyond these three community oriented focus areas, the library is a place to improve any literacy you can imagine.

OUTREACH SERVICES

No Contact Home Delivery

We have always delivered books to Orion Township residents who are unable to physically visit the library, but we have expanded that service to include anyone who is uncomfortable leaving their home and visiting the library due to the pandemic. The first step to becoming a No-Contact Home Delivery patron is to fill out the online application on our website, or call 248-693-3001. You can



put holds on items yourself in our catalog, or we can request materials for you. On delivery

day, library staff will safely place a bag containing the items outside your door, and all returned items are quarantined before circulating again.

Virtual: English Language Learning Conversation Group

Wednesdays | 10:30 am

English Language Learning (ELL) conversation group is open to all who wish to practice their English language skills in a relaxed and informal setting. The topics vary widely, and it is a great learning experience as well as an opportunity to meet people.



Partnering with LOCS

Remote and virtual learning has been a struggle for us all, whether we are students, parents or teachers. I am sure we have all muttered the words, “the kids need to be in school!” At OTPL we have worked closely with LOCS staff to coordinate and help with this new Synchronous as well as the Asynchronous learning style.

With students learning from home it was important for the library to provide our online resources to classrooms. Our Teen Librarian, Sabrina Halsey, worked with LOHS media specialist and teachers to make sure students had access to online resources such as Kanopy and Biography databases, for class assignments to be done. Kanopy is an online resource showing movies, which has been advantageous for the high school film class during remote learning.

Literature classes utilized the Biography databases, as students still had papers to write, but with schools and libraries closed, research was just taught a little differently.

For more information about Kanopy and other online resources visit orionlibrary.org/resources-a-z.

Look out for our Little Libraries

Our Little Free Libraries are stocked with books for you to take and read; bring them back when you're done or add some more books to share with others. Look for our Little Free Libraries at parks and trails throughout the community: Camp Agawam, Civic Center Park, Children's Park, Downtown Parklet, Friendship Park, Green's Park, Jesse Decker Park, Orion Center, Orion Oaks Dog Park, Paint Creek Trail, and the Polly Ann Trail.



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

JUST FOR TEENS

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

Virtual/Outside: Geek Club

Tuesdays | Mar 2, Mar 16, Apr 6, Apr 20, May 4,
May 18 | 6:30–8 pm

Geek Club is a casual hang-out for teens who enjoy anything from anime, comics, video games, board and card games, D and D, crazy YouTube clips and more! Geek club will be a combination of virtual or in-person outside in the Reading Garden, weather permitting. Check the calendar for updates.



Take and Make: Feather Quill Pens

Sat, Mar 20

DIY feather quill pens will make you feel like royalty. Pick up your kit complete with supplies and instructions. Don't forget to post the finished product on social media, #OTPLtakeandmake.



Virtual: Teen Game Night

Thu, Apr 1 | 6:30–7:30 pm

Grab some friends and join OTPL and new friends as we play online games!



Take and Make: Homemade Pop Rocks

Sat, Apr 17

Pop rocks are a favorite regardless of age, so let's try homemade pop rocks! We supply the ingredients and directions, you supply the kitchen.



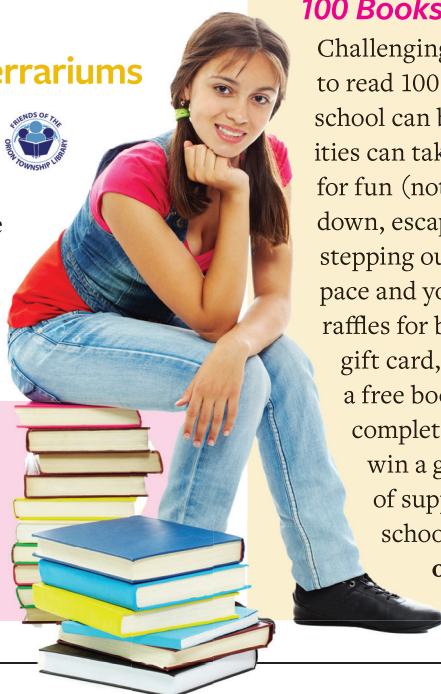
Outside/Take and Make: Disney Terrariums

Sat, May 15 | 2 pm

With spring in the air, terrariums are a cool and simple project. Teens will become botanists as they recreate a scene with some of their favorite Disney characters. Weather permitting, program will be outside in the Reading Garden, if weather inadequate, program will become a Take and Make.



**OTPL and Lake Orion Middle School
monthly Take and Makes now
available! Please see your media
specialist with any questions.**



Teen Books Before...Challenges!

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

75 Books Before High School

Challenging all 6th–8th graders to read 75 BOOKS BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL! Sign up at any time, and read at your own pace. Middle school is an exciting time that comes with new responsibilities, and sometimes that can feel like a lot to handle. Taking some time for yourself by reading books that you enjoy can help keep things from becoming too overwhelming. With this program, there are no assigned books, no deadlines (other than finishing before you start high school!), and no reports to write. Read whatever you want, whenever you want! There will be random raffles for books logged to receive a local business gift card, and when you reach 37 books you receive a free book of your choice. For the courageous who complete all 75 books before you start high school, you win a grand prize High School Survival Kit, full of supplies to get you ready for high school. Please register by signing up at orionlibrary.org/teens/75-books/.

100 Books Before Graduation

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

YOUTH SERVICES

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

Meet us outside in May!

As the year opens up into spring, the librarians at OTPL are craving to get outside to see our patrons in a fun and safe environment by offering our creative programming for all in our outdoor reading gardens. When the weather warms up, you will find a lot of our regular programs transition to outdoor meet-ups where appropriate. From book clubs for adults all the way down to Friday morning storytimes for our youngest patrons, check our calendar for specific dates and times. Our popular Fandom Fest returns again this year, so get your cosplay ready and meet us outside! Not only will we have on site fun like escape rooms and a video game themed Bounce and Boogie dance session, but we will also provide plenty of take and make craft programs to go. The week following brings our very first outdoor movie showing, with a surprise movie choice. With all these activities, there are plenty of different types of programs for the community to check out, outdoors, and we truly cannot wait to welcome everyone back!



FAMILY PROGRAMS

Take and Make: Dr. Seuss Fun

Tue, Mar 2

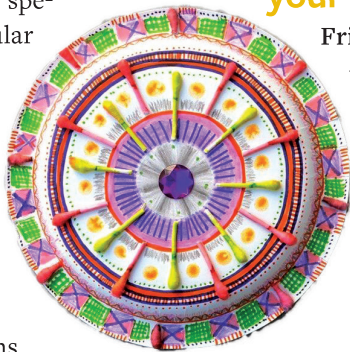
Celebrate some favorite Seuss characters with these take and make projects. A great way to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday.



Take and Make: Create with your Crew

Fri, Apr 16

Work with your crew to create a one of a kind circle mandala. Each person takes a turn to add a layer to this one of a kind art project.



All Family Programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library



Outside: Pavement Picassos

Sun, May 23 | 2 pm | All Ages

Create outdoor art with your family using different types of homemade sidewalk paint, and learn some new sidewalk chalk techniques.

Take and Make: Create with your Crew

Fri, May 28

Work with your crew to create a beautiful landscape decoupage garden.

BABY AND TODDLER PROGRAMS

Take and Make: Baby and Toddler Sensory Play

Thu, Apr 29 | Ages 0-2

This kit includes sensory play and art projects for your littlest ones. Rhymes, songs, and finger plays also included.



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

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Virtual: Bounce and Boogie

Saturdays | Mar 6, Apr 10 | 11 am
Ages 0-5 | Register online

A music and movement-based program just for ages 0-5! Join us as we dance, groove, jump, and move to our favorite songs and rhymes!

Virtual: SENSEsational Storytime

Fridays | Mar 12, Apr 16, May 14
11 am | All ages | Register online

A welcoming, interactive environment designed for children with special needs and sensory seeking kids.



Take and Make: Getting Buggy with It

Sat, Apr 17 | Ages 2-5

On your mark, ready set, let's go! This kit includes crafts based on our buggy friends.



Take and Make: Pick Up STEAM—Music

Tue, May 11 | Ages 3-6

Pick up STEAM is a preschool-friendly science, math, and learning series.

This session we will look at music. There will be experiments, fun, crafts, and math all centered on making and understanding music.

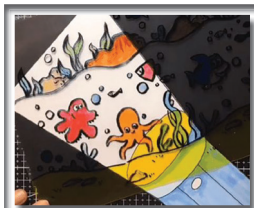


SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

Take and Make: STEAM Academy—Light and Dark

Sat, Mar 13 | Gr K-5

Experiment with projects that illuminate the difference between light and dark.



All School Age Programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library

Take and Make: The Wizard of Oz

Sat, May 15 | Gr K-5

Celebrate author L. Frank Baum's 165th birthday with Wizard of Oz crafts and activities!

Take and Make: Upcycled Veggies

Sat, May 22 | Gr K-5

Discover how you can use kitchen scraps to create edible gardens! Kit includes supplies to start your own vegetable plant.

Take and Make: Hanging with my Peeps

Thu, Apr 8 | Gr K-5

This kit includes supplies to create an edible home for your marshmallow peeps. Peeps included!

Take and Make: Mini-Piñata

Wed, May 5
Gr K-5

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo by creating your own mini-piñata.



Outside: Adventure Seekers Book Club: Children's Park

Sat, May 22 | 2pm | Gr 3-5

Adventure seekers and their parents can join us for a sweet icy treat and book discussion of *I Survived: The Joplin Tornado, 2011* by Lauren Tarshis at Children's Park in Downtown Lake Orion.



Spring Weekly Storytimes

Join us for live virtual storytimes with age-appropriate stories, songs, finger plays, puppets, and activities the weeks of March 15-April 26, and then outside on Fridays in May! Siblings are welcome.

Virtual: Little Lit

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays
Mar 15-Apr 28 | 10 am
Ages 0-5 | Register online

A storytime for all ages! Children ages 0-5 and their families are invited to meet us weekly on Zoom for stories, songs, and activities that promote the five staple early literacy practices: reading, writing, singing, talking, and playing!

Outside: Friday Family

Fridays | May 7, 14, 21, 28
10 am | Ages 0-5

Meet us outdoors for Friday morning fun in May! Our outdoor storytime series promotes early literacy with active movement and storytelling.



SPRING BREAK TO GO!



Take and Make: Cardboard Pinball

Mon, Mar 29 | Gr 3-5

Use the supplies provided to create your own cereal box size pinball (marble) machine.



Take and Make: 'Nailed It!' Kids Edition

Tue, Mar 30 | Gr 3-5

Our socially distanced version of the popular kitchen competition show. Kits will include unfrosted treat and a challenge photo. Use items from home to recreate the inspiration photo. Submit a picture of your masterpiece by emailing it to youth@orionlibrary.org. Winners will receive gift cards to a local business. Be sure to email your entry by April 6th.

Take and Make: Rainbow Art

Wed, Mar 31 | Gr K-5

This colorful kit includes supplies to create a variety of fun rainbow-themed art and craft projects.



Take and Make: Let's Get Silly—An April Fool's Extravaganza

Thu, Apr 1 | Gr K-5

Stop by and get some fun and crazy projects to celebrate the day that celebrates being silly.

Children's Book Week is May 3-9

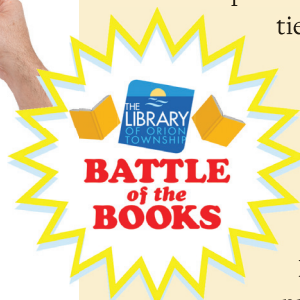
Known as the longest running national literacy initiative in the country, Children's Book week began over 100 years ago in 1919. Started by librarian Franklin K. Matthews and currently run by the Children's Book Council, Children's Book Week is a week of fun and events at your local libraries, schools, bookstores, and in homes. This year, Orion Township Public Library will have fun and exciting activities available on social media and for pick up, including bookmarks, drawing lessons, and literacy activity pages promoting reading in the home and as a family fun activity.

5th Grade Battle of the Books



The youth librarians at OTPL worked tirelessly to figure out exactly how we could hold Battle this year in a virtual environment, and we knew we had make some big changes to make it just as fun as in person! We came up with the idea of two months of Battle activities.

We took the final Battle quiz, made it a little smaller, and added some fun video sharing activities and Zoom meetups where teams can show off the fun they have created together, but apart. We even booked THREE(!) Battle authors to Zoom in with us for our live Victory Party on Wednesday, March 24th at 6:30 pm. With these changes, we hope that the 2021 5th Grade Battle will be memorable for the amount of fun teams had. See you on the Battle ground!



Final All Team Meetup

Virtual: Thu, Mar 11 | 6:30 pm | Register online

Let's meet up and chat about Battle! For our final meetup before the main event, we will hold a mock battle to be sure everyone is prepared for the big event. We will play a few book-related games with a chance to win prizes. All participants and team mentors are encouraged to attend. Please register by 5 pm on Wed, Mar 10 to receive link to Zoom meeting.

Battle of the Books Competition

Virtual: Sat, Mar 20 | 11 am | Register online

Here it is! The final battle you have been waiting and reading for! Join us in costume on Zoom for a 40 question Kahoot Quiz. You will need two devices for this program. One for watching the quiz, and a second for recording your answers.

Victory Party

Virtual: Wed, Mar 24 | 6:30 pm | Register online

Celebrate four months of reading and fun at our Zoom Victory Party. Joined live by some of our 2021 Battle authors, we will reveal best team spirit, best costume, team name, and top 3 teams at Battle! Participants will also have the opportunity to ask the authors questions about their books! Register by 5pm on Tue, Mar 23 to receive Zoom link.



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



FRIENDS OF THE ORION TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

248-693-3000 x470 • friends@orionlibrary.org • orionlibrary.org/friends
Stay up to date on book sales and donation protocol at orionlibrary.org/friends.

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

Thank You Oakland County!

The Friends of the Orion Township Library are honored to be awarded with funds from the Oakland Together Cultural Institution COVID-19 Support Grant enabling the Friends to buy supplies to assist with future activities in a safe way. Oakland County supports and values cultural institutions as valuable partners and assets for the residents of Oakland County, and the goal of the Oakland Together COVID-19 Support grant is to provide a surge of resources to help Oakland County arts, cultural and stewardship organizations emerge from this difficult time so that services and programming will be provided to Oakland County residents.

What Do The Friends Do?

Have you ever wondered what the Friends of the Orion Township Library do?

- Serve as ambassadors for the library in the community.
- Raise funds for needs like library programming that are not covered by the library's operating budget.
- Encourage gifts to the library.
- Increase awareness of the library.
- Volunteer to support the library.

Friends of the Orion Township Library Board

Jan Thomas, *President*

Don Walker, *Vice President*

Carla Tousley, *Treasurer*

Shae Smith, *Secretary*

Bob Bambach, *Deputy Treasurer*

Dale Bell, *Book Sale Chair*

Mary Duenow, *Fundraising Chair*

Michelle Jerome, *Membership Chair*

Vacant, *PR/Marketing Chair*

Become A Friends Member!

Membership in the Friends of the Orion Township Library is a great way to support the Friends and our library. If you are not a Friends member, please join by using our website or by filling out an application at the library. Those interested in joining or renewing a membership with the Friends can go to orionlibrary.org/friends/membership/join/. And just a reminder, the membership fee is waived now through April 30, 2021. Contact the Friends at friends@orionlibrary.org or check us out online at orionlibrary.org/friends.

Donating Used Books

As of the time of this printing, we are unable to accept donations due to storage limitations. Be sure to check orionlibrary.org/friends for the latest update.

Amazon Smile & Kroger Rewards

We hope you'll remember the Friends when you are shopping. You can designate the Friends of the Orion Township Library as your charity of choice with your Amazon Smile & Kroger Rewards accounts.

 amazon smile



About the Friends

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



A cozy space for our littlest learners

After decades of ideas and imagination, LOCS will open a state-of-the-art Early Childhood Center for families near and far, providing their children with an exemplary early education.

The questions arrive daily.

Staff members, parents, administrators have all heard the same inquiry over the past seven months: What's happening at the corner of Joslyn and Clarkston Roads in Orion Township?

After decades of ideas and imagination, this fall the dream will finally be a reality: Lake Orion Community Schools will open a state-of-the-art Early Childhood Center for families near and far, providing their children with an exemplary early education.

Since the June groundbreaking, the new school has rapidly ascended on the site across from Orion Oaks Elementary, a sign of the hope and excitement leading to its fall opening.

"I can't tell you how many times we said, 'If we

could just have a new building for Early Childhood programming," said Heidi Mercer, the LOCS Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. "We have a waitlist generally every year, so we know our population is there. More so, with CERC we were trying to create a makeshift Early Childhood Center and we did the best we could. But we knew having a new center would allow us to create and design a center that specifically focused on the youngest of our learners."

Starting out

In the early 2000s, Lake Orion Community Schools administrators had a vision.

They understood the value of a strong Early Childhood program. But they were limited by the district's facilities.

Only a few years earlier, Lake Orion High School had moved to a sparkling new building, leaving the former high school, renamed the Community Education

Resource Center, as a location for the district's ancillary programs.

Early Childhood moved into a wing of the building and had to squeeze into the space, originally designed for teenagers.

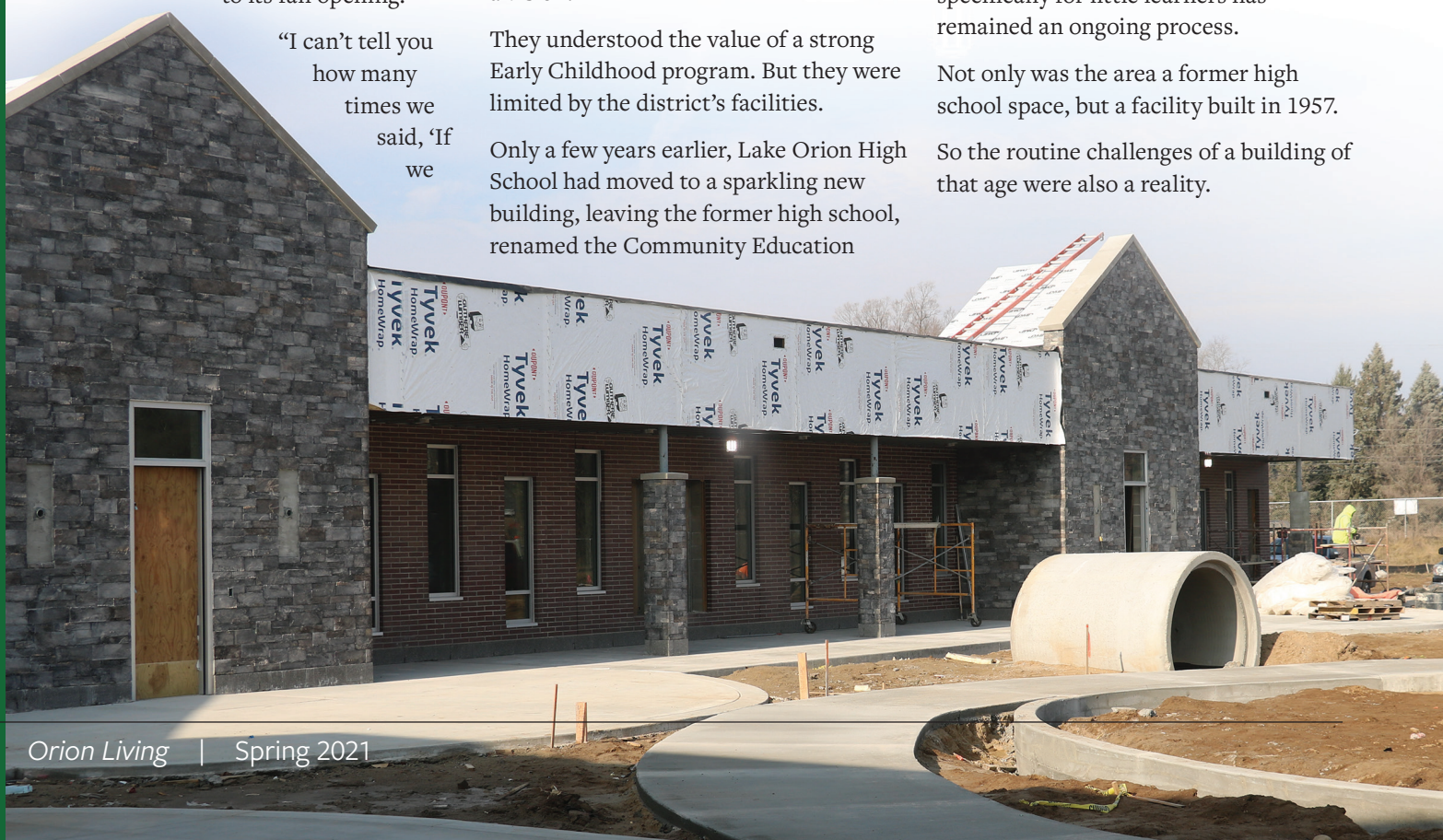
For two decades, they have operated in a space retro-fitted for the program.

"The ceilings are really high, the area itself is very big and kids at that age, 3s and 4s, they need to feel safe so they can maximize their learning," said Kim McLean, the LOCS Early Childhood Director since 2007. "We wanted to provide safe, cozy, smaller areas for them that make more sense for their size. We did things, brought in specific furniture types, different materials that we could hang from walls to make areas and corners cozy, the use of soft materials, carpet, to create more of a homey feeling in the school environment instead of it being very sterile."

Finding comfort and creating a space specifically for little learners has remained an ongoing process.

Not only was the area a former high school space, but a facility built in 1957.

So the routine challenges of a building of that age were also a reality.



Students and teachers found their way to work within the space trying to adjust.

When students had to go to the bathroom, a teacher took them to the only bathrooms, in the hallway, not ideal for young children still working on toilet training.

There were also lockers in the hallway, but they were designed for students more than five-feet tall, nearly two feet taller than these little learners.

And, though there were multiple entrances to the CERC building, each was an extended distance from the Early Childhood section of the building. With others in the building as well, that required a locked area inside the building to keep only Early Childhood staff and students within that area.

But the issue thought to be the biggest obstacle—existing in a building with professional LOCS offices, Special Education programs and the Learning Options alternative high school—spun into a positive opportunity.

“In the beginning, it was a struggle because we did have to share space with other students and they weren’t in the same age range,” McLean said. “However, that’s probably one of the things we will miss the most. Over time we have grown to really work so well as a (CERC building) community. Our older students work really well with our younger students and we’ve been able to use the close contact as a benefit. We’ve been able to have the Learning Options kids or the Special Education (PHASES) kids come into the classroom and support students. Many art students in the Options program come in and they do art with the kids. That is one thing we will miss.”

Yet, considering the program’s origins, the CERC Building was its own step forward in the late 1990s.

The LOCS Early Childhood program emerged in the early 1980s as an LOCS speech therapist, Judi Leach, was

looking for a program for her children and created her own. It eventually folded into LOCS and was housed at Carpenter Elementary for years, combining the district’s various components, including the before and after school SACC latch-key program. Many LOCS buildings over the years have hosted parts of the program, including the former Ehman Center (*the original LOHS on Elizabeth Street*) and the current high school, where pre-school classes were temporarily located, allowing the LOHS students to observe and interact with the toddlers for their development classes.



Imagining a permanent home is overwhelming and thrilling for Leach.

“When we went to CERC, we thought we were in heaven,” said Leach. “That building although was used for other things too. This (stand-alone facility) is something we never thought would happen.”

Bond and beyond

While LOCS passed a number of bond proposals in the 1990s and attempted a few more in the 2010s, none placed a stand-alone Early Childhood Center as a primary focus.

When the LOCS Board of Education endorsed it as one of the two new facilities (*along with Blanche Sims Elementary*) in the \$160 million, 10-year bond proposal, there was significant Board support.

The idea of establishing a visible state-of-the-art center for the community, open to all families, regardless of where they live, was incredibly appealing. Not only is it the center for the children’s learning, placing the school in the geographical center of the LOCS community, accessible from all directions

and sharing a campus with Orion Oaks, reinforced it is an ideal entry point for new families.

When the Bond passed in November 2018 with 55% support from the community, it was an endorsement of the plans, including the ECC.

“You can tell by the Bond that (approved by) the community thought that this is a very important piece,” McLean said. “The community feels Early Childhood is important and it’s important to recognize that it doesn’t happen everywhere.”

Just two months after the bond proposal passed, architect GMB AE gathered a district design committee to begin the



planning process. With LOCS staff members all working in the small group, the building began with only one intent: a facility to best serve the students.

“The leads on the team from GMB were very much bringing in their team and bringing them back to the core values of the district,” McLean said. “For example, there were times we were shown things that were very bright and pretty and big and they looked wonderful as an adult, but the lead architect was always saying ‘Remember we’re talking about little (learners) here.’”

From the beginning, that meant defining the mission of early education, the resources and plans that McLean and her team have learned through their professional growth and their personal experience.

Once those terms were secured—each LOCS facility had already provided a “dream” list in the bond planning process—the group set out to take the best from all existing venues.

Visiting centers throughout the state, the design team was able to see countless ideas from entries to classrooms, hallways to playgrounds, libraries to bathrooms and everything in between.

“It was nice that we were able to take tours of other facilities that we have already gone through this process and glean from each the really good things and the things that work. (Also) to be able to talk to other directors and facility managers about what they did and really

wouldn’t do if they had to do it over,” McLean said. “We began the process as an open book. There was no predetermined size or shape or anything. We were able to keep our minds open and then go through the process of scaling back what we felt was needed or affordable to make it work for kids. ...You really have to have some experience and background in the area to do what works for young kids.”

Their job was to grab the ideal components, the ingredients of the soup, which the architects would pour together in the appropriate amounts, before the construction company, Rewold and Sons, mixed together for the finished product.

Keeping McLean and her team at the center of the conversations kept the project directed in the most appropriate way.

The new facility

LOCS celebrated the new facility with a June ground-breaking ceremony including the Early Childhood team, LOCS Administrators and the LOCS Board of Education.

As it has turned from a dirt clearing in summer to a concrete framed building in the fall to defined rooms and spaces by the new year, the excitement built.

Everyone has a favorite feature.

The center of the building is the heartbeat.

“The entry of the building is so inviting,” McLean said. “It’s very homey. It’s going to allow parents to come in and feel very comfortable and it’s a scene for families and young kids. If it’s your first school experience and you’re a parent of a first-born child and it’s time to bring your child to school, you’re probably a nervous parent. But walking in our doors is going to make parents feel very comfortable with our school and our district as a whole.”

After entering through the secure front doors, the gross motor room sits straight ahead. It features a gym-style open-area room for kids to move and release that uncontainable energy, year-round.

Because it opens into the unique playground—with individual elements designed to connect students to their natural surroundings—there is a synergy between the spaces, allowing large numbers of students in those areas at one time.

“We were able to look and research what are the things that need to be in an Early Childhood center,” Mercer said. “And one of those things that was definitely important to us was a connection to outside, a connection to nature. And I think you’ll see that throughout the building with how it was designed and making sure kids get to enjoy nature. We knew that’s huge, not only for their academic learning but also for their own mental and social well-being.”

The gross-motor room is flanked on each side by an extended learning area, one for STEM (*Science Technology Engineering Math*) and the other for the arts.

With the facility built in a V formation, each hallway is flanked by classrooms, each with outside door access to a small porch area. The classrooms facing the playground have direct access in and out of their classroom doors.

There is even a visible library, a feature other directors said was one of their most popular features.

Every detail was considered, from the family parking lot, where every parking space connects to a sidewalk for a safe care departure, to a child-size front door to the small window circles for the students to peek in the classroom at their level.

Tours of the other facilities were incredibly helpful to the design team as they sketched out their plans.

Years of McLean’s dreams became reality inside the classrooms.

Placing student cubbies right inside the playground door allowed them easy access for students' boots and coats. No hallway messes, no students tracking through the building and classrooms. An easy location for them to become empowered and learn the life skills.

"I was able to see it and it came to fruition in a couple of the sites we were able to visit," McLean said. "It made me feel it was working for other centers and this is exactly what I would like to do."

Placing the restrooms inside the classroom also was a critical piece for students learning to use the toilets.

"Now we have the opportunity to

have kids be independent and use the restroom when they need to," she said. "Those are two things I saw happening on our tours but they were something we were missing right now (at CERC)."

The educational impact

As LOCS prepares for the ECC's opening this fall, families will be reminded the school is just the start of their student's school career.

"That's one of the advantages," Mercer said. "The students who attend our Early Childhood programming, that programming is directly aligned to our

Kindergarten. Our students, even in the day care program, they are learning. When we say K-12 education, really in Lake Orion we're saying Pre-K-12."

That synergy dovetails into the Early Childhood curriculum and the LOCS district philosophy.

"It's more than custodial care," McLean said. "It's teaching them social emotional appropriate behavior. It's being around others, it's being supported by adults who care for them. Feeling safe is another piece, understanding that not only do their needs need to be met—food and clothing—but they need to be in a place that they feel safe so they can learn."

With registration opening for current families in March and the general public soon after, the excitement about the facility is growing.

At the CERC building, the program held about 210 students in a given school year. The new ECC will have room for up to 300 within the state of Michigan's licensing guidelines.

"We're able to be very forward thinking," McLean said. "We were able to think 10, 15, 20 years down the road with technology. ...There's room to grow. We didn't make it just big enough to fit who we had, we are expecting and wanting to grow the program."

"I won't be running the center for 20-25 years, but the center will be there and that's what we wanted for the community and new families over time."

LOCS Early Childhood Program

Programs Offered

- Pre-K 2 Full Day
- Pre-K 3 Full Day
- Pre-K 4 Full Day
- Pre-K 3/4 Half Days
- Early Head Start
- Head Start
- Great Start Readiness Program
- ECSE
- Child Care

- All staff is CPR and First Aid Certified
- Training and working with high school interns and high school leadership students

Curriculum and Program Insights

- The Early Childhood Program holds a Kindergarten Transition each year for Pre-K Teachers to meet with the student's Kindergarten Teacher.
- Collaboration with Special Education Staff and Services with the classroom
- Research-based High Scope Curriculum focusing on active and individualized learning for young children with proven school readiness outcomes.

Staff Insights

- Most staff hold a degree in the Early Childhood Field or an Early Childhood Credential
- All staff completes at least 24 hours of continuing education and professional development each year



Open House & Open Enrollment

March 4
4 to 7 p.m.
CERC

Community Education Resource Center
455 E. Scripps Road

Community Impact

IN A GENTLE WAY, YOU CAN SHAKE THE WORLD

—Mahatma Gandhi

With the recent passing of local business owner Anthony Reighard at the young age of 43, we at *Orion Living* have been thinking a lot about how a person impacts their community.

Anthony was the owner of M&B Graphics, a local printing company that supplies the community with signs, banners, fliers, business cards, t-shirts, logowear and much more. But more than running a business in our community, Anthony was an avid cheerleader and champion for anything and everything Lake Orion. He served on the Downtown Development Authority Board for several years, attended community events, sponsored a host of non-profit organizations and supported many school fundraisers. He was always willing to help out when it benefited a local organization, school children, or the community members. (See related story on page 17.)

“This was his home,” Anthony’s wife Chris said. “He loved the small town, close-knit community and the people in it. Anthony knew the town had to keep developing and knew people had to volunteer to make that happen. He loved

bringing people to Lake Orion to enjoy what he enjoyed. He loved when people were impressed with our community, the parks and activities.”

MAKE AN IMPACT

So, in what ways can you impact our community?

Join a charitable organization. There are many groups in our community that serve and benefit different segments of our population like The Lake Orion Lions Club, The Daisy Project, and the Orion Veterans Memorial.

Help with a community-wide event. Volunteers are always welcome to help organize and operate many of the events around town. Once COVID is but a memory, events like the Orion Lighted Christmas Parade and the Lake Orion Fireworks will return with renewed vigor.

Champion a cause. Many events and organizations work to address a social inadequacy or societal concerns. The North Oakland Community Coalition and Orion Area Youth Assistance need volunteers and mentors to work with those at risk.

“Community service and social awareness of how to contribute in our community starts with individuals who begin doing small acts of caring,” says Lt. Dan Toth of the Oakland County Sheriff’s

Department Orion Township Substation. “We may not always be able solve or eradicate every issue or condition in society, but we can certainly care enough to contribute to improving and making things better than we found it!”

Reach out to those in need. A few hours of your time each week or month can make life better for a neighbor going through a difficult time. Woodside Bible Church hosts a Forgotten Harvest Pop Up Pantry each Monday which provides free food to hundreds of Orion area families.

“Being able to serve our community each week is my honor and my passion, says Lake Orion High School teacher and Orion Township Trustee Julia Dalrymple. “I am grateful for the smiles and thank you’s we receive, but the real reward is knowing we are making a difference not only in the recipients’ lives, but our entire community. As I share with my students in class each week when I come in from the (Pop-Up) pantry, it is the highlight of my week to serve others and encourage our young people to get involved as well.”

Give where you can. Did you know there’s a Facebook group called Lake Orion Cares? It’s a simple resource for ways to help individuals or groups or to share a message of hope and concern. Giving comes in many forms: financial, of course, but also time, energy, talent, or just a friendly shoulder.

Love INC of North Oakland County helps get people back on their feet after a setback. “We want to focus on the



Photo by Scott Weiner

Anthony Reighard and his wife Chris attended the 2019 Holly Jolly Folly to support the Orion Lighted Christmas Parade. Anthony was a major sponsor of the parade and supported many local events and organizations. He unexpectedly passed away at age 43 in January.

person, not on the need,” says Executive Director Patricia Duke. “We want to serve in ways that transform lives. We want deeper outreach, partnership, and enrichment for those we serve and ourselves.”

Network your way to infamy. The business community is built on relationships created through networking with others who share similar interests or need your services. By making connections through networking, you expand your circle of influence and encounter new ways to become involved in the community. Check out the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce or the Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary Club for opportunities.

Turn a passion into a purpose. Love walking on the trails? The Polly Ann Trail and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission make that possible and could use your input. They also need volunteers to help keep the trails clean. Do you enjoy making videos or art? Check out Orion ONTV or the Orion Art Center for ways to use your talents to help others.

Shop locally. Supporting locally owned shops and restaurants helps not only them, but the overall community. Local businesses are the ones who sponsor our kids sports teams, participate in fundraising activities, and donate to local charities.

Be a good citizen. Support our schools, our front line workers and elected officials, and be willing to be part of

solutions that improve our community.

“Lake Orion Community Schools would like to thank all of the Orion community members who have supported our schools over the challenging past 12 months,” says LOCS Superintendent Ben Kirby. “From parents to businesses to supporters of all sorts, we appreciate the interest and caring for our students and staff. The community has supported the schools in many ways, with the 2018 bond passage as impactful as anything else, shown by the construction improvements in many of our facilities,” Ben says. “As we move toward the future, that support will continue to tie us all together as one community.”

However you choose to make your impact in the community, know that any forward action toward that goal will have

a trickle-down effect toward inspiring others, and will fill your own heart with a sense of satisfaction and purpose.

“Service to others will always make a difference, no matter how big or small,” Dalrymple says.

Anthony knew that it took individuals in the community working together to make a difference and bring about positive change. We can honor his legacy by carrying on his love for Lake Orion and by embracing his spirit of getting involved.

“Anthony donated and volunteered his time because he wanted everyone to succeed,” Chris said. “He took so much pride in Lake Orion.”



Above: Volunteers help sort and stack pallets of food to be given families in need as part of the Forgotten Harvest Pop-Up Pantry at Woodside Bible Church every Monday. The effort has been feeding over 500 local families each week during the past several months.



Left: The Real Men Wear Pink campaign to raise awareness for breast cancer brought out a throng of pink-clad participants in a fundraising event at Green's Park in 2019, pre-COVID.

LOCS Kindergarten Program Options 2021-2022

Parent Information Nights for all elementary schools

March 15, 2021 | 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Details regarding the format of the presentation being either remote or in-person will be shared closer to March 15.

Elementary Schools | Blanche Sims ▪ Carpenter
Orion Oaks ▪ Paint Creek ▪ Stadium Drive ▪ Webber



Enrollment

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

No appointment required

**Main office of the
neighborhood elementary
school**

Online registration begins on February 17, 2021. Go to lakeorionschools.org/enroll and select **New Student Enrollment** for instructions and requirements for the 2021-22 school year.

Required documents can be dropped off at your neighborhood school only on **Tuesday, March 23, 2021**. OR appointments can be made at Central Enrollment after February 17.

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1 to qualify.



LakeOrionSchools.org/Kindergarten

Questions? Call Central Enrollment at 248-814-0215

Give us your best shot!

Orion Living is always on the lookout for great photos that depict life in Orion.

Earn notoriety and a photo credit by sharing your work, and help us tell Orion's story!



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

SOCIAL DISTRICT NIGHTS



Every Thursday in Downtown Lake Orion is Social District Night 5PM-8PM!

Enjoy a beverage from a Social District Restaurant and stroll throughout downtown while enjoying those drinks - it's a bit like having NOLA in LO!

Ladies Night is the last Thursday every month! Don't miss specials, sales and promotions from your favorite downtown businesses. Gather up the girls for a night on the town!



Visit downtownlakeorion.org for all the details.

What Parents Need to Know About...

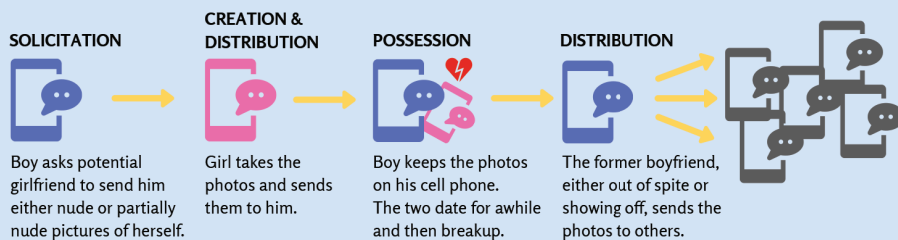
SOCIAL MEDIA

DANGEROUS PHOTOS

Asking for, sending, and receiving nude and partially nude photos is considered Child Pornography. In Michigan, this is a **felony charge**, even if the photos being taken and shared are consensual.

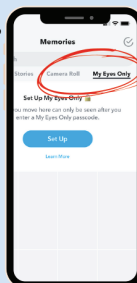
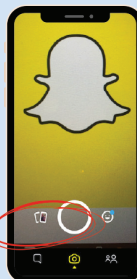
- Creation of sexually explicit material is a 20 year felony.
- Solicitation of sexually explicit material is also a 20 year felony.
- Distribution of such is a 7 year felony.
- Simply having these images is Possession, a 4 year felony.

FOR EXAMPLE:



SECRET SNAPCHAT

1. Students often store these photos in a "For Your Eyes Only" folder within their Snapchat accounts. The folder is password protected, and without knowledge of the folder, you'd never know it existed. To check to see if your child has this folder set up, open the Snapchat application on their phone. This will open up the main picture taking page, and you should see live image ready to take a photo.
2. Below or to the left of the "take a picture button" (large circle at bottom of the screen) there is a small icon that looks like two cards. Press the two playing cards icon. You will be in their memories photos which are some of the photos they have taken with Snapchat.
3. Along the top of the photos you should see some labels "SNAPS, CAMERA ROLL, MEMORIES, and MY EYES ONLY". Press the MY EYES ONLY BUTTON.
4. If you don't see MY EYES ONLY this means the MY EYES ONLY is not being used. If the phone pops up with a PIN entry keypad you will need the code from your kid. Standard answers when you ask your child for their PIN is that they "forgot" or they "never set it up".
5. Once past the secret pin you will see the photos your kids usually don't want you to see. Understand you are still not seeing the private disappearing snap chat messages they send to each other.



We'd like to thank our Oakland County Sheriff Deputy Jen Eriksen for this helpful information. We so appreciate Deputy Eriksen and Deputy Claudio Lopez for your social media expertise at our January Parent Huddle. You can find more helpful social media information for parents at www.protectyoungeyes.com.



NORTH OAKLAND COMMUNITY COALITION

MAKING CONNECTIONS | CREATING CHANGE

The North Oakland Community Coalition promotes a healthy environment, free of alcohol and substance misuse, through education, collaboration and endless faith in community spirit. Make sure that you stay up to date on prevention efforts in your community and follow us on social media.



NOCC PRESENTS

PARENT HUDDLE

Join us for a brief presentation followed by a time of q&a and conversation with parents, for parents. Our kids face a lot of challenges today, and sometimes parents need a game plan.

- **FEBRUARY 25TH, 7:00PM**
TOPIC: Our Kids & Mental Health
- **MARCH, DATE TBA**
TOPIC: Our Kids & Alcohol
- **APRIL, DATE TBA**
TOPIC: Our Kids & Marijuana

- register at www.noccmi.org -

Follow us!



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NOCCLkOrion



noccmi.org



Federal, State, and/or County funding has been provided through the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority - Substance Use Disorder Services to support the project costs.

REAL ESTATE TRENDS IN 2021

With the new year underway, we continue to see stronger trends towards home health, fitness, and outdoor recreation. A shift from open-concept layouts to dedicated spaces for home gyms and offices is a growing preference among potential buyers. Outdoor living spaces like fire pits, pools, and patio lighting all add to a home's appeal. The urge to be outside positions the real estate in Lake Orion favorably because of the amount of outdoor recreation in the area.

Orion Township Outdoor Recreation

47

Miles of Safety Paths

5

Local Parks

89

Bodies of Water

Attributing factors to Orion's median home sales prices being greater than those of Oakland County.

As we continue to move into the spring, Orion home sellers will continue to see a favorable demand. With interest rates staying at historically low levels, 2021 is an advantageous time for both buyers and sellers in the real estate market.

**IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING MAKING A MOVE,
CONTACT ME TO HELP YOU!**



TRACY WOODRUM | REALTOR®

C: 248.882.6631 | Tracy@WeAreDOBI.com



@realtortracy24



@tracywoodrum.realtor

**TUNE IN TO MY WEEKLY "TEA WITH TRACY" SERIES
ON INSTAGRAM FOR CURRENT MARKET INSIGHTS!**



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ORION LIVING

Our quarterly magazine combines publications from Orion Township, Parks & Recreation, Orion Township Public Library, Orion Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority and special features from Lake Orion Community Schools.

Charter Township of Orion
2525 Joslyn Road
Lake Orion, MI 48360

A person wearing a yellow helmet and a blue backpack is riding a mountain bike on a dirt trail through a dense forest. The trail is surrounded by tall trees and lush green foliage. The person is seen from behind, riding away from the camera.

Go where there is no path and leave a trail.

After the long, cold and isolating winter, it's time to take advantage of Orion's trails, paths and parks to get some fresh air and experience the rebirth of spring.

Photo by Kristen Smith