



Photo by Jim Newell

Cold months create warm memories

Wintertime in Downtown Lake Orion is special. The downtown drapes itself in bright holiday lights and finery, a perfect backdrop for the active winter months, welcoming residents and visitors for Hallmark-worthy scenes of a lighted parade, magical Trolley rides, and even a popular run and a golf event. The downtown is blanketed in welcoming coffee shops, comforting restaurants to enjoy a warm inviting meal, to festive shops and boutiques where you can find a perfect gift for that special someone. Come see what we have in store for you as we celebrate winter in Downtown Lake Orion!

December

Orion Lighted Christmas Parade, Saturday, December 7, 6 pm

Downtown Lake Orion becomes a postcard of “Hometown Holidays” when the annual Orion Lighted Christmas Parade makes its way through the holiday-decorated downtown of Lake Orion. It’s a great time to visit downtown retailers, coffee shops, and restaurants either before or after the parade. This year’s theme is “A Storybook Christmas”. Details at orionlightedparade.org.

Polar Express Storytime Trolley Rides, Saturday, December 14, Noon–3 pm

Purchase your timed ticket and be ready to get a Golden Ticket to enjoy a Trolley Ride full of fun and festivities! The Conductor will punch your ticket to a Trolley Ride where *The Polar Express* will be read, a stop for hot chocolate will be made and a visit from Santa rounds out the experience! A memory-making holiday event for families of all ages!

Hometown Holiday Shopping Passport Contest, through December 31

Get rewarded for your holiday gift giving! Shopping Passport cards will be located in Downtown Lake Orion merchant shops. Save your receipts from the shops and restaurants in the DDA that are \$25 and over (only one receipt per shop per day). Bring those receipts to the DDA Office (118 N. Broadway, Mon–Fri, 9 am–5 pm) or the Orion Art Center (115 S. Anderson, Thurs–Sat, 11 am–7 pm) to be verified and then your card stamped. Please note the businesses do not stamp the cards. Once you earn eight stamps you can collect your free gift at the same locations.

January

New Year’s Resolution Run, Wednesday, January 1

A tradition over 25 years in the making! Founded by Stan Ford and Hanson’s Running, this event routes you through picturesque Downtown Lake Orion. You can choose to do the 1.5-mile course or run it twice for the 5K Challenge. Each year between 150 and 200 participants take part as their annual New Year’s tradition. Whether it’s your first time or you’re a Lake Orion High School alumna or have been a participant for years, this event is for you. This run welcomes

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all ages and abilities to come together to start the new year off on the right foot! Fun Fact: there is always a costume theme every year, unveiled right before the run!



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February

Sunrise Rotary Ice Golf Challenge, Saturday, Feb. 1

In its 11th year, the Sunrise Rotary's Ice Golf Cup Challenge once again tests the skills and talents of local golfers and non-golfers alike. Set up as a 9-hole team scramble, the course twists and turns through the village streets, parks and even inside Downtown Lake Orion businesses. All proceeds go toward supporting essential community projects such as Beds for Kids, the FISH Pantry, and aiding local schools. Gather your friends and be part of an event that makes a positive impact in your community.

Bring your talents...Downtown

The life and spirit of our community happens downtown, and there is a spot for you and the ideas, energy and love of Lake Orion you spread like the widest wings of a dragon.

From Ice Fest, to Flower Fair, to Dragon on the Lake, Halloween Extravaganza, and the many displays, flowers and cheers that ring in each season, our downtown continues to be a "not so little" beacon of shopping, fun, and history. All of the watering, tending, and welcoming smiles has helped Lake Orion gain national recognition from the likes of America in Bloom, and has once again achieved Select accreditation from Main Street USA, our 17th year being honored.

So, how can YOU be part of the team?

A great community needs great leaders with a helpful spirit, and you might be just the right mix of talent, time and passion to help move our downtown even further. Each event, each idea, and each plan holds an opportunity for the people of Lake Orion to lend a hand or a word.

If you enjoy flowers, we have a spot for you. If you want to brainstorm the next theme of family events, we have a place for you. If you have a passion to create the vision for what our downtown is and needs to be, we have a place. All you need to do is respond to a simple question...can you help us?

Be a volunteer or join a committee:

- **Community engagement:** Volunteering helps you build a support system and stay in touch with others.
- **Community impact:** You can help improve the community by working on projects, raising money, and creating partnerships.
- **Community vision:** You can help bring a community's vision for their town to fruition.
- **Community needs:** You can help tailor the program to specific community needs.

The new year brings LOTS of opportunity. The Lumber Yard at Paint Creek is taking shape and needs helping hands, downtown events need planning and hosting, and the strategy behind the magic could use a few more ideas. Our award-winning Main Street Team has four committees, all in need of more voices.

Find out more about your DDA and where you might fit at downtownlakeorion.org, or you can call—or STOP IN AND SEE—Matt or Janet at the DDA office anytime: 118 N Broadway, Downtown, 248-693-9742.



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