

ORION LIVING

Issue 27 | *Winter 2025-26* | Charter Township of Orion, Michigan

THE *Winter Blues* NEVER FELT SO GOOD

YOUR QUARTERLY

Guide

TO LIFE IN ORION

Photo: Alison DeCaussin







Useful Numbers

EMERGENCIES

911

NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH
POLICE/FIRE/EMS

248-858-4911

LAKE ORION POLICE
DEPARTMENT (VILLAGE)

248-693-8321

ORION TOWNSHIP
(INCLUDING FIRE DEPARTMENT)

248-391-0304

WATER OR SEWER EMERGENCIES
AFTER-HOURS

248-858-4911

ORION AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

248-693-6300

ORION TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC LIBRARY

248-693-3000

LAKE ORION COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS

248-693-5400

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (DDA)

248-693-9742

VILLAGE OF LAKE ORION

248-693-8391

ROAD COMMISSION FOR
OAKLAND COUNTY

877-858-4804

LAKE ORION POST OFFICE

248-693-3253

ONTV

248-393-1060

Photo: Lee Smith

A SEASON OF *Pride*, PROGRESS, AND COMMUNITY



As winter settles into Orion Township, our community once again transforms into a snow-dusted wonderland. Whether you're sledding down the hill at Jesse Decker Park, taking a brisk walk on the safety path loop (Waldon, Baldwin, Clarkston, Joslyn), or enjoying the peaceful trails at Orion Oaks and Bald

Mountain, there's something special about this time of year that reminds us why we love calling Orion home.

This fall, Orion had the incredible honor of hosting the America in Bloom National Symposium, welcoming community leaders from across the country right here to see what makes Orion "Where Living Is a Vacation." From our parks and public art, to our trails and thriving downtown, we were proud to showcase the beauty, innovation, and spirit that define our township. Thank you to all the volunteers, staff, and local businesses who helped make it such a success, you showed the nation what Orion pride looks like!

Looking ahead, we're also turning the page to an exciting new chapter for our beloved recreation center. It's so much more than just a gym, it's a hub for connection, creativity, and community

life. With that in mind, we invited residents to help us rename it, and the response was amazing! The naming contest was full of clever ideas, great conversations, and plenty of hometown pride.

As always, thank you for being such an active, caring community. Your involvement, whether it's attending events, volunteering, or simply supporting one another, continues to make Orion Township a truly special place to call home.

Wishing you and your family a joyful, safe, and bright winter season.

See you around the Township!

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.

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Orion Township Welcomed the Nation for the 2025 America in Bloom Symposium



Showcasing Community Pride, Natural Beauty, and Innovation

This fall, Orion Township truly lived up to its motto — “Where Living Is a Vacation” — as it welcomed visitors from across the country for the 2025 America in Bloom National Symposium & Awards Celebration.

For several days, community leaders, beautification experts, and civic innovators gathered here to celebrate excellence in community vitality, sustainability, and engagement. But more than that, they came to experience what locals already know: that Orion’s natural beauty, creative spirit, and community pride are second to none.

From the moment guests arrived, they were greeted not just by fall color and crisp Michigan air, but by a community that had rolled out the welcome mat in true Orion fashion. Guests were immersed in the charm and character of our community, from the scenic landscapes of Heritage Park and Friendship Park, to the outdoor recreation and rustic beauty of Camp Agawam, the welcoming atmosphere of the Orion Township Public Library, and the lively spirit of Downtown Lake Orion. Each stop showcased the Township’s dedication to environmental stewardship, public art, and accessible recreation, values that perfectly align with the mission of America in Bloom.

One of the most memorable moments for many attendees was watching a Miracle League baseball game at Friendship Park. The joy and teamwork on the field reflected the very best of Orion, a place where inclusion, compassion, and fun come together in every inning.

To commemorate hosting the national symposium, Orion Township and the Orion in Bloom Committee came together for a special tree planting and dedication ceremony.

In a quiet moment surrounded by community members and visitors, a new tree was planted at Fire Station 1, a lasting symbol of growth, unity, and the enduring spirit of Orion.



Supervisor Chris Barnett shared, “This tree represents more than just a living landmark. It’s a promise, that we’ll keep nurturing our community, protecting our environment, and planting seeds that future generations will enjoy.”

The tree stands as both a tribute to the 2025 symposium and a reminder of Orion’s ongoing commitment to sustainability, beauty, and civic pride. Just as America in Bloom inspires communities nationwide to cultivate their best selves, Orion continues to lead by example, one project, and one tree, at a time.

Supervisor Chris Barnett reflected on the event with pride:

“Hosting the America in Bloom Symposium was a chance to share Orion’s story on a national level. We showcased not just our natural beauty, but the heart of our community, the people who volunteer, who plant flowers, who make Orion a place that feels like Where Living is a Vacation.”

Behind the scenes, hosting a national event of this scale was no small feat. The Orion in Bloom Committee and Township staff worked tirelessly for months to prepare for the event, coordinating tours, presentations, and hospitality that made the symposium both seamless and inspiring. From the pollinator gardens and native plantings at Heritage Park to the creative community programming at the library, each destination told a piece of the Orion story: one of connection, innovation, and pride.

The symposium concluded with the national awards celebration, where Orion received recognition for its ongoing commitment to community enhancement and vitality, along with the YouTube Video Award for its creative storytelling and outreach. But perhaps the biggest reward was the opportunity to connect, to share ideas, celebrate progress, and inspire future projects right here at home.



“The event reminded us that what makes Orion special isn’t just our beautiful spaces,” said Barnett. “It’s the people who care enough to make them even better.”

As the final buses pulled away and guests returned home, Orion was left not just with pride, but with new ideas and inspiration. The conversations started during the symposium, about sustainability, beautification, and civic engagement, are already taking root in new projects and partnerships across the Township.

With an eye on 2026 and beyond, Orion is poised to keep growing, together.

Because here, every garden, trail, mural, and park bench is more than a beautification project. It’s a reflection of a community that believes in its future and works every day to make it bloom.

A Little Less Salt, a Lot More Care: How Orion Can Keep Winter Waters Clean This Winter

It’s a crisp winter morning in Orion Township. The snow has settled softly overnight, blanketing driveways, sidewalks, and mailboxes in that picture-perfect Michigan way.

At the end of her street, long-time resident Lauren Y. grabs her shovel, ready to tackle the morning’s chore. “I used to go through half a bag of salt every snowfall it seemed,” she laughs. “Now I barely use a coffee mug’s worth.”

Lauren isn’t alone. Across Orion, more residents are rethinking how they handle winter ice — not just for safety, but for the health of the waterways that make our community so special.

What many don’t realize is that when snow and ice melt, the salt we scatter to melt it doesn’t disappear. Instead, it flows into storm drains, then into the Clinton River and its connected lakes — including our own Lake Orion. Once there, it can’t be filtered out. High levels of chloride from road salt can harm fish, plants, and the overall balance of aquatic life.

That’s why the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) is encouraging simple, mindful winter habits that protect both people and the planet.

Step 1: Shovel First

Before you reach for the salt, clear as much snow and ice as you can by hand. The more you shovel, the less you’ll need to melt later. Lauren learned that trick from a CRWC workshop: “It takes a few extra minutes, but I’ve cut my salt use in half — and it feels good knowing I’m helping the lake.”

Step 2: Use Salt Sparingly

More salt doesn’t mean less ice. In fact, using too much just adds to pollution without improving traction. The right amount is surprisingly small — less than four pounds for every 1,000 square feet (about a heaping 12-ounce coffee mug). Sprinkle it lightly, give it time to work, and be patient.

Step 3: Sweep It Up

Once the pavement dries, sweep up any leftover salt or sand. It’s no longer working — and if left there, it’ll wash into the storm drain with the next thaw. Reuse it for the next storm or toss it in the trash.

Step 4: Know When Salt Stops Working

When the thermometer dips below 15°F, most salts become ineffective. In those deep-freeze conditions, use sand for traction instead. It keeps you safe and prevents excess salt from heading downstream.

Step 5: Slow Down and Share the Road

Even our local plow drivers are part of the solution. The slower they drive, the more evenly salt is spread, which means less waste and less runoff. So next time you’re following a plow on Baldwin or Clarkston Road, give them space and a friendly wave. They’re helping keep our roads and rivers safe.

A Small Change with Big Impact

Our community has always taken pride in its lakes and natural spaces. From kayaking on Lake Orion to fishing the Paint Creek, clean water is part of what makes Orion living so special.

As Lauren puts it, “I used to think my driveway didn’t matter much in the grand scheme of things. But if everyone does a little better, it adds up fast.”

This winter, Orion can lead by example, one shovel, one mug of salt, and one mindful neighbor at a time.

To learn more about protecting our local waterways, visit crwc.org or follow the Clinton River Watershed Council on social media.



Winter Wisdom:

How Orion Residents Can Protect Their Homes (and Hydrants!) This Season



Keep Your Pipes Cozy

If you’ve ever had a frozen pipe, you know how quickly it can turn into a costly problem. Before winter really sets in, take a few minutes to inspect your pipes, especially those along outside walls, in crawl spaces, attics, or garages.

Wrap exposed lines in insulation or heat tape (your local hardware store can help you choose the best kind) and seal any wall gaps with caulk to keep the cold air out.

Michigan winters sometimes mean blustery storms and temporary power outages. If you lose heat but remain home (or can monitor it often), let one faucet drip cold water slowly.



Pro Tip: If a power outage knocks out your heat, let a faucet drip slowly. Pick the one farthest from your main water shutoff valve—or one in a cold spot like a basement or garage. The slow flow keeps water moving, making it less likely to freeze.

If Your Water Meter Freezes—Don't DIY!

Think your water meter is frozen? Call us right away at 248-391-0304, ext. 8500. Trying to thaw it yourself can cause major damage and repairs that are much harder (and more expensive) to fix later.



Snowbirds, We've Got You Covered

Heading south for the winter? Make sure your home stays protected while you're gone. You have two options:

- ▶ Leave the heat on to keep pipes warm
- OR
- ▶ Have your water shut off at the curb by Orion Township's Department of Public Services.

Just give us a call at 248-391-0304, ext. 8500 to schedule a shut-off time. Before you return home, contact us again to turn it back on. A homeowner or designated representative must be present during reconnection in case of a leak.



Emergencies Happen — Here's Who to Call

When something unexpected happens, knowing who to call can make all the difference.

- ▶ During Township hours: 248-391-0304, ext. 8500
- ▶ After hours or weekends: Oakland County Emergency Dispatch at 248-858-4911

Keep these numbers somewhere handy, your future self will thank you!



Stay Connected: Pay or View Your Bill Online

You might've noticed a new QR code on your monthly water or sewer bill. Scan it with your phone to check your balance, view your account, or pay your bill instantly online. No stamps, no lines — just easy.



Pro Tip: Heading away for the holidays or to warmer weather for the season? Don't turn the heat off completely! Keep your thermostat set low but steady — around 55°F — to prevent pipes from freezing while you're gone.

A Little Prevention Goes a Long Way

Winter in Orion doesn't have to mean winter worries. By taking these small steps, you're protecting your home, your neighbors, and your community.

For more information, visit oriontownship.org or call the Department of Public Services at 248-391-0304, ext. 8500.



Clear the Way: Why Shoveling Out Fire Hydrants Could Save a Life

When a heavy Michigan snowstorm rolls through, we all have the same ritual—shovel the driveway, clear the mailbox, maybe even help a neighbor with their sidewalk. But there's one spot that often gets overlooked: the bright red fire hydrant sitting quietly at the edge of your yard.

In the middle of winter, that hydrant might not seem important. It's easy to assume firefighters will take care of it if needed. But in a real emergency, every second counts—and snow-packed hydrants can cost firefighters precious time.

A Matter of Minutes

Imagine this: a house fire starts on your street. The fire department races to the scene, sirens wailing. When they arrive, they spot the nearest hydrant—but it's buried under two feet of snow.

Before they can hook up the hose, they have to dig. Thirty seconds turns into two minutes, then three. Those minutes could be the difference between containing a small blaze and losing an entire home.

"Fire spreads faster than most people realize," says Orion Township Fire Chief Ryan Allen. "Being able to quickly access a hydrant is important. With today's modern furnishings, fires are burning quicker, and a room can be fully engulfed in less than a minute. For this reason, it is important to clear a 3-foot space around a fire hydrant, especially in the winter when snow and ice can make access difficult. Anything that prevents a delay in response helps."

How You Can Help

You don't have to be a firefighter to be part of the solution. Orion Township encourages all residents to "Adopt a Hydrant" near their property — whether it's in your yard, across the street, or down the block.

After each snowfall:

- ▶ Clear a three-foot radius around the hydrant.
- ▶ Shovel a path from the street to the hydrant so it's easily accessible.
- ▶ If possible, mark it with a tall stake or reflective flag so it's visible even in deep snow.

It only takes a few minutes, but it could save your neighbor's home—or your own.

Community Safety Starts Small

Keeping hydrants clear isn't just about compliance; it's about community. When Orion residents take ownership of their neighborhoods, it builds a sense of shared responsibility and pride.

So, this winter, when you're bundled up and heading out with your shovel, take a quick look around. That little red hydrant might not say much—but if it could, it would thank you for keeping it ready for action.

 **Remember: fire spreads in under a minute, and every second matters.**

Serving with Pride: The Oakland County Sheriff's Office–Orion Township Substation

Every day, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office – Orion Township Substation works quietly but diligently behind the scenes to keep our community safe. Whether it's responding to emergencies, assisting at community events, or simply being a reassuring presence on our roads, Orion's dedicated deputies are an integral part of what makes our township a great place to live.



**SUBSTATION COMMANDER
LIEUTENANT
H. KEITH WEIR**



**SHERIFF
MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD**

A Strong Partnership

Orion Township contracts with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) for local law enforcement services, a partnership that's been in place for decades. In fact, Orion has the longest standing contract with the Sheriff's Office. This relationship allows Orion residents to benefit from the strength, resources, and specialized expertise of one of Michigan's largest law enforcement agencies, while still maintaining a hometown connection through the local substation.

Under the leadership of Orion Substation Commander Lt. Weir, the team of deputies, detectives, and support staff provide full-time police services, including road patrol, traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, and community outreach.

More Than Law Enforcement

Beyond traditional police work, the deputies at the Orion Substation take pride in being active members of the community. You'll find them participating in events like Big Rig Gig, 5Ks, and parades, or visiting schools to talk with students about safety and positive decision-making.

The substation also coordinates with local organizations and township departments to support programs such as Shop with a Hero, holiday food drives, and business safety trainings—demonstrating that safety is a true community effort.

Safety Through Connection

Lt. Weir emphasizes that building relationships is one of the most effective tools in maintaining a safe community.

"We live and work here too," he says. "When residents know their deputies and feel comfortable reaching out, that partnership creates a safer and stronger Orion for everyone."

Residents are encouraged to stay connected—reporting concerns, asking questions, or even just saying hello when they see deputies in the community. The substation's proactive, community-first approach ensures that safety isn't just about response, it's about prevention, visibility, and trust.

A Modern Facility, A Local Focus

The Orion Substation serves as the operational hub for the township's law

enforcement activity. It houses patrol offices, interview rooms, administrative staff, and equipment storage, all designed to help deputies respond quickly and effectively throughout the community.

With around-the-clock service, deputies patrol Orion's neighborhoods, business districts, and lakes—handling everything from traffic safety to complex investigations. Their focus is simple: keeping Orion Township a safe, welcoming place for residents, visitors, and businesses alike.

A Note of Thanks

The next time you see one of Orion's deputies around town, take a moment to wave or say thank you. Their commitment to public safety, community engagement, and professional service plays a vital role in maintaining the quality of life that makes Orion so special.

Learn More

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office – Orion Township Substation is located at 2323 Joslyn Road.

For non-emergency inquiries, call 248-393-0090.

In an emergency, always dial 911.

What's going there?

From exciting new businesses and community amenities to thoughtfully designed neighborhoods, development across Orion reflects a balance of progress and small-town character. If you've driven around lately, you've probably noticed some fresh construction underway. Here's a closer look at what's being built, and what's coming soon, to our community.



Sheetz Orion

Good news for coffee lovers and road trippers—Sheetz is coming to Orion. The new store will be located at the southwest corner of Silverbell and Lapeer Roads, offering 24-hour convenience, a fast-food restaurant, drive-thru service, and fueling stations all in one spot.

The 6,137-square-foot location recently received full site approval, and construction is expected to begin soon. Known for its fresh food made-to-order and welcoming atmosphere, Sheetz is a favorite throughout the Midwest and beyond. Its arrival marks another addition to Orion's growing list of everyday amenities.

PTV Boat & RV Storage

There's something new happening along Indianwood Road! Construction has begun on PTV Boat & RV Storage, located just west of 3020 Indianwood Rd. This 13.79-acre site will soon feature five buildings with 114 rental units in a variety of sizes—perfect for storing boats, campers, and recreational vehicles during the off-season.

With Orion's love for outdoor adventure, this secure and convenient storage facility will be a welcome addition, offering residents a local place to store their seasonal vehicles and gear when they're not out exploring the great outdoors.

1115 S. Lapeer Road

If you've driven by 1115 S. Lapeer Road, you may have noticed a temporary trailer on-site—that's because a new 7,549-square-foot multi-tenant retail building is under construction!

The trailer is currently being used as a temporary bank, which will later move into the new building once it's complete. The finished development will feature a drive-up ATM and multiple retail spaces for additional tenants, enhancing both convenience and variety along this busy corridor.



Villas at Forest Glen

For those looking to downsize without compromising comfort, the Villas at Forest Glen offer a fresh option for single-story living in a peaceful, community-oriented setting. Located on the north side of Waldon Road, east of 310 Waldon, this development is well underway and will include 42 single-family condominium-style homes ranging from 1,700 to 1,900 square feet.

Designed for convenience and low maintenance, each home will feature modern layouts and attached garages. With proximity to parks, shopping, and dining, the Villas at Forest Glen bring the best of both worlds, quiet living with all the essentials just minutes away.

A Growing Orion

These projects are just a snapshot of the exciting development activity happening throughout Orion Township. Each new addition, whether it's housing, business, or community infrastructure, contributes to the vibrant mix that makes Orion a great place to live, work, and play.

As the Township continues to grow, thoughtful planning remains at the heart of every project, ensuring that progress goes hand-in-hand with preserving the charm and character that residents love.

Learn More

To stay informed about development projects, zoning updates, and planning initiatives, visit the Orion Township Planning & Zoning Department online at oriontownship.org. You can also follow Orion Township on Facebook for regular updates and community news.

Orion Township Natural Resources Department: 2025 Accomplishments



Preserving Today for a Greener Tomorrow

In 2025, the Orion Township Natural Resources Department made tremendous progress in preserving, restoring, and enhancing our community’s natural areas. Through grants, partnerships, and dedicated hands-on work, the department continues to protect Orion’s environment while creating lasting benefits for residents, wildlife, and future generations.

From planting native seeds to restoring pollinator habitats, each project reflects Orion Township’s deep commitment to keeping our community naturally beautiful.



CHIPS Grant Awarded

This year, Orion Township was proud to receive the Community Habitat Improvement Projects (CHIPS) Grant, which funded native seed plantings at the Municipal Complex. These new plantings are more than just beautiful, they’re essential for improving soil health, supporting pollinators, and increasing biodiversity.

By prioritizing native vegetation, the Township is helping local ecosystems thrive naturally, creating habitats that require less maintenance while benefiting wildlife for years to come.

Invasive Species Management

Orion residents continue to lead the charge in protecting our natural landscapes. In 2025, 11 local sites applied for the Invasive Species Program, showcasing the community’s dedication to ecological restoration.

These projects reduce the spread of invasive plants, restore balance to natural ecosystems, and allow native species to reclaim their place in Orion’s woodlands, wetlands, and parks. Together, we’re protecting the wild heart of Orion.

Friendship Park Restoration Projects

This year, Friendship Park served as a shining example of how restoration and community engagement go hand-in-hand. Several key projects took place, each making a measurable impact:

- **Removal of Invasive Trees:** Autumn Olive and Asian Pear trees were removed to make room for native plants that support pollinators and wildlife.
- **Prescribed Burn:** A carefully managed burn rejuvenated native prairie plants, returned nutrients to the soil, and encouraged biodiversity.
- **Monarch Pollinator Garden:** A new Monarch Garden now provides vital habitat for butterflies and other pollinators.
- **Community Seed Giveaway:** Fifty milkweed seed packets were distributed to residents, helping create a township-wide network of pollinator-friendly gardens.

These projects not only revitalize the park’s natural areas but also provide educational opportunities for residents to see conservation in action.



Tree City USA Recognition & Urban Forestry Success

For the second consecutive year, Orion Township was honored as a Tree City USA, recognizing our dedication to effective urban forest management.

In 2025, the Natural Resources Department continued to nurture Orion’s trees with thoughtful care and long-term planning:

- **76 new trees planted** across public spaces and parks
- **92 trees pruned** to promote health, safety, and growth
- **51 trees removed** to eliminate hazards and make way for new plantings

Every tree represents more than shade and beauty, it’s a symbol of our community’s commitment to sustainability, cleaner air, and a greener Orion for generations to come.



Looking Ahead

As Orion Township continues to grow, so does its dedication to protecting and celebrating the natural world around us. The Natural Resources Department will keep focusing on habitat restoration, urban forestry, and community education, ensuring Orion remains a place where both people and wildlife can thrive.

Every seed planted and every project completed moves us closer to a healthier, more sustainable future, one that future generations can be proud to inherit.

Get Involved!

Want to help keep Orion Township green and thriving? There are many ways to get involved with local conservation and restoration efforts:

- Volunteer for community planting days, cleanups, and park restoration events.
- Adopt-a-Spot to help maintain a public green space near you.
- Join our programs to learn about native plants, pollinator gardening, and sustainable landscaping.

Follow Orion Township on social media or visit oriontownship.org to learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities and environmental initiatives.

Winter in Orion Township: Fresh Air, Frost, and Fun



Photo: K Gedda Smith Images

Your guide to embracing the season outdoors!

When the air turns crisp and the first snowflakes settle on the pines, Orion Township transforms into a true winter wonderland. With sparkling trails, rolling sledding hills, and scenic parks, there’s no need to hibernate, there’s adventure waiting just outside your door.

Orion is known as “Where Living is a Vacation,” and that spirit doesn’t fade when the temperatures drop. Whether you’re taking a brisk walk on the paved loop, gliding through the trees at Bald Mountain, or watching your kids race down the hill at Jesse Decker Park, winter in Orion is about slowing down, getting outside, and soaking in the simple joys of the season.

A Winter Walk on the Township Loop

You don’t need snowshoes or skis to enjoy Orion’s great outdoors, just a good pair of boots and a warm hat. The paved loop that follows Baldwin, Waldon, Joslyn, and Clarkston Roads is a year-round favorite for walkers, runners, and cyclists.

In winter, this Seven-mile loop becomes something special. The snow softens the sounds of the township, turning familiar sights into a quiet landscape of frosted trees and glistening fields. The wide, paved path is maintained through the colder months by the Parks Department, making it accessible for strollers, leashed dogs, and even adventurous joggers.

For residents, the loop is more than just a route, it’s a rhythm. Morning walkers’ wave to familiar faces, couples stroll at sunset with warm drinks in hand, and families take weekend walks bundled in scarves and laughter. It’s a simple way to stay active, breathe fresh air, and reconnect with nature, even when it’s below freezing.

Tip: Bring a pair of lightweight traction cleats for your shoes on icy days and stop to enjoy the winter views near Civic Center Park or the scenic stretches along Joslyn like Lake Sixteen.

Sledding Smiles at Jesse Decker Park

There’s no better sound in winter than the joyful squeals of children (and those young at heart) racing down a snowy hill. At Jesse Decker Park, that sound echoes all season long. The park’s sledding hill has become a beloved winter tradition for Orion families, a safe, open slope that’s just steep enough for fun but gentle enough for all ages.

Bring your sleds, toboggans, or snow tubes and enjoy a classic Michigan afternoon. The hill is long and wide, allowing plenty of space for families to spread out. Parents can watch from the top as little ones glide down or join in on the fun themselves (after all, sledding is ageless).

Afterward, take a break at the park’s pavilion or warm up in your car with a thermos of hot chocolate. The surrounding open space is also great for building snowmen, snow angels, or even a friendly snowball fight.

Tip: The best sledding conditions are typically right after a fresh snowfall when temperatures stay below freezing—so keep your eye on the forecast!



Photo: Howard Barager



Photo: K Gedda Smith Images

Orion Oaks County Park: Winter at Its Best

If you’re craving a bit more adventure, Orion Oaks County Park offers 916 acres of winter bliss. With over 10 miles of scenic trails, it’s the perfect place for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or winter hiking. The park’s rolling terrain winds through woods, wetlands, and meadows, each with its own quiet beauty under a blanket of snow.

One of Orion Oaks’ highlights is its Dog Park, one of the largest in the region. Even in the winter, it’s a lively spot for both two- and four-legged visitors. Dogs love bounding through the snow, and owners get to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow pet lovers who don’t let a little chill stop the fun.

As you explore, you might spot deer tracks, chickadees fluttering through the trees, or the flash of a red cardinal against the snow. The calm and quiet of Orion Oaks in winter offer a reminder of how close to nature we truly are.

Tip: Bring a thermos of coffee or tea and take a rest at one of the park’s scenic overlooks for a peaceful moment of reflection, you might just have the trails to yourself.

Bald Mountain Recreation Area: Adventure Awaits

For those who like their winter a little more rugged, Bald Mountain Recreation Area is a must-visit destination. Stretching across more than 4,600 acres, this state park offers some of the best cross-country skiing and snowshoeing terrain in southeast Michigan.

The trails wind through forests, around frozen lakes, and across gently sloping hills that make for an invigorating, but manageable, workout. The North Unit of the park, off Greenshield Road, is especially popular for winter recreation, offering multiple loops for different skill levels.

For a quieter outing, take a walk through the South Unit, where you can enjoy the stillness of the forest and maybe catch sight of wildlife making their way through the snow. Bald Mountain also offers opportunities for ice fishing and wildlife photography, so don’t forget your camera.

Tip: A Michigan Recreation Passport is required for park entry. Bring your own skis or rent locally before heading out and check the DNR’s website for current trail and weather conditions.

Warm Hearts, Cold Hands

Winter in Orion Township is more than just a season, it’s a shared experience. It’s neighbors waving from across snow-covered driveways, kids laughing on sleds, and the crunch of boots on a freshly cleared trail.

When the sun sets early and the air grows still, Orion’s parks and paths invite you to slow down and appreciate the quiet magic of the season. Whether you’re seeking solitude, exercise, or family fun, you’ll find it right here in your own backyard.

So, this winter, don’t stay cooped up, grab your gloves, step outside, and rediscover what makes Orion Township so special. The air may be cold, but the community spirit is always warm.

Plan Your Winter Fun in Orion Township

Jesse Decker Park – Family-friendly sledding hill, open fields, pavilion

Orion Oaks County Park – 10+ miles of trails for skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, and a popular year-round dog park

Bald Mountain Recreation Area – Over 4,600 acres for skiing, snowshoeing, and winter wildlife viewing

Township Loop Trail – Paved multi-use loop along Baldwin, Waldon, Joslyn, and Clarkston Roads; perfect for winter walks and runs

For maps, updates, and seasonal programming, visit oriontownship.org or follow Orion Township Parks & Recreation on Facebook for event news, park conditions, and community updates.

Photo: Alison DeCausinn





Welcome Winter in Downtown Lake Orion

Whether you prefer to find yourself during winter in a cozy coffee shop, warming your hands with a smooth peppermint latte or riding your bike on the trails that wind through snow-covered trees, you can find your winter experience in Downtown Lake Orion. Visit shops with festive displays where you'll discover your perfect holiday finds, and put a night out with friends on the calendar at a local restaurant serving up holiday-themed cocktails and show-stopping eats. Downtown Lake Orion serves those who want to stay active with our parks, trails, and the traditional January 1 Lake Orion Resolution Run through downtown, as well as those who prefer watching the snow from frosty retail shop windows. Use ShopOCMainStreets.com for a retail experience that still supports our downtown merchants while you wrap yourself in a cozy blanket at home. Come to Downtown Lake Orion and experience all the season has to offer—no matter which experience is the one you prefer.



DECEMBER

Artists Holiday Art Market

Orion Art Center
December 5-20, 10 am-7 pm

The Orion area loves their art and a great location to support local artists is the Orion Art Center's Artists Holiday Art Market. It starts December 5 and runs each Friday and Saturday until December 20 at the Orion Art Center in Downtown Lake Orion. A wonderful mix of pottery, jewelry, fabric art, ornaments, décor, and more are available for purchase. It is a heart-warming way to find the perfect gift for someone.



Holly Jolly Folly

Lighted Parade Fundraiser

Golling Buick/GMC & Orion Area Parade Group
December 5, 6-11 pm

It's a collective effort of volunteers, sponsors, and donations that keep the area's largest lighted parade, Orion Lighted Christmas Parade, twinkling brightly through Downtown Lake Orion. Get your tickets for a fun evening of dinner, dancing, silent auction, and more!



Orion Lighted Christmas Parade

Presented by Orion Area Parade Group
Saturday, December 6, 6 pm

Downtown Lake Orion becomes the perfect backdrop for "Hometown Holiday" with the traditional and brightly twinkling Orion Lighted Christmas Parade. It sets the season aglow and warms hearts as the parade makes its way through the downtown. Come early and enjoy the storefront windows, shops, local coffee stops, and grab dinner before all the festivities begin. Find more details at orionlightedparade.com.



Polar Express Storytime Trolley Rides

Hosted by Lake Orion DDA
Saturday, December 13 from 11 am-3 pm

Purchase your timed ticket for the Polar Express experience! Check in at Stadium Elementary and get your golden ticket at check-in! Enjoy a hot cocoa with lots of fun toppings, plus kids crafts, too. When your time is ready, dash away on the holiday decorated trolley for storytime with Mrs. Claus and The Conductor—they even include popular holiday carols! Your downtown stop is your family visit with Santa, complete with cookies and a bell ornament keepsake. This is a memory-making event that kids (and parents) will treasure.



Photo: Brett's Perspective Photography

JANUARY

New Year's Resolution Run

Presented by Hanson's Running
Thursday, January 1, Runs start at 10 am

A staple among area runners with an over 25 year history. This run routes you through beautiful Downtown Lake Orion. You have a course selection of either a 1.5 mile course or run it twice for the 5K Challenge. Up to 200 participants take part in this annual New Year's tradition with a new theme announced each year. All skill levels and ages welcome. Start the year off right with the New Year's Resolution Run!



Follow Us! [f LakeOrionDDA](https://www.facebook.com/LakeOrionDDA) [@ DowntownLakeOrion](https://www.instagram.com/DowntownLakeOrion) [DowntownLakeOrion.org](https://www.DowntownLakeOrion.org)



FEBRUARY

Downtown Lake Orion IceFest/Sunrise Rotary Ice Cup Golf Challenge

Saturday, February 7

The Downtown Lake Orion IceFest by the Lake Orion DDA adorns its streets with ice carvings throughout downtown—which look great by day and are illuminated at night. IceFest also hosts live ice carving demonstrations during the day.

In it's 12th year, the Sunrise Rotary Ice Cup Golf Challenge is also during the same day making it twice as fun! Sponsor a hole or come participate as a player, it is an unforgettable day out making your way through the Downtown Lake Orion golf course set up. All proceeds go to supporting local charities and initiatives that are essential to the Orion community. Gather your friends and be part of the positive action in our area.



Photo: Lake Orion Review



Orion Art Center

February 7-28

A new gallery show opens February 7 at 6 pm at Orion Art Center in Downtown Lake Orion. The show, heART Appreciation is perfectly placed in the month recognizing the love of art and Valentine's Day.



The Illuminators are the heartbeat of Lake Orion's downtown—a passionate group of volunteers dedicated to keeping our town vibrant, welcoming, and full of life. We work together to enhance events, beautify our surroundings, and support local businesses.

Some of our ongoing projects include:

- Beautification/Seasonal Downtown Decor (planning/installation)
- Video/Photography
- Social Media
- Events
- Fundraising
- In Office Support
- Street Team (pass out posters, event flyers, etc. to our downtown businesses)
- BOOMS Tracker Support (business inventory)
- Grants/Awards Submissions
- Volunteer Recruitment/Recognition
- Trainings
- Facade Grant Program
- Surveys
- Historic Preservation
- Art Initiatives (murals, installations, utility boxes)

Scan this code to join the Illuminators Private Group page on Facebook. Learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities & engage with the Lake Orion community.



Beat the Winter Blues- Get Moving at the Recreation Center!

“As long standing members from GLAC’s first opening in 2003, we have seen many changes. The ongoing restoration looks fantastic. Everything completed feels modern, spacious, functional and clean. The Renovation efforts shows how much staff values their members and implemented feedback- a job well done!”
-John & Kathy M.



Facility Hours:
Mon-Fri: 5 am-9 pm
Sat & Sun: 6 am- 8pm

Childcare Hours:
Mon-Thu: 9 am-1 pm | 4-7 pm
Fri & Sat: 9 am-1 pm
Sun: Closed

Indoor Pool Hours:
Mon-Fri: 5 am-6 pm | **Sat-Sun:** 9 am-6 pm

Family Pool Hours:
Tue & Thu: 11 am-4 pm
Mon, Wed, Fri: 11 am-6 pm
Sat: 12 pm-6 pm
Sun: 9 am-6 pm



STOP BY IN PERSON
3800 S. Baldwin Rd



Check out Membership Rates!



- Amenities:**
- Basketball Courts
 - Children’s Center
 - Enrichment Classes
 - Guest Passes \$10R/\$12NR
 - Group Fitness Classes
 - Indoor & Outdoor Pools
 - Indoor Track
 - Olympic Lifting Room
 - Personal Training
 - Senior Matinee
 - Mon-Fri | 10 am-1 pm
 - Senior Services
 - Steam Room & Sauna

“I appreciate all the repairs that are being made, especially the sauna. The new wing is incredible, it’s nice to see so many community events. I’ve been a member since Great Lakes Athletic Club opened and it’s nice to see the upkeep of the gym again. I live in Lake Orion and I’m very happy with what the Township is doing.”
-Abraham B.



VISIT US ONLINE
orionparks.com

SPECIAL EVENTS



Holiday Art & Craft Market

Recreation Center | Fri, Dec 5 | 3-6 pm
Free Parking & Admission

#BuyNearBy and Shop Local! Start your holiday shopping early with one-of-a-kind, hand-made unique arts and crafts featuring distinctive and classic Made in Michigan products, made by Michiganders for Michiganders! Find an exclusive holiday, birthday, or just because gift for yourself and your friends & family! Vendors will be throughout the Club with everything from one-of-a-kind, hand-made jewelry, clothing, and home décor.



Merry & Mischief

Recreation Center | Sat, Dec 13 | 10 am
11 am | 12 pm | Ages 1-8 | \$16R/\$17NR

Join us for cookies, Claus and a little Grinchy chaos. Visit with Santa, decorate cookies, make reindeer food that is sure to make reindeer fly and enjoy some holiday cheer. Write a letter to the big guy and a return letter will be mailed back to you the week of Christmas. While you're here, strike a pose with the Grinch in person and enjoy the movie How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Be sure to take tons of pictures because this will be the BEST DAY EVER! Parents and youth in carriers are free with paid participant(s).

Frosting & Fun

Recreation Center | Mon, Dec 15 | 6-7 pm
Ages 9-15 | \$9R/\$10NR

Love Cookies? Who doesn't? Get in the Holiday spirit with some sugar cookie decorating fun while we enjoy a Christmas classic movie! Snacks and beverages will be provided.



New Year's Eve Fitness Blast

Recreation Center | Wed, Dec 31
9-11 am | Free

Join your Grove Fitness Team as we ring in the New Year with a sampling of your favorite fitness classes. Our 5th Annual event will be held at the Recreation Center from 9-11 am followed by a social hour at Johnny Black's Public House. Registration required.



Blood Drive with Versiti Blood Center

Recreation Center | Tue | Jan 20 | Mar 24
1-5:30 pm | Ages 17+

Every day, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan needs more than 560 blood products to meet hospital demand. What we collect will be used to help people in your community. The key to success is to fill all appointment slots. Schedule your appointment at donate.michigan.versiti.org. Future dates are May 19, Jul 21, Sep 15, Nov 17



Winter Fitness and Fun Fest

Camp Agawam | Sat, Jan 31 | 2-5 pm | Free

Not a winter person? Maybe this will change your mind! Bundle up and bring the whole family to Orion Township's first-ever Winter Fest at Camp Agawam. Nestled among towering pines and along the peaceful Tommy's Lake, this beautiful campground transforms into a snowy wonderland filled with fun for all ages. Spend the day participating in your favorite winter activities and then warm up around a bonfire at the Fire Bowl. Concessions will be available, including hot cocoa! Enjoy music, winter ambiance and a beautiful winter scene! Winter Fest is the perfect way to celebrate the season with friends, family, and neighbors to simply savor the cozy charm of winter in the woods.

"Pal-entines" Barre Social

Recreation Center | Wed, Feb 11
5:30-6:30 pm | Free

You've heard of Valentines and Galentines, we're here to bring you Pal-entines, a chance for you to share your love of Barre class with your bestie or bro! Bring a friend to this Valentine's themed Barre class led by Mykala and Caitie and stick around for a post-event social. For those new to Barre, expect elements of dance, ballet, and functional strength exercises that can improve your muscle tone, posture, and flexibility. This event is free but registration is required.



Puzzle & Game Day Swap

Recreation Center | Tue, Feb 17
Wed, Apr 1 | 9 am-3 pm | Free

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



Bunny Bop

Recreation Center | Sat, Mar 28
9:30 am | 10:30 am | 11:30 pm
Ages 1-8 | \$12R/\$14NR

Spring is in the air! Hop on over for a photo visit with a special bunny, craft project and egg hunt. Remember to bring your basket, youth will be broken down by age for the egg hunt. Pre-registration required, spaces are limited. Children in carriers and adults with registered participants are free.

Spring Break Car Bingo

Friendship Park | Wed, Apr 1 | 1-2:30 pm
All Ages | Free

Need something to do over Spring Break? Join us for some safe fun in the Friendship Park parking lot playing Car Bingo! You can park near the Friendship Park Pavilion. All participants will receive a set of bingo cards upon arriving. As you hear your numbers over the radio, use a marker to mark those numbers on your card. If you get a BINGO, you'll honk your horn to let the callers know and walk up to the building to check your scores and receive your prize!

Recreation Center | 3800 S. Baldwin Rd.

Flashlight Egg Hunt

Camp Agawam | Thu, Apr 2 | 8-9 pm
Ages 9-15 | \$10R/\$12NR

Don't let those older kids miss out on all the fun! Join us for our annual Flashlight Egg Hunt at Camp Agawam in Fort Pontiac. This isn't your typical egg hunt! Dress for the weather, event is held rain or shine and don't forget your flashlight! Parents are welcome to stay, watch all the fun and enjoy the campfire and hot cocoa.



Mother's Day Craft Market

Recreation Center | Fri, May 1 | 3-6 pm
Free Parking & Admission

#BuyNearBy and Shop Local! Start your holiday shopping early with one-of-a-kind, hand-made unique arts and crafts featuring distinctive and classic Made in Michigan products, made by Michiganders for Michiganders! Find an exclusive holiday, birthday, or just because gift for yourself and your friends & family! Vendors will be throughout the center with everything from one-of-a-kind, hand-made jewelry, clothing, and home décor. Interested vendors can contact Jennifer Vezina at jvezina@oriontownship.org or 248-391-0304 x3503 for details. Only hand-made, locally produced products will be considered.

Pop Up Winter Activity Events

Watch for last minute "pop up" events when the weather is on our side. Stay tuned to Orion Parks socials for updates.

50+ Resource Fair

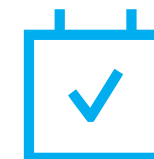
Recreation Center | Fri, Apr 10
10 am-1 pm | Free

This free community event is designed to connect seniors and their families with local resources and services, offering information on topics like health, financial planning, housing, legal assistance, and more. Our vendors will include professionals from various agencies and organizations that offer vital services for the aging population. Enjoy light refreshments, raffles, wellness demonstrations, and more!

Pop-Up Library

Recreation Center | Thu | Dec 18 | Jan 15
Feb 19 | Free

Visit with Orion Township Public Library for child & large print books, programming information, card sign-up, tech help and more!



Save the Date

Save the Date for the 2026 Dragon Dash: Sunday, May 17

Registration opens January 1st, runsignup.com.



Youth ENRICHMENT



I am the Artist's Apprentice

Recreation Center | Mon, Jan 12-Feb 9 | 6-7:30 pm | Ages 7+ | \$65R/\$70NR

Do you have an art kiddo who would enjoy embracing new and unusual experimental ideas? In this art series your child will be learning traditional painting techniques along with the avant-garde. We will be working with acrylic paints as well as zentangles, mosaics, and collage! Subject matter will include trees, owls, landscapes and asymmetrical designs. We'll try out a new spin art using a lazy-Susan wheel. (Psst! It's a lot of fun.) Sign up early for this one, space is limited. As always, siblings of any age are welcome. Instructor/Artist: Pamela Palmer B.F.A., The Artist's Apprentice. \$20 material fee payable to instructor on the 1st day of class. No class Jan 19

The Artist's Apprentice Clay Creations

Recreation Center | Wed, Mar 4-25 | 6-7:30 pm | Ages 7+ | \$65R/\$70NR

Does your child like working with their hands? Clay is an ever-pleasing medium for the young artist in your family! These fine arts instructional segments involve students in working with self-drying clay, using a caliper and modelling tools to make pottery and 3D Sculpture projects. If time permits, we will add shimmer paint to our work! A 'Viewing of Creation' will be extended to families following class on the final day. Wear clothes that are not precious, we will get messy! As always, siblings of any age are welcome. Instructor/Artist: Pamela Palmer B.F.A., The Artist's Apprentice. \$20 material fee payable to instructor on the 1st day of class.

Kids Paint Like the Masters

Friendship Park | Tue, Apr 7-28 | 6:30-7:30 pm | Ages 7+ | \$65R/\$70NR

'I Love to Paint!' If you've heard this sentiment from your creative child, sign them up for these cultural arts classes! Among our featured famous artists from this session will be: Raoul Dufy's playful seascapes, Winslow Homer's American landscapes, Vincent Van Gogh's fabulous sunflowers, and the crazy color circles of Wassily Kandinsky. Children will be working in watercolor, acrylics and poster paint. A Gallery Show of the students' work will be extended to families at the end of class with sweet treats for all! Instructor/Artist: Pamela Palmer B.F.A., The Artist's Apprentice. \$20 material fee payable to instructor on the 1st day of class.

Thursday is My Drawing Day

Recreation Center | Thu, May 7-28 | 6-7:30 pm | Ages 7+ | \$65R/\$70NR

What does it take to become an artist who is fantastic at drawing? PASSION! If your child is constantly sketching, this enthusiasm is already here! It's time to feed that fire with practice of various techniques, individual instruction, time to concentrate, the making of mistakes, and growth in abilities. Students will be working on value to add depth, stippling to add interest with hatching and cross-hatching to add texture to their drawings. In this 4 week series students will gain confidence as they see their skills improve. Graphite, colored pencils and light washes of watercolors will be implemented in our nature focused drawings. A Gallery Show of the students' work will be extended to families at the end of class with sweet treats for all! Instructor/Artist: Pamela Palmer B.F.A., The Artist's Apprentice. \$20 material fee payable to instructor on the 1st day of class.



Home Alone Training

Recreation Center | Tue, Dec 8
6:30-7:30 pm | Ages 9+ | \$17R/\$20NR

Is your young teen staying home alone after school this fall? Prepare yourself and your child for this new adventure with Home Alone Training. Instructor Kristen Tamm 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. Instructor: Kristen Tamm

Babysitter Training

Recreation Center | Wed, Dec 9
6-8:30 pm | Ages 11-14 | \$20R/\$23NR

Instructor Kristen Tamm 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 pre-requisite class: Home Alone Training. Instructor: Kristen Tamm

Parents Night Out

Recreation Center | Fri, Dec 19 | Jan 23
Feb 13 | 6-9:30 pm | Ages 3-12
\$30R/\$35NR

What's better than a babysitter on a Friday night? An awesome night out for your kids too! Your kids will have a blast participating in their favorite gym activities, arts and crafts, along with pizza and fruit!

*Price is per event, per child.

*All children must be potty trained



WATCH FOR SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENING



SPRING BREAK CAMP

Spring Break S.T.E.A.M Art Camp

Friendship Park | Mon-Fri, Mar 30-Apr 3 | 9 am-12 pm | Ages 7+ | \$165R/\$170NR

Let's get to it! If your child loves art and you value the creative spark that S.T.E.A.M. inspires, sign up today for these one-of-a-kind intramural art classes! Create rainbow bubble snakes and experiment with printmaking using brayers, printers' ink, and delicate rice paper. Build a geodesic dome, explore capillary action with a colorful soap-and-food-dye experiment, and design a playful animal tessellation. Spin vibrant paint on canvas in a lazy-Susan centrifugal force project, then relax into an intricate Zentangle art piece. Sculpt topographical "foamations," craft a silly-string negative space design, and dive into Manga cartooning. Instructor/Artist: Pamela Palmer B.F.A., The Artist's Apprentice. \$60 material fee payable to instructor on the 1st day of class.

Spring Break Farm Animal Art Camp

Friendship Park | Mon-Fri, Mar 30- Apr 3 | 12:30-3:30 pm | Ages 7+ | \$165R/\$170NR

With a MOO, MOO here, and a happy child there! Get ready for a week of art exploration and farm animal fun! These multimedia classes including sculpture, painting, and drawing are set to provide an opportunity to learn key elements that will enhance your young artist's creative awareness of fine arts!

Children will be made aware of animal proportions as well as how to incorporate some unique colorful background elements into their work, like that of contemporary artist Woody Jackson. We will also try to emulate the delightful, whimsical animal paintings of Alison Friend! Instructor/Artist: Pamela Palmer B.F.A., The Artist's Apprentice. \$60 material fee payable to instructor on the 1st day of class.

Amazing Athletes Spring Break 4 Day Camp

Everest Academy | Mon-Thu, Mar 30-Apr 2 | 2-2:45 pm | Ages 2.5-6 | \$64R/\$74NR

Amazing Athletes Camps are the premier developmental physical fitness camps empowering children aged 3 to 6 years old to reach developmental milestones at an individual pace.

Through our structured active play, Amazing Athletes advance 6 key areas of motor development. During our 45-minute daily, one-week camps, children learn the importance of patience, teamwork, and self-confidence in a non-competitive, learning-based environment that fosters a love of healthy living. Their excitement for structured physical activity promotes advancements and advantages that keep children on the path to personal well-being. Our fun, active camps encourage kids to explore and develop a variety of athletic skills through the introduction of 10 different sports. Coaches break the fundamentals of each sport-based skill down into simple steps based on each child's age and ability.

Youth *FITNESS*



Amazing TOTS

Recreation Center | 5:15-5:40 pm | Ages 18 months-2.5

Winter Session | Tue, Jan 6-Feb 24 | \$120R/\$130NR

Spring Session | Tue, Mar 3-Apr 28 | \$120R/\$130NR

Amazing TOTS is a guided program for children aged 18 months to 2.5 years, focusing on structured physical activities tailored to toddlers. Each 25-minute weekly class introduces one of four sports through discovery lessons, balancing physical challenges and exploration activities designed for young children. The program combines fitness with learning through imaginative activities like color recognition and letter identification, enhancing both physical and cognitive development. This approach prepares toddlers for preschool and encourages a lifelong love of healthy living. (No class on 3/31 for Spring Session).

Amazing Athletes

Recreation Center | 5:50-6:25 pm | Ages 2.5-6

Winter Session | Tue, Jan 6-Feb 24 | \$128R/\$138NR

Spring Session | Tue, Mar 3-Apr 28 | \$128R/\$138NR

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. (No class on 3/31 for Spring Session).



Junior Track Club

Recreation Center | Mon, Jan 5-Feb 9 | 5-6 pm | Ages 5-11 | \$144R/\$150NR

Introduce your young athletes to the sport of competitive running through form drills, games, and races. This program taps into kids’ innate love for running and helps them develop mental and physical tools to run further and faster while ensuring they have lots of fun and build friendships in the process.



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs:
OrionParks.com | 248-391-0304 x3500



Middle School Strength & Conditioning

Recreation Center | 5:30-6:30 pm | Ages 10-13

Session 1 | Mon & Wed, Jan 5-Feb 11 | \$196R/\$200NR

Session 2 | Mon & Wed, Feb 23-Mar 25 | \$164R/\$168NR

This program is all about helping middle school students move better, get stronger, and have fun while doing it! Each session mixes exercises and games that focus on:

- ▶ Muscle Endurance-building strength and stamina with age-appropriate workouts.
- ▶ Speed & Agility-fun drills to improve quickness, coordination, and reaction time.
- ▶ Balance & Stability-core work and movement skills that help prevent injuries and keep athletes steady on their feet.

Great for any student ready to gain confidence in the gym!



Jr. Academy Basketball

Recreation Center | 12-1 pm | Ages 4-6

Winter Session | Sun, Jan 11-Feb 15 | \$130R/\$135NR

Spring Session | Sun, Mar 1-Apr 19 | \$130R/\$135NR

Participants are guided through rhythm, speed, balance, and coordination skills and drills. They will work through obstacles learning to dribble, pass and shoot. This club will introduce young kids to a fun, healthy lifestyle while learning the game of basketball. The program is run through the National Academy of Athletics. (No classes on 3/29 or 4/5 for the Spring Session).



Youth Basketball Club

Recreation Center | 1:15-2:15 pm | Ages 7-12

Winter Session | Sun, Jan 11-Feb 15 | \$130R/\$135NR

Spring Session | Sun, Mar 1-Apr 19 | \$130R/\$135NR

Players who are interested in developing individual and team skills will learn a lot at this club. Drills include ball-handling, offense, defense, passing, footwork, movement skills, and layups. Skills-based challenges will be combined with games and other small-sided competitions. Basketball is an excellent sport for teaching children the importance of teamwork, hard work, determination, winning and losing with dignity, and mental and emotional stability. Kids will PLAY HARD and HAVE FUN! Program is run through the National Academy of Athletics. (No classes on 3/29 or 4/5 for the Spring Session).



Youth Volleyball Club

Recreation Center | 2:45-3:45 pm | Ages 7-12

Winter Session | Sun, Jan 11-Feb 15 | \$130R/\$135NR

Spring Session | Sun, Mar 1-Apr 19 | \$130R/\$135NR

This Volleyball Club offers beginner to intermediate players the opportunity to build a solid volleyball foundation. The drills taught at this program will help them to serve, pass, set, block, and hit the ball. Volleyball is an excellent sport for teaching children effective communication, teamwork, fast thinking, and concentration. Your kids will learn a lot and have a blast! Program is run through the National Academy of Athletics. (No classes on 3/29 or 4/5 for the Spring Session).



Youth Leagues

YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Apr 6-Jun 14 | Registration Opens Jan 1 | \$20 Multi-Child Discount (excluding T-Ball) | \$30 Late Registration Fee after Feb 23
Registration Deadline Mar 9 | League schedules finalized end of March

Baseball and softball uniforms that have to be reordered after distribution are subject to additional charges. Make sure to have your child try on uniforms before ordering. The uniform order will be placed by Mar 15. Uniforms are available to try on during normal business hours at the Recreation Center.



Orion Girls Softball League (OGSL)

\$130R/\$140NR | Civic Center Park

The Spring season will consist of two nights during the week and Saturday mornings. Days of practice will be determined by the number of teams in each division. 11U and 14U partner with Oxford Parks & Rec, some travel will be necessary.¹

8U	Clinic Division	Coach Pitch
11U	Intermediate Division ¹	Player Pitch
14U	Junior Division ¹	Player Pitch



Lake Orion Youth Baseball League (LOYBL)

\$130R/\$140NR per player | T-Ball \$90R/\$100NR

The Spring season will consist of two nights during the week and Saturday mornings.

Tee Ball		Ages 4-6
Clinic	Machine Pitch	Ages 6-8
Junior	Player Pitch	Ages 9-10
Intermediate ¹	Player Pitch	Ages 11-12
Senior ¹	Player Pitch	Ages 13-15
Majors ²	Player Pitch	Ages 15-18

- 1 Intermediate & Senior Divisions partner with ORBA in Oxford. May have games in Oxford.
- 2 Majors division runs Jun-Jul. Teams will be formed in May. Teams will play other communities including Oxford, Independence, Lapeer, and others. 15 year olds may register for Senior & Majors for \$100/division

LOYBL Umpire Program

Apr-Jul Ages 14+ \$10		
Classroom Training	Recreation 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 2026 Spring season. A \$10 registration fee will get you an umpire shirt, hat, indicator, use of umpiring equipment, on-field training, and online certification. Game fees start at \$30 per game! We will provide everything you need to get out on the field and start making calls and money!



Orion/Oxford Soccer League (OOSL)

Apr 6-Jun 13 | \$105R/\$115NR per player | Registration Opens Jan 1 | \$20 Multi-Child Discount | \$35 Jersey if new player or replacement needed | \$30 Late Fee after Feb 23 | Registration Deadline Mar 9 | League schedules finalized in March

! If a player is new to U14, a new jersey will need to be purchased for \$45.

Any child born between Jan 1, 2012 and Dec 31, 2021 is eligible and encouraged to play soccer in the OOSL Spring 2026 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-5	Coed	2021
U-6	Coed	2020
U-8	Coed or Girls	2019 & 2018
U-10	Coed or Girls	2017 & 2016
U-12 ¹	Coed or Girls	2015 & 2014
U-14 ²	Coed	2013 & 2012

- 1 U12 Girls Partners with local communities.
- 2 U14 partners with local communities. Some games will be outside of Lake Orion.

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

Soccer Referees Wanted

Sign up to be a soccer referee today. Get your training paid for after you work 10 games. For more information about getting registered and getting your training paid for, please contact Tyler Carpenter at: tcarpenter@oriontownship.org

ADULT Leagues



Adult Cornhole League

Winter | Recreation Center
Wed, Jan 21-Mar 11 | 6-8 pm | Ages 18+
\$80R Team/\$90NR Team

Nothing better to get out of the house on those cold nights than to play some friendly cornhole. Sign up your backyard team and show us your skills. Bring your own cornhole bags. Playoffs will be held the last week of the season. Each week you will play 3 teams. Each game is best 2 of 3 matches.

Teams of 2, **one registration per team.**

Support Orion Recreation Youth Athletics Team Sponsor

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

\$400/team or \$350/2+ teams (either league)

Call or email Jesse Sampson at 248-391-0304 x3506 or jsampson@oriontownship.org for more information.

Register for Parks & Recreation Programs:
OrionParks.com
248-391-0304 x3500

Health & Wellness with Henry Ford



Blood Pressure Screening

Recreation Center | Fri, Dec 5 | Jan 9 | Feb 6 | Mar 6
10 am-12 pm | Free

Stop by for a quick blood pressure screen with one of our doctors and a variety of helpful information on lifestyle changes you can make today to keep your blood pressure in check and live a long healthy life! Walk-ins welcome!

Staying Heart Healthy

Recreation Center | Mon, Feb 9 | 12-1 pm | Free

One in three Americans die of heart disease. Are you at risk for heart disease or a heart attack? 80% of heart disease is preventable. This discussion will help you learn the signs of heart disease and ways to prevent it. This event is free but registration is required.

Smart Weight Management for Active Adults

Recreation Center | Mon, Jan 12 | 6-7 pm | Free

Join us as Dr. Jade Balasz presents on how to achieve a healthy weight with lifestyle measures including nutrition and exercise. She will also discuss medication management options to aid in weight loss. This presentation will review both health maintenance regarding weight and various health markers. This event is free but registration is required.



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs:
OrionParks.com | 248-391-0304 x3500

Adult *Fitness* & WELLNESS

Personal Training

Personal Training is a great way to build a solid fitness routine that works for you. Whether your goal is athletic performance such as running or golf, recovering from an injury, achieving a healthy weight or building muscle, we've got a plan for you! Visit orionparks.com and select "Meet the Trainers" to learn more about how we can help you reach your fitness goals.

Group Fitness

Recreation Center | Ongoing | Daily Drop-In \$10R/\$12NR

Included in the price of your membership! We offer a variety of Group Fitness classes to help you reach your fitness goals. Check us out for a groovy Zumba vibe, a hard core kettlebell session or anything in between. You'll meet new friends and feel inspired through every workout. See OrionParks.com for the most updated schedule and class descriptions.

Group Fitness included with Membership!



Forever Fit

Recreation Center | 10:30-11:30 am | Ages 62+

Session 1 | Tue & Thu, Jan 6-Feb 12 | \$296R/\$300NR

Session 2 | Tue & Thu, Feb 17-Mar 26 | \$296R/\$300NR

This class is designed to help aging adults build strength, improve posture, and move with confidence. Using safe and effective weight training, we'll focus on functional movements that support everyday activities – like lifting, bending, and reaching – while also improving balance and coordination. Gentle yet challenging, each session promotes bone health, joint stability, and core strength to help reduce the risk of falls and maintain independence. All fitness levels are welcome, with modifications provided to meet individual needs. Instructors: Brittney Parker and Jen Pozzi

Empower GLP-1: Coaching for Lasting Change

Recreation Center Ages 18+			
Session 1	Mon, Jan 5-Feb 9	6 pm	\$148R/\$150NR
Session 2	Wed, Jan 7-Feb 11	10:15 am	\$148R/\$150NR
Session 3	Fri, Jan 9-Feb 13	10:15 am	\$148R/\$150NR
Session 4	Mon, Feb 23-Mar 23	6 pm	\$148R/\$150NR
Session 5	Wed, Feb 25-Mar 25	10:15 am	\$148R/\$150NR
Session 6	Fri, Feb 27-Mar 27	10:15 am	\$148R/\$150NR

Navigating weight loss while on GLP-1 medications can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to do it alone. Led by personal trainer and GLP-1 peer mentor and fitness coach Jen Pozzi, this program is designed to guide you through the challenges of nutrition, exercise and behavioral changes that come with medically assisted weight loss. Through individual or group sessions Jen provides personalized strategies to help you:

- ▶ Build health, sustainable eating habits that work with your medication.
- ▶ Create a fitness routine that fits your lifestyle and supports your goals.
- ▶ Tackle the behavioral and emotional side of weight loss with practical tools and encouragement.

Whether you're just starting GLP-1's or looking for ongoing support, this program helps you feel confident, empowered, and in control of your journey. Instructor: Jen Pozzi

*Individual sessions available by appointment. Submit requests to Regan at rslocum@oriontownship.org.



TaikoFit Cardio Drumming

Recreation Center | Thu, Jan 8 | 6:30-7:30 pm | Ages 16+ | Free

Recreation Center | Thu, Jan 15-Mar 5 | 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. Instructor: Cindi Carter.



Hatha Yoga Open

Friendship Park | 10-11:15 am | Ages 16+ | Thu, Jan 8-Feb 19
\$80R/\$84NR | Drop in rate: \$12R/\$13NR

Exploring yoga asanas in a slow and subtle way to increase awareness in the body. We will start with some gentle warm-ups and learn poses for strengthening and balance. We will also explore breathing and meditation practices to help with stress relief. Please bring a Yoga mat and blanket. Instructor: Suzanne Albert, Heartfelt Yoga.

Hatha Yoga Gentle

Recreation Center | Mon, Jan 5-Feb 16 | 4:45-5:45 pm | Ages 16+
\$80R/\$84NR | Drop in rate: \$12R/\$13NR

In this slower-paced Yoga class, we will explore gentle movement to bring flexibility and relaxation into your body. We will learn the foundational Poses of yoga and breathing techniques to help calm the mind. Chairs will be available for people who prefer not to sit on the floor and to help with balance in standing Postures. Please bring a yoga mat and a firm blanket to class. Instructor: Suzanne Albert, Heartfelt Yoga.

Hatha Yin/Yang

Recreation Center | Mon, Jan 5-Feb 16 | 6-7:15 pm | Ages 16+
\$80R/\$84NR | Drop in rate: \$12R/\$13NR

In this class, we will start with gentle movements to warm the body and then move into Yin Yoga, where the poses are held longer and closer to the earth, working on the deeper connective tissues. This helps to create more ease of movement. Please bring a yoga mat and blanket, and any other props you prefer. Instructor: Suzanne Albert, Heartfelt Yoga.

All Fitness Members receive 20% off on Paid Fitness Programming

December

- 1** Township Board Meeting, Municipal Complex, 7 pm
- 5** Pop Up Market, Recreation Center, 3-6 pm
- 5** Artists Holiday Art Market, Orion Art Center, Fridays and Saturdays until Dec. 20, 10 am-7 pm
- 5** K-5 Late Start and 6-8 Half Day

- 5** Holly Jolly Folly (Lighted Parade Fundraiser), Golling Buick/GMC/Orion Area Parade Group, 6-11 pm
- 6** Orion Lighted Christmas Parade, Orion Area Parade Group, Downtown Lake Orion, 6 pm
- 12** K-5 Early Start—Half Day
- 13** Polar Express Trolley Rides, (Ticketed Event/DDA), Downtown Lake Orion, 11 am-3 pm

- 13** Merry & Mischief, Recreation Center, Registration Required
- 15** Frosting & Fun, Recreation Center, 6-7 pm, Registration Required
- 15** Township Board Meeting, Municipal Complex, 7 pm
- 22** DIY Craft Day & Take Home Kits, Orion Art Center, 10 am - 7 pm

- 22** No School (Holiday Break)
- 23** No School (Holiday Break)
- 24** No School (Holiday Break)
- 25** Christmas
- 25** No School (Holiday Break)
- 26** No School (Holiday Break)
- 29** No School (Holiday Break)

- 30** No School (Holiday Break)
- 31** No School (Holiday Break)
- 31** New Year's Eve
- 31** New Year's Eve Fitness Blast, 9-11 am, Recreation Center

January

- 1** New Year's Day
- 1** No School (Holiday Break)
- 1** Spring Youth Leagues Registration Opens
- 1** Lake Orion Resolution Run presented by Hanson's Running Shop, Downtown Lake Orion, 1.5 Mile & 5K both start at 10 am
- 2** No School (Holiday Break)
- 10** Library Centennial Kickoff, Orion Library, 3 pm
- 15** Grades 9-12 Half Day

- 16** K-12 Half Day
- 17** Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament, Orion Library, 2 pm
- 19** Martin Luther King Day
- 19** No School (MLK Day)
- 20** Blood Drive, Recreation Center, 1-5:30 pm
- 23** Township Talks, Municipal Complex, 9:30 am
- 31** Winter Fest, Camp Agawam



Lucie Reetz



Tracie Papciak



Leah Sands



Howard Barager

February



Brad & Michelle Morgan

- 7** Lake Orion Ice Fest, Downtown Lake Orion, 10 am-4 pm
- 7** Lake Orion Ice Fest, Downtown Lake Orion, 10 am-4 pm
- 7** 12th Annual Lake Orion Ice Cup Golf Challenge presented by Lake Orion Sunrise Rotary Club, 8:30 am check-in, starts at 10 am

- 11** "Pal-entines" Barre Social, Recreation Center
- 14** Valentine's Day
- 16** Presidents' Day
- 16** No School (Mid-Winter Break)

- 17** No School (Mid-Winter Break)
- 17** Puzzle & Game Swap, Recreation Center, 9-3 pm
- 21** Lake Orion & Oxford Restaurant Week, Downtown Lake Orion and Downtown Oxford, runs thru Feb. 28, Restaurant Hours

- 21** Maker Fair, Orion Library, 2 pm
- 27** Township Talks, Municipal Complex, 9:30 am



K Gedda Smith Images



K Gedda Smith Images



Leah Sands



Lisa Thierry



Lisa Thierry



Tom McWethy



Lisa Thierry

Adult *Fitness* & **WELLNESS**



Tai Chi Beginner Wu Style

Recreation Center | Mon, Jan 5-Feb 23 | 6-7 pm | 7-8 pm
Ages 18+ | \$80R/\$88NR

Drop in rate: \$12R/\$13NR

Discover the calming and strengthening power of Tai Chi Chuan, a soft-style Chinese martial art rooted in mindful movement. This class focuses on learning the 12-posture and 108-posture Wu Style hand forms, known for their compact, flowing movements that promote internal energy flow and mindfulness. Each session includes warm-up and focused exercises, as well as guided practice of the forms, moving every muscle through a natural range of motion to enhance strength, agility, balance, and coordination. Over time, students may experience reduced stress, improved posture, increased natural energy, and sharper concentration, supporting both daily activities and overall well-being. Join us to explore the harmony of body and mind in a supportive, welcoming environment. Wear comfortable clothing and bring water. No prior experience required. Instructor: Michael Dwyer.

Tai Chi Beginner

Recreation Center | Tue, Jan 6-Feb 24 | 11 am-12 pm | Ages 18+
\$80R/\$88NR

Drop in rate: \$12R/\$13NR

This beginner class includes chair and standing exercises, as well as guided learning of the 12-posture Wu Style hand form. Tai Chi Chuan is a soft-style Chinese martial art. Its slow, repetitive, and circular movements open internal circulation to improve strength, agility, balance, and mobility. The forms gently move every muscle of the body through a complete and natural range of motion. Over time, students may see a reduction of stress with an increase of natural energy, coordination, and the power of concentration. Join us to explore the harmony of body and mind in a supportive, welcoming environment. Wear comfortable clothing and bring water. No prior experience required. Instructor: Michael Dwyer.

Tai Chi Continuing Beginner

Recreation Center | Tue, Jan 6-Feb 24 | 10-11 am | Ages 18+
\$80R/\$88NR

Drop in rate: \$12R/\$13NR.

This continuing class is for students who have been through the 12-posture beginner form. Class includes warm-up and focused exercises, as well as guided learning of the 12-posture Wu Style hand form. Tai Chi Chuan is a soft-style Chinese martial art. Its slow, repetitive, and circular movements open internal circulation to improve strength, agility, balance, and mobility. The forms gently move every muscle of the body through a complete and natural range of motion. Over time, students may see a reduction of stress with an increase of natural energy, coordination, and the power of concentration. Instructor: Michael Dwyer.

Cardio-Groove

Recreation Center | 9:30-10:30 am | Ages 18+

Session 1 | Mon, Dec 1-Jan 12 | \$63R/\$67NR

Session 2 | Mon, Jan 19-Feb 23 | \$54R/\$58NR

Drop-in rate: \$12R/\$13NR

Discover your inner diva by getting lost in the music while sweating the stress away! This class will get you moving and inspired to an awesome variety of upbeat music using simple dance steps that will leave you feeling exhilarated and refreshed. Laugh, sing, and burn a ton of calories! No dance experience necessary. Instructor: Jill Cassidy.



All Fitness Members receive 20% off
on Paid Fitness Programming



Core Barre

Recreation Center | 9-10 am | Ages 18+

Session 1 | Tue, Dec 2-Jan 13 | \$63R/\$67NR

Session 2 | Tue, Jan 20-Feb 24 | \$54R/\$58NR

Recreation Center | 6:30-7:30 pm | Ages 18+

Session 1 | Wed, Dec 3-Jan 14 | \$45R/\$49NR

Session 2 | Wed, Jan 21-Feb 25 | \$54R/\$58NR

Drop-in rate: \$12R/\$13NR

A unique total body workout utilizing ballet-inspired movements to perform small isometric exercises that strengthen and tone. Designed for people of all shapes and sizes to challenge even the fittest athletes! The Core Barre theory focuses on small muscles not only to strengthen, lengthen, and tone your body but also improve balance, flexibility and endurance. Please bring your own mat and a set of light weights (1-3 lbs.). Wear grippy socks or bare feet. Instructors: Tonya Potts. *no class Dec 24, 31

Sculpt

Recreation Center | Thu, Jan 8-Feb 26 | 9:15-10 am | Ages 18+
\$72R/\$76NR

Sculpt is an all-level strength and cardio class using weights (2-8 lbs.) and resistance bands. Heart-pumping music will inspire you to choreographed exercises that target the whole body. Plan to work hard by challenging yourself in new ways to build strength and stamina! Please bring a mat, weights, water and a towel. Bands available to borrow as needed. Instructor: Jill Cassidy. Drop-in rate: \$12R/\$13NR.

Karate

Recreation Center | 5:30-7:30 pm | Ages 8+

Session 1 | Tue and/or Thu, Jan 6-Feb19 | \$95R/\$99NR
or \$115R/\$119NR

Session 2 | Tue and/or Thu, Feb 24-Apr 9 | \$95R/\$99NR or
\$115R/\$119NR

Our Karate program emphasizes respect, discipline, honor, commitment, focus, and other "Life's Lessons," in addition to the physical aspects, like kicking, blocking and punching. Of course, self-defense is also an integral part of this program. The style of Karate we teach is Tang Soo Do (very similar to Tae Kwon Do), more popularly known as "Korean Karate." This art has evolved into one of the most effective means of unarmed self-defense ever created. Master Floyd Soo has been involved in martial arts since 1966. He holds a 7th-degree Black Belt (Master Instructor Rating) in Moo Duk Kwan-Tang Soo Do. Instructor: Master Floyd Soo

Women's Self Defense— How Not To Be A Victim

Recreation Center | Sat, Feb 7 | 12-4 pm | Ages 18+ | \$45R/\$48NR

"We believe strongly that all women should empower themselves with the ability to prevent and escape threatening situations. This class is perfect for new college students, young adults moving into new apartments, high school girls starting to venture out on their own or any woman who refuses to be a victim. Floyd Soo's "Women's Self Defense Method" starts with the tenet of "How not to be a victim." The AAA (Triple A's) are Awareness, Avoidance and Action." To accomplish this, the class covers, Safety Around the Car, Safety Around the Home, Preventing Sexual Assault, Legalities, Proper mind set, Physical training and Skills building for good lifelong habits.

Make this a Mother-Daughter outing, spend time together learning the skills that will keep you safe from harm! This class will cover basic safety and awareness tips, while emphasizing assault prevention. Master Floyd Soo (7th Degree Black Belt) will teach modern REALITY BASED self defense techniques and tactics to help ALL women. Self defense techniques for dangerous situations and escaping grabs, chokes and other assaults will be demonstrated and practiced. Self Defense and The Law will be discussed, so students will leave knowing their rights on this topic. Instructor Master Floyd Soo.



Register for Parks &
Recreation Programs:
OrionParks.com
248-391-0304 x3500

ADULT ENRICHMENT



Make & Take Stained Glass Workshops

M-24 & Drahner Rds | 6-8 pm | Ages 16+
\$85R/\$88NR

Snowflake Palooza | Mon, Dec 1
Wed, Dec 10 | Mon, Jan 12

Butterfly Bonanza | Mon, Feb 16
Sat, Feb 21 | 11 am

Get a taste of doing stained glass art with this Make & Take class. In this workshop, you get a “taste” of stained glass art as pre-cut and ground glass will be provided to you. You assemble, foil, solder, and finish your project. Due to the high soldering temperatures used (400 degrees), this is limited to ages 16+. All tools and materials will be provided. Margie has been doing stained glass for more than 10 years, and requests for these workshops continue to grow. Class is taught at Bryce Glass Art Studio in Oxford. Exact address will be included on the registration receipt. Instructor: Margie Bryce, Bryce Glass Art.



Beginner Stained Glass

M-24 & Drahner Rds | Ages 16+
\$180R/\$185NR

Sat, Jan 17 & 24 | Feb 7 & 14 | 1-4 pm

Wed, Jan 14 & 21 | Feb 11 & 18 | 6-9 pm

Learn to do stained glass from the very first steps all the way through finishing and framing. Class includes picking your pattern, choosing and cutting the glass, foiling, soldering and finishing. Choose your pattern: a sunrise or tulip project. You are welcome to bring refreshments. Class is taught at Bryce Glass Art Studio in Oxford. Exact address will be included on the registration receipt. Instructor: Margie Bryce, Bryce Glass Art.



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs:
OrionParks.com
248-391-0304 x3500



Daisy Denim Wall Basket

Recreation Center | Tue, Apr 7
4:30-8:30 pm | Ages 18+ | \$65R/\$68NR

Weave this charming wall basket featuring a denim pocket with a painted daisy, fabric straps and matching daisy rivets. Pocket and special paint pen included. 6” wide x 7” tall”. Instructor: Deborah VanderLinde



Waste Basket with French Randing Accent

Recreation Center | Tue, May 5
4:30-8:30 pm | Ages 18+ | \$65R/\$68NR

Weave this attractive waste basket with a unique French Randing accent. Would also be lovely as a planter basket. 8.5” x 8.5” x 9”. Instructor: Deborah VanderLinde

Adults 50+

Are you ready to live your best life and stay active in a vibrant community? Join our Active Aging programs today! Whether you’re a resident of Orion Township or from outside the area, if you’re 50+, we welcome you to become a part of our dynamic community. Best of all, joining our community is absolutely FREE!

Simply stop by the 50+ Wing or call 248-391-0304 x3500 to register. Once you’re signed up, you can immediately enroll in any of the exciting programs we offer—designed with your health, wellness, and enjoyment in mind. In addition, we’re here to support you with a range of services, from home-delivered meals (Meals on Wheels) to resources for caregiver support, medical equipment, dental services, and more.

Don’t forget to pick up your monthly newsletter to stay in the loop on all the senior offerings available through Orion Parks & Recreation. We’re excited to have you join our community—your active and fulfilling lifestyle starts now!

SPECIAL EVENTS 50+



Holly Holiday Lunch

Recreation Center | Tue, Dec 16 | 1 pm
\$10R/\$12NR

Recreation Center | Wed, Dec 17 | 1 pm
\$10R/\$12NR

Join us for a joyful Christmas lunch filled with delicious food, warm company, and holiday cheer!

We’ll come together to celebrate the season with a delightful meal, festive entertainment, and the spirit of togetherness.



Winter Wonderland Brunch

Recreation Center | Wed, Jan 21 | 12 pm
\$12R/\$14NR

Enjoy a delicious winter brunch! Warm up with your favorite brunch classics, indulge in a hearty meal, and enjoy wonderful entertainment. It’s the perfect cozy treat to brighten up the chilly winter days!



Galentine's Day Tea

Recreation Center | Fri, Feb 13 | 12 pm
\$12R/\$14NR

Celebrate friendship, laughter, and the amazing women in your life at our Galentine’s Day gathering! We will enjoy a traditional tea service featuring: pots of tea, scones, muffins, tea sandwiches, and decadent desserts. Plus, we’ll play a fun and festive gift exchange game—please bring a \$10 wrapped gift to join in the fun! Let’s sip, snack, and celebrate sisterhood together!



Lunch O’ the Irish

Recreation Center | Tue, Mar 17 | 12 pm
\$12R/\$14NR

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

Adults 50+

CLUBS 50+

Registration required.

K4 Knit/Crochet

Mon | 12:30-3:30 pm



Chinese Mahjong

Mon | 12:30-3:30 pm

Ham Radio

Mon & Thu | 6-8:45 pm

Billiards

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri | 8:30-11 am



Bingo

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

Hand and Foot/Cards

Wed | 12:30-3:30 pm

Ukulele and More

Wed & Fri | 11 am-1 pm

Euchre

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

Movies

Fri | 1:15-3:15 pm

American Mahjong

Fri | 12:30 pm



Quilting

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

ENRICHMENT 50+

Ask the Attorney

Recreation Center | Mon | Dec 15
Jan 12 | Feb 23 | 1-2:30 pm | Free

Attorney Dana Wilson provides private consultations at the Recreation Center. If you need assistance with legal problems or if you have legal questions, call Parks and Recreation for a 15-minute appointment. 248-391-0304 x3500



Financial and Medicare Counseling Services

MRA can help with Medicare enrollment and plan reviews, Life Insurance policy reviews and provide unbiased annuity support. Schedule a one-on-one session with Chad Day from The Michigan Retirement Agency, Don't Be Sold, Be Informed. Appointments are 30 minutes. Please call Parks and Recreation to let us know what day works best for you. 248-391-0304 x3500

Senior Life Advisory Council Panel

Recreation Center | Wed, Dec 3 | 12 pm
Free

A team of trusted advisors dedicated to addressing questions, offering essential resources and solutions to the senior community. Advisors include Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care Financials, Medicare, Funeral Planning, Moving Care Transition, Organizing, Rehabilitation, PT Home Health Care, Hospice, Private Duty Law, Power of Attorney, Estate Planning Respite, and Occupational Therapy.

Navigating Your Health Care Options

Recreation Center | Thu, Jan 22 | 6 pm
Free

Join Chad Day for an informative seminar where he'll break down the complexities of Medicare, including eligibility, coverage options (A, B, C, and D), and how to choose the best plan for your healthcare needs. Whether you're approaching retirement or already enrolled, this seminar will equip you with the knowledge to make confident decisions about your Medicare coverage. Get expert advice on avoiding penalties, understanding costs, and exploring supplemental insurance options. Registration is appreciated.

Let's Craft Together!

Recreation Center | 1 pm

Wine Glass Snow Globe Candle Holders
Tue, Dec 9 | \$15R/\$17NR

Frosted Mason Jar Luminary | Fri, Jan 9
\$10R/\$12NR

"Love You to Pieces" Valentine Wreath
Tue, Feb 3 | \$10R/\$12NR

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. The registration deadline is 48 hours before the class meeting time.



ENRICHMENT 50+

Matter of Balance

Recreation Center Tue & Thu,
Jan 6-Feb 3 | 12-2 pm | Free

Matter of Balance (MOB) is specifically designed to reduce the fear of falling and improve activity levels among older adults. The program includes eight two-hour classes and enables participants to reduce the fear of falling by learning to view falls as controllable, setting goals for increasing activity levels, making small changes to reduce fall risks at home, and exercise to increase strength and balance. Additional topics include home safety, assertiveness, developing positive strategies for change, reducing barriers to exercise, identifying physical risk factors for falls, personal action planners, recognizing misconceptions about falls, and moving from self-defeating to self-motivating thoughts. No class January 15.

Secretary of State

Recreation Center | Tue, Feb 24
10 am-1 pm

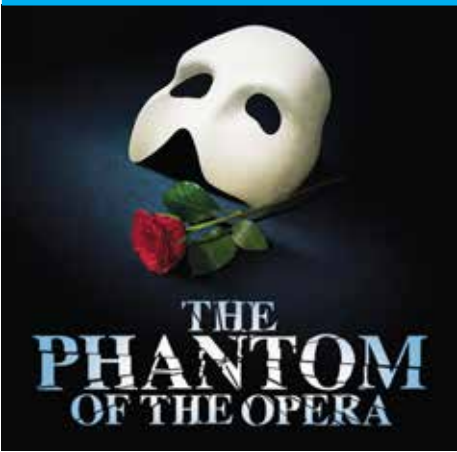
Book a visit to the Senior Area at the Recreation Center to complete your Secretary of State transactions, including: First-time Michigan ID, Renew Driver's license or ID, Transfer Title, Apply for/renew disability placard. Appointments can be booked in 15-minute increments. Walk-ins are welcome as well!

50+ Resource Fair

Recreation Center | Fri, Apr 10
10 am-1 pm | Free

This free community event is designed to connect seniors and their families with local resources and services, offering information on topics like health, financial planning, housing, legal assistance, and more. Our vendors will include professionals from various agencies and organizations that offer vital services for the aging population. Enjoy light refreshments, raffles, wellness demonstrations, and more!

TRIPS 50+



Phantom of the Opera

Detroit | Wed, Feb 4 | Pick Up 3:30 PM
Drop Off 11:30 pm | \$160R/\$165NR

Phantom of the Opera tells the tale of a disfigured musical genius known only as 'The Phantom' who haunts the depths of the Paris Opera House. Mesmerized by the talents and beauty of a young soprano, Christine, The Phantom lures her as his protégé and falls fiercely in love with her. Unaware of Christine's love for Raoul, The Phantom's obsession sets the scene for a dramatic turn of events where jealousy, madness, and passions collide. The trip includes motor coach transportation, main floor seating at the Detroit Opera House, and free time in the Greektown District prior to the show. Registration ends December 1.

A Christmas Carol at Meadowbrook

Rochester Hills | Wed, Dec 10
Depart 10:45 am | Return 5:30 pm
\$75R/\$85NR

We start our day at the Village of Rochester for lunch on your own and shopping. Then we will head to Meadowbrook Theatre for the 2 pm performance of A Christmas Carol. Everyone's favorite holiday classic captivates audiences for the 42nd year with the tale of a mean-spirited miser and the ghosts that haunt him.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Home for the Holidays

Detroit | Fri, Dec 12 | 9:15 am
\$75R/\$80NR

Gather the family for one of the best holiday traditions in Detroit! The DSO and special guests play all your favorites inside the warm and wonderful Orchestra Hall. Make the season bright and create memories of a lifetime everyone can share. Everyone will meet at the Recreation Center at 9:15 am, and we will return around 2 pm. Transportation is via transport van.



Detroit Icons & City Tour

Detroit | Tue, Jan 13 | Depart 9 am
Return 3:30 pm | \$119R/\$124NR

Explore two Detroit Icons and enjoy a step on a guided tour of Detroit with Detroit City Tours. The first stop will be the Guardian Building. You will be given a short highlights tour of this building before the step on a guided tour of the City. The other stop on this tour takes us to The Fisher Building is a National Historic Landmark in Detroit's New Center district. The tour is capped off with a lunch (included in the cost) at The Grand Trunk Pub which has a rich Detroit history that dates back to 1905, when it was a ticket station for the Grand Trunk Railway. The registration deadline is December 12th.

Adults 50+

TRIPS 50+



All Shook Up at Meadowbrook Theatre

Rochester Hills/Auburn Hills
Wed, Jan 28 | Depart 11:15 am
Return 4:30 pm \$109R/114NR

This crowd-pleasing musical is inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley. It's 1955, and into a square little town in a square little state rides a guitar-playing young man who changes everything and everyone he meets in this hip-swiveling, lip-curling musical fantasy that'll have you jumpin' out of your blue suede shoes. Before we head to the theatre, we will be having lunch (included in the price) at Alfoccino Restaurant in Auburn Hills. Transportation will be via a transport van. The registration deadline is January 4th.



Discover Historic Marshall

Marshall | Wed, Feb 11 | Depart 7:30 am
Return 6 pm | \$135R/\$140NR

You travel to Historic Marshall via motorcoach transportation. There you will start your day at the Honolulu Museum and then head to the Governor's Mansion Museum. Afterwards, you will have lunch (included in your price) at Historic Schuler's Restaurant and Pub. From there you will go to your final stop at the Marshall Historical Museum before heading home. This trip does include stairs. The registration deadline is January 8th.



What the Constitution Means to Me at Meadowbrook Theatre

Rochester Hills/Troy | Wed, Mar 4
Depart 11:15 am | Return 4:30 pm
\$98R/\$103NR

Written from her own life story, fifteen-year-old Heidi Schreck paid her college tuition by speaking in debate competitions across the country; now older, she tells the story of four generations of extraordinary women in her family whose lives were shaped by the Constitution. Heidi Schreck's hilarious, hopeful and achingly human play breathes new life into our Constitution and imagines how it will shape the next generation of Americans. Before we head to the theatre, we will be having lunch (included in the price) at Loccino Italian Grill and Bar in Troy. Transportation will be via a transport van. The registration deadline is February 3rd.



Photo: Zak DeZon



Detroit Red Wings Game

Detroit | Mon, Mar 16 | Depart 3 pm
Return 10:30 pm | \$134R/\$139NR

You will receive round trip motorcoach transportation to Little Caesars Arena to see the Detroit Red Wings play the Calgary Flames. The seats are lower level - section 104. Before the game, you will have free time in Detroit's Greektown District. The registration deadline is February 8th.



Come From Away at Meadowbrook Theatre

Rochester Hills | Wed, Apr 8
Depart 11:15 am | Return 4:30 pm
\$103R/\$108NR

Following a true story during the 9/11 attacks, 38 planes and 6,579 passengers were forced to land in Gander, Newfoundland, doubling the population of one small town on the edge of the world. Based on interviews with locals, Come From Away is about how hosting this international community of strangers spurred unexpected camaraderie in extraordinary circumstances. Before we head to the theatre, we will be enjoying lunch (included in the cost) at Kruse and Muer on Main in Downtown Rochester. Transportation is via a transport van. Registration ends March 9.

SILVER SNEAKERS



Circuit

Recreation Center | Mon | 10-10:50 am | \$3R/NR per class
*Free for Silver Sneakers Members

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



Classic

Recreation Center | \$3R/NR per class
*Free for Silver Sneakers Members

Wed | 9:30-10:20 am | 10:30-11:20 am | Fri | 10-10:50 am

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



Register for Parks & Recreation Programs:
OrionParks.com | 248-391-0304 x3500

ONTV Classes

Classes held at ONTV Studio, 1349 Joslyn Rd,
call 248-393-1060 to register.

ONTV Podcast Classes

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

ONTV is offering classes providing instruction on how to record a podcast.

Studio Production Class

ONTV Studio | Mon, Jan 5-Feb 2 | Ages 13+ | 7-9 pm | \$55R/NR

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

Field Production Class

ONTV Studio | Mon, Feb 9-Mar 9 | 7-9 pm | Ages 13+ | \$55R/NR

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

Non-Linear Editing

ONTV Studio | Mon, Mar 16-30 | 7-9 pm | Ages 13+ | \$55R/NR

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





HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, OTPL!

CENTENNIAL – THE PAST

Take a trip through time and see the many years of the Orion Township Public Library on display! Archivist Rebecca Sparagowski has created a timeline detailing the history of this library building and the buildings that came before it! Know your town’s history, including it’s most celebrated community hub, the library!



Library Centennial Kickoff

Sat, Jan 10 | 3 pm

Celebrate 100 years of the Orion Township Public Library in 2026! Come learn about the history of the library, our plans for the centennial celebration, and join in the opening of the library time capsule. Refreshments will be provided.



House Histories/House Mysteries: Tracing the History of a House

Thu, Jan 15 | 7 pm

When was your house built? Who built it? How has it been altered over the years? Learn about resources that can be used to answer these questions and others. Carol Bacak-Egbo, the ever-popular Oakland County Parks historian, will discuss how you can research the history of your home.



Become a Local Historian

Sat, Feb 28 | 3 pm

If you’re interested in helping preserve Orion history, join us for this informative program. Learn how historical materials are preserved and processed, how to navigate our local history archive, and how to add your local expertise to the collection. Register Online

ONE-TIME PROGRAMS

Teen and Adult Holiday Crafternoon

Sat, Dec 13 | 2 pm

Celebrate the holidays with a variety of themed arts and crafts activities and refreshments.

Generations of Games

Tue, Dec 30 | 1 pm–3 pm

In this intergenerational card game program, grandparents and parents will share the timeless tradition of **Euchre**, while kids and teens introduce the silly, fast-paced favorite **Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza**. We’ll teach the rules, then mix everyone up to play together. Snacks provided.

Overcoming Anxious Thoughts: Expert Advice from a Clinical Psychologist

Wed, Dec 17 | 6:30 pm

If you ever struggle with worries, ruminations, or intrusive thoughts, please join this session led by clinical psychologist Dr. Hans Schroder. Dr. Schroder will discuss the function and nature of anxiety, cognitive behavioral therapy techniques to help manage anxious distress, and give you concrete ideas to take the first steps in coping with anxiety.



Cool Cars – Unique Automobiles of the Detroit Historical Society Collection

Mon, Jan 26 | 6:30 pm

The Detroit Historical Society is caretaker of sixty automobiles. Most are rare — many are one-of-a-kind vehicles that exist in no other collection. These include the first closed salon Cadillac, the Scripps-Booth Bi-AutoGo, and a pre-production Mustang prototype. Several were the personal cars of the Auto Barons, and some came to the Society with original engineering drawings. Curator Dave Marchioni will speak about this very unique collection.

Oakland University Faculty Recital Series – Drake Dantzler, tenor and Victoria Shively, piano

Sun, Feb 22 | 2 pm

The Oakland University School of Music, Theatre, and Dance faculty recital series continues with tenor Drake Dantzler and pianist Victoria Shively. The Dantzler/Shively Duo will present a recital of English song where literature takes the stage—including music born from books, letters, and the written word.



Orion Library Film Society

Saturdays, Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 7
1 pm Movie/3 pm Discussion

Let’s talk movies! Watch the movie with us at the Library, or come prepared to talk about the movie after viewing it from Kanopy or our DVD collection.

Dec 6: The Bishop’s Wife (1947)

Jan 3: Cléo de 5 à 7 (1962)

Feb 7: Wings of Desire (1987)

Mindfulness Meditation and Lifestyle

Wednesdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 6:30–8 pm

Do you want a better way to navigate the ups and downs in your life? You will be introduced to the practice of Mindfulness Meditation and lifestyle using simple techniques you can use everyday. Each week, there will be a short talk, written exercises, and we will practice meditation. Please bring a wrap or throw for warmth. Facilitated by Susan Forgie CMMT.

ONGOING PROGRAMS



Cook the Book

Mon, Dec 1, Feb 2 | 6:30 pm

You select and prepare a recipe from the cookbook chosen, and we meet to sample and discuss recipes from that month’s cookbook! Call 248-693-3001 if you need assistance acquiring a cookbook.

December – *Baking Yesteryear* by Dylan Hollis

February – *Good Lookin’ Cookin’* by Dolly Parton

The Write Stuff Writer’s Workshop

Wed, Dec 10, Jan 7, Feb 11 | 7 pm
Thu, Jan 22, Feb 26 | 7 pm

Meet the second Wednesday and fourth Thursday of each month and connect with a group of like-minded writers to learn from each other, share ideas, and practice your writing skills.

Spice of the Month

Fri, Dec 12, Jan 9, Feb 13 | 9:30 am

Pick up a spice kit containing the spice of the month, corresponding recipes, and a reading list based on the chosen spice.

Orion Historical Society

Mon, Jan 19, and Feb 16 | 7 pm

Visit the Orion Historical Society and learn about Local history. New meeting dates (**the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 pm**) and a fresh new format, including a theme and/or speaker each meeting. Join us to get involved in projects to preserve and promote the history of Orion Township and The Village. New members are always welcome. No December or July meetings. Check us out on Facebook.

Thursday Afternoon Book Club

Thu, Dec 18, Jan 15, Feb 19 | 1:30 pm

December – Bring your favorite 2025 read

January – *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker

February – *James* by Percival Everett

Dine Drink and Discuss

Mon, Dec 15, Jan 19, Feb 16 | 7 pm

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

December – *Nation* by Terry Pratchett

January – *Everything Is Tuberculosis* by John Green

February – *No Two Persons* by Erica Bauermeister



Sips and Pages Book Club

Tue, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10 | 7 pm

Calling all romance lovers – Sips and Pages, OTPL’s first romance book club is just for you! We’ll read a different romance book geared toward a specific romance genre/trope. Come prepared to share all your favorite juicy details! Sips and Pages will be held the second Tuesday of the month at Sick Town Hall 37 E Flint St, Lake Orion, MI 48362.

December – *The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year* by Ally Carter

January – *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

February – *The Kiss Quotient* by Helen Hoang

OUTREACH



Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Tue, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10 | 10:30 am

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



English Language Learners Conversation Group (ELL)

Wednesdays | 10:30 am

The group is open to all who wish to practice their English language skills in a relaxed setting. Topics vary widely, and the group offers a great learning experience and an opportunity to meet people. There will be no meeting on December 24 and 31.

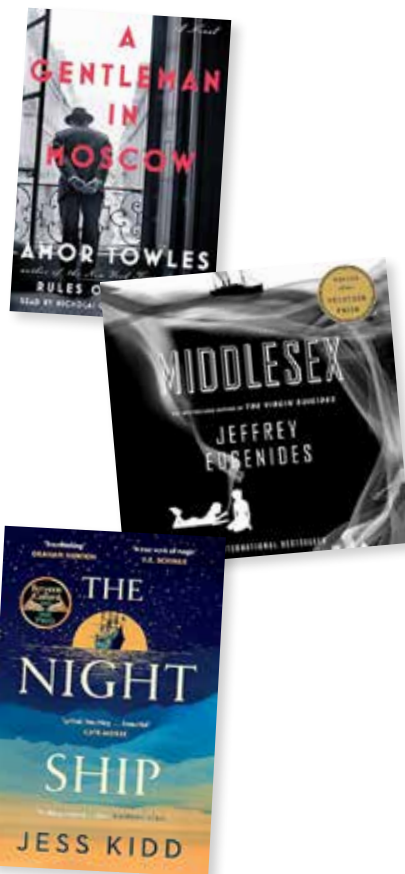
Book Bunch

Wed, Dec 10, Jan 14, Feb 11 | 1 pm

December – A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

January – Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides

February – The Night Ship by Jess Kidd



Senior Social Hour

Fri, Dec 12, Jan 8, Jan 22, Feb 12, Feb 26 11 am

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

Special Needs Adult Programming (SNAP)

Mon, Feb 23 | 12:30 pm

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

TECH



Computer Shortcuts

Thu, Dec 11 | 4:30 pm

Come learn the tips, tricks and shortcuts of your mouse and keyboard. We'll show you how to copy and paste and other quick tricks with a click of your mouse and keyboard!.



Libby.

Introduction to Libby

Tue, Jan 20 | 3:30 pm

Love to read but don't want to keep checking out physical books? Have a tablet and want to start reading eBooks but don't know where to start? Come join us and learn all about Libby, the digital library.



Windows 11

Wed, Feb 25 | 2:30 pm

Come learn the fundamentals of navigating Windows 11. Learn how to find what you need, organize your files, and personalize your experience. We'll cover the Start menu, Taskbar, File Explorer, Settings, and more!



Altered Book Art Club

Thu, Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 5 | 6 pm

This monthly book club is different! Come explore your creative side as we turn old books into new ART journals. The cover and pages become our canvases. We will explore artistic themes and techniques to personalize your experience. Return with your book/journal every month to create additional art pages or drop in when you need a creative outlet. All supplies are provided. All skill levels welcome.



OTPL
makerspace



3rd Annual Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament

Sat, Jan 17 | 2 pm | Register online

Captains, register your team for the 3rd annual puzzle contest! Twelve teams of 4 will put their puzzling skills to the test as they race against the clock, and each other, to see who will complete a 500 piece puzzle the fastest. Are you up for the challenge? Only one registration per team.

Maker Fair

Sat, Feb 21 | 2 pm

Join hosts from i3Detroit Makerspace, Lake Orion High School & Waldon Middle School Robotics Teams, and the Library's own Makerspace team to learn about creative & maker technology, augmented reality, experiment with fun tools, games and much much more!



Will it Waffle: Stranger Things Edition

Sat, Dec 6 | 1 pm | Register online

In honor of the new Stranger Things season release, we're firing up the waffle maker for an Eleven-approved food experiment. From Hawkins to the Upside Down, we'll test out strange ingredients to see if they can "Eggo" the distance—or if they're better left to the Demogorgon. Join us for a deliciously strange challenge and plenty of Eggos!

TEEN

SAT/ACT Test Prep: Carson Academic Consultants

Tue, Jan 27 | 7 pm

Get ready to tackle the SAT and ACT with confidence! This prep session will help you sharpen your test-taking strategies, review key subject areas, and learn tips to boost your score. Whether you're aiming for your best score or just want to feel more prepared, this program will give you the tools you need to succeed. Presented by Carson Academic Consultants.



GAP @ OTPL

Mondays | Feb 23, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23

After school – 4 pm

Special Registration required

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

TWEEN



Introduction to Boxing

Sun, Jan. 11 | 2 pm | Ages 10 and Up
[Register Online](#)

Join us for an introductory boxing workout led by the owner and coach of TITLE Boxing Club in Lake Orion! This non-contact session will cover boxing styles and techniques in a safe, supportive environment. We'll start with a warm-up, move through four rounds of boxing-inspired movement, and finish with a core-focused ab workout. No experience needed—just bring your energy and a yoga mat if you have one!



Afternoon with Huntr/x

Sat, Feb 14 | 2 pm | Grades 3-8
[Register Online](#)

Join us for a fun afternoon with all things related to KPop Demon Hunters! There will be snacks, crafts, and karaoke.

Painting with a Squish

Mon, Feb 16 | 2 pm | Grades 3-8
[Register Online](#)

Your favorite Squishmallow was born to be a star! Bring a Squishmallow to model for your painting.



YOUTH

Warm Up with a Winter Reading Challenge

From December 15 to January 31, kids preschool through high school are invited to read for 400 minutes this winter, that's just 15 minutes a day for less than a month! Track your progress by coloring in a snowman for every 15 minutes read. Complete the challenge and earn a free book as a reward! With 45 days to finish, there's plenty of time to cozy up with a good story.

FAMILY PROGRAMS



Disney Musical Bingo

Sat, Dec 27 | 2 pm | All Ages
[Register Online](#)

Test your knowledge of Disney songs with this fun take on Bingo. Bingo cards will feature song titles, and when you hear the song you cover the space. Prizes for Bingos! You can register as a family, but please indicate how many are in your group when you sign up.

Wildlife In Your Backyard

Fri, Jan 2 | 2 pm | All Ages

Meet some of Howell Nature Center's Wildlife Ambassadors and learn about the wildlife found around our homes, including their characteristics and behaviors, how they can benefit us, and what we can do to help them survive in the wild world.



Family Movie Visual Trivia

Tue, Feb 17 | 2 pm | All Ages
[Register Online](#)

Do you love movies? This will be trivia in a whole new way. We'll show pictures from movies or of movie characters, and you will have to guess the character's name and movie title. It will be fun for all the movie lovers in your crew. A smart device will be needed for each group participating. Register as a family, just indicate how many are in your group when you sign up.



BABY, TODDLER, AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Motor and Mingle

Thu, Dec 4, 11, 18 | 10 am | Ages 2-5

Your little ones will enjoy moving around and exploring their gross and fine motor skills while you enjoy some time connecting with other adults.

Bounce and Boogie

Saturdays | Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 14 | 11 am
Ages 0-7

Learn physical literacy and fundamental motor skills to promote a healthy, active lifestyle with experts and fun activities.

YOUTH

BABY, TODDLER, AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



Community Helpers Storytime: Veterinarians

Mon, Dec 8 | 10 am | Ages 0-7

Join us for a special Storytime and meet a veterinarian from Orion Animal Care Center. We will read stories, dance, sing, and learn more about these special helpers in our community. Stick around for the end to pet some trained therapy dogs.

Bilingual Storytime: Storie in inglese e italiano

Wed, Dec 10 | 11 am | Ages 0-7

Join us for a fun and interactive Storytime where children and families can enjoy stories in both Italian and English led by youth librarians from Orion Township Public Library and Rochester Hills Public Library. This bilingual session will feature engaging books, songs, and activities that help develop language skills in both languages. Venite a godervi storie, canzoni e divertimento in due lingue!



Pajama Storytime

Thursdays | Dec 18, Jan 22 | 6:30 pm
Ages 3 – 2nd Grade

Grab your softest plushie, your best pajamas, your day full of stories, and join us for a wind-down adventure into bedtime with a nighttime-themed storytime.



Music and Movement

Sat, Dec 20 | 10am | Ages 1 & 2 years
[Register Online](#)

Come with your child to explore music and movement! Through songs, finger plays, dancing, and games, you'll learn fun ways to help your child grow. Join our friendly therapists from Early On to discover easy ways to add movement to your child's day! For children age 1 and 2, who are already walking, and their caregivers.



Big Lit

Tuesdays | 10 am | Jan 6 – Jan 27
Ages 0-5, No Limit

Join your OTPL librarians in this big, huge, and super interactive program where we reenact stories, lead dances, and other early literacy fun for a bigger crowd!

Little Lit

Wednesdays & Thursdays | Jan 7–Jan 29
10 am, 11 am | Ages 0-5 | [Register Online](#)

Children ages 0-5 and their families are invited for stories, songs, and activities that promote the five staple early literacy practices: reading, writing, singing, talking, and playing! Limit 15 children per storytime.

Sing Play Speak

Fri, Jan 9 | 10 am | Ages 0-5

Join us for a special event with Ms. Calissa from Sing Play Speak! Ms. Calissa, a pediatric speech-language pathologist, will lead a fun and interactive 45-minute class designed to support children's language development through music, movement, and play.

1, 2, 3 Play with Me: Parent Child Workshop

Wednesdays | Feb 4, 11, 18, 25 | 6:30 pm
OR Thursdays | Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 | 10 am
[Register Online](#) | Ages 1-3

Spend time together at this four-week parent child workshop. Have time to play, experience art activities, and meet new friends. Each week a Community Resource Specialist will be on hand to answer questions about their specialty. Please select either Wednesday or Thursday series to attend.



YOUTH

YOUTH

BABY, TODDLER, AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



Mommy and Me Yoga

Mon, Feb 9 | 10 am | Ages 0-12 months
[Register Online](#)

Ease back into exercise while connecting both emotionally and physically with your baby. This class provides moms the opportunity to regain core strength, learn different breathing techniques, and connect with other moms. This class is led by Brittney Urbach, a certified Prenatal and Postpartum Yoga Teacher and owner of Serene Maternity in Clarkston.

Intergenerational Storytime @ Pomeroy Senior Living

Tue, Feb. 24 | 10:30 am | Ages 0-5,
[Register Online](#)

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



Sign Up for Library Programs: OrionLibrary.org/calendar | 248-693-3000

SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS



Chess Club

Mondays | Dec 29, Jan 26, Feb 23
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Grades K-5

Already know how to play chess? Come join the club! This is a casual meetup for kids who enjoy playing chess and want to face off against other players. No lessons or instruction—just time to play, practice, and have fun with others who love the game. Every session is a little different depending on who shows up, so bring your skills and enjoy the challenge!



Doggone Readers

Tuesdays | Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Grades K-5
[Register Online](#)

Visit with one of our six therapy dogs to practice your reading skills with a silent listener—the dog! Readers can collect stamps for a free book. Readers will be assigned a 15-minute time slot upon arrival.

Rather be Reading Book Club

Wednesdays | 2 pm | Grades 3-7

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

Dec 17 – *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein

Jan 21 – *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

Feb 18 – *Katie the Catsitter* by Colleen Venable

Cardboard Contraptions

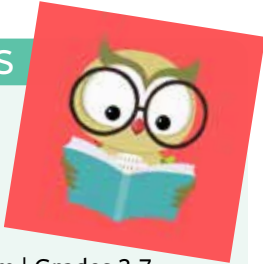
Mon, Dec 22 | 2 pm | Grades K-5

Could you build an amazing creation using only cardboard? Test your creative skills and then take your masterpiece home with you.

Dragon Tales

Saturdays | Jan 10, Feb 7 | 11 am
Grades K-3 | [Register Online](#)

Join us for a fun-filled hour of learning and creativity designed specifically for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade. Our Dragon Tales program is about exploring favorite stories with a short book discussion, a themed craft, and an engaging activity or game. No pre-reading is required!



SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS



LEGO Make and Take

Mon, Dec 29 | 2 pm | Grades K-5

We had so many LEGO bricks, we had to clean out our closet! Come for some free building time and take your creations home with you.

Art Class with Ms. Halli: Collage

Fri, Jan 16 | 2 pm | Grades 2-5
[Register Online](#)

Learn and explore different art techniques and materials while you create your very own masterpieces.

Snow Much Fun! STEAM Winter Fun

Sat, Jan 24 | 2 pm | Grades K-5

Use your STEAM skills as we explore the fun that winter offers. Indoor ice skating, igloo building, and other fun activities.



PARENT/CAREGIVER PROGRAM SERIES

Child Passenger Safety Workshop

Sat, Dec 13 | 10 am | [Register Online](#)

Chat with a certified Car Seat Technician from Trinity Health Oakland – Trauma Services about child passenger safety, including car seat laws, proper seat use (including boosters), and how to access free car seats and safety checks. For caregivers of children ages 0-8.



Sleep Training Workshop

Sat, Jan 31 | 2 pm

Struggling with your child's sleep? Join Jessica Glenn, Certified Infant & Toddler Sleep Consultant, as she shares key strategies on sleep environment, routines, wake windows, and more. Ideal for caregivers of children ages 0-5 seeking restful sleep for the whole family.



Toilet Training

Sat, Feb 7 | 2 pm | [Register Online](#)

Learn when and how to start toilet training, recognize readiness signs, and get practical tips from an Early On physical therapist. Ideal for parents and caregivers of children ages 0-3. Toys provided.



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



There is still time to form a team for Battle of the Books! Online registrations for individual participants will be accepted until Friday, January 16. Battle of the Books is open to all 5th graders who live or attend school in Lake Orion. Register and join us for the following events:

Mentors Meeting

Thu, Dec 11 | 6:30 pm

Battle team Mentors and all involved parents are invited to this informative session where librarians will present best practices and answer questions about this year's 5th Grade Battle of the Books.

Virtual: Halfway Meetup

Thu, Jan 15 | 6:30 pm

Let's meet up and chat about Battle! We will play a few book-related games with chances to win prizes, go over all things Battle, and answer any questions during this online Zoom.

Virtual: Final Meetup

Thu, Feb 26 | 6:30 pm

Final meetup to answer any last-minute questions before the big battle! All participants and parents are encouraged to attend virtually. Prizes and fun are included!

Battle of the Books

Sat, Feb 28 | 10 am

Teams of 5th graders converge to battle quiz show style at Waldon Middle School. Parents, teachers, and mentors are invited to watch!



FRIENDS OF THE ORION TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

248-693-3000 x470 | friends@orionlibrary.org | friendsorionlibrary.org



Warm Winter Wishes

The Friends of the Orion Township Library would like to wish you all a wonderful winter season and Happy New Year! We will not be having our winter book sale this year but do not fret! The Friends' gently used book store, Twice Told Tales, (located in the library lobby) is always available and filled with great finds at amazing prices. And keep an eye out in February for Blind Dates with a Book for purchase. Remember all proceeds from book sales go directly to The Friends which then goes to support so many great things happening at the Orion Township Public Library (OTPL).

We also would like to THANK YOU for all the support, donations, and volunteering which make it possible to fund fun events, programming and other needs at OTPL; like helping with the cost of a new front sign. The Friends have sponsored over 50 Adult programs and over 60 Youth and Teen programs in 2025! Some of the programs that the Friends have sponsored include:

- ▶ Summer Reading Program
- ▶ Adult Altered Book Club
- ▶ Take N Makes
- ▶ Dragon Tales
- ▶ Think Link/GAP Activities
- ▶ Learn CPR
- ▶ Summer Movie Nights
- ▶ Grandparent Tea Party
- ▶ Color Me Happy Run
- ▶ The Book Fairy Bubble Dance Party
- ▶ And more!

If you are interested in donating your time to help the Friends please reach out to us! Or check out other ways to be involved at FriendsOrionLibrary.org.



Where Living is a Vacation and Recreation Leads the Way

Once known primarily as a vacation destination, Orion Township has evolved into "Where Living is a Vacation." The phrase captures not only the area's natural charm but also its enduring appeal: a place people come to visit...and choose to stay.

This evolution has brought growth in population, housing, and business, but never at the expense of Orion's core value: recreation. At just 36 square miles, nearly a third of the Township is dedicated to parks and open space, reflecting a community that treasures green space, trees, connectivity, and play as integral to daily life. Today, Orion proudly contains over 4,500 acres of parkland (and counting!), 100 miles of trails and pathways, and a tree canopy spanning over half its land.

Over the past fifteen years, Orion has become a regional leader in recreation, setting the standard for how growth and preservation can work hand in hand. Few communities in Michigan have shown more initiative in expanding recreational opportunities while protecting natural spaces.

A defining moment came in 2014, when the Township purchased Camp Agawam from the Boy Scouts, saving it from development. Working with the Friends of Camp Agawam and Tommy's Lake, Orion has enhanced the camp's rustic character with new amenities, including a disc golf course, KaBOOM! playground, improved beach with an accessible Mobi-Mat, and a restored Fire Bowl area ready to host everything from weddings to music festivals.

At Friendship Park, Orion's commitment to accessibility shines through the Miracle Field—built in partnership with Easterseals in 2019 to support athletes with special needs and disabilities. Fully booked each season, the field has become what Township Supervisor Chris Barnett calls "the happiest place in the world." Friendship Park continues to grow, with

new mountain biking trails, an ADA-accessible community garden, and plans to revitalize the historic Porritt Barn and Howarth Schoolhouse as spaces for weddings and community gatherings.

Recreation in Orion also extends beyond park boundaries. The 2015 Baldwin Corridor Improvement Project revitalized one of the Township's main thoroughfares, adding sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, and parks to encourage walking, cycling, and community events while supporting local business growth.

Along that same corridor stands one of Orion's proudest achievements: the transformation of Great Lakes Athletic Club (GLAC) into a community recreation center. Purchased in 2023, the facility represents the culmination of the Township's long-term investment in recreation.

Two additional parks—The Playful Dragon and the newest, Heritage Park—also line the Baldwin Corridor, offering recreational opportunities while preserving green space that might otherwise have been developed.

Continuing its mission of conserving open space for community enjoyment, Orion Township recently acquired the former Pine Tree Elementary property from Lake Orion Schools to retain some of its recreational features and transform it into a new community park.

These are just a few highlights of how Orion Township has excelled in recreation over the past 15 years. We invite you to explore the full timeline at OrionParks.com.

Through preservation, thoughtful enhancement, and community collaboration, Orion Township has proven that progress and recreation not only coexist—they thrive together. For residents and visitors alike, Orion remains not just a great place to live, but a place where living truly is a vacation.

Drawn Together

Connecting Classrooms Through Creativity



When the Lake Orion High School art students leave the building each May to take the short stroll down to Stadium Drive Elementary, their hearts are beating a little faster.

For a few months, they have meticulously turned 2-D into 3-D all while wishing and hoping that the reception is strong.

The past few years have featured this unique program: classes at Stadium Drive sketch out individual drawings and send them to LOHS, then the sculpture students go to work.

Their goal? To recreate the elementary drawings into a creative, real-life form.

So, each May, the sculptures are presented from the high school students to the elementary students, and the reactions are dramatic.

“The one time I taught it, it cracked me up how nervous the high schoolers were that the littles wouldn’t like what they made, or wouldn’t think they tried,” said LOHS art teacher Stacy Feeney. “Students that don’t always use all of

their time (usually), they really do (for this), because they want whoever’s receiving it to like it. So you do see a lot of engagement with that one pressure.”

The connection between LOHS and Stadium Drive, even for just one project, strengthens the bond between levels, validates the older students and inspires the younger ones. The connection becomes one of the moments the high school students take with them on their journey.

“It’s one of their favorites,” Rimi said. “That’s one that they talk about even when the class is over, if I see them in the hallways, or when they graduate, that’s something that comes up. ‘That was my favorite.’”

The LOHS art program extends across all grades and schools within LOCS and is one of the most prideful areas within the district’s achievement.

Each year the program wins awards at multiple levels and sets a standard for the fine arts within the district.

Elementary School

At the elementary level, the art program is about introducing basic skills that develop grade by grade, building on the previous years.

Students work to reflect their growing understanding of the world around them.

“Art Education generates student success in both school and lifelong situations,” said Jillian Slade, an elementary art teacher at Paint Creek Elementary. “Our goal at the elementary level is to provide all students with an art education that develops the design skills they need to be independent critical thinkers, problem solvers and creative innovators.”

The intent for elementary students to look beyond simply the art that they create and have it reflect other parts of their life is intentional by LOCS.

“Lake Orion’s elementary curriculum focuses on helping students develop socially, intellectually and creatively through the exploration of art history, constructive criticism, technology and standards-based studio work,” Slade said. “Students explore the elements and

principles of design through a wide variety of both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional works of art.”

Discussion and description are part of the curriculum for the youngest learners, blending the why with the what and how. Art education shows the students what other artwork looks like so they can incorporate it into their world.

“We spend time observing, describing and questioning art images,” Slade said. “This allows students to explore different viewpoints. Throughout their elementary years, students will be able to demonstrate growth in self-expression, finding their voice and abstract thinking.”

Middle School

Bringing the elementary skills to the middle school level is a big step in the students’ evolution.

Art is still a required elective in sixth and seventh grade, keeping the students in a creative mindset as they move into their middle school careers.

They begin with a 10-week class as one of their electives and that begins a specific

introduction to certain disciplines.

Jerry Brazeau, the Scripps Middle School art teacher, makes sure they are exposed to various forms of art.

“A drawing assignment, a painting assignment, sculpture and ceramics, that pretty much uses up 10 weeks,” he said.

He provided the example of portraits from early in the school year.

Math skills are used in laying out the features, then they move on to color theory, then being more expressive in the colors.

“Even though there are goals and expectations, I leave room for exploring and trying things to make it unique for them,” he said.

Across the middle schools, there is a connection between the curriculum, but there also is a lot of freedom to make choices in what direction to take the project. Brazeau would teach the technique and then the student would put their spin on it.

Creativity is a large part of the curriculum, shown at Waldon Middle School, where teacher Amanda Miller partnered

with the music teacher last year to bring skills to drama. Her work with the students designing costumes and creating the sets for the school music production blended art with another elective.

In eighth grade, the students are choosing the elective, so it becomes a group of students who are committed to expanding their skills.

Part of Brazeau’s teaching is showing the students an adult’s technique. He paints and does sculptures on his own time, often bringing them into the class to see what higher-level skills can produce – and reinforcing that their teacher is enhancing his skills in the same area as they are.

“My goal when they leave my class as eighth graders is to be ready for high school art,” he said. “By the time they’re done with me, they’ve done plenty of shading, plenty of mixing colors and textures and all that stuff that I do. So I think it’s kind of fun knowing I’m in the middle, because it kind of helped that transition between elementary and high school.”





High School

The LOHS art department creates many opportunities for students.

There are a dozen different disciplines, plus an AP Art course, to choose from, allowing the high school students a wide array of options.

“Whether they want to go into AP Advanced Placement, whether they want it to be a hobby, whether they want to focus in 3-D or 2-D, I think we all have the same philosophy that we want to meet them where they are and bring them along in their journey to achieve what it is they want to achieve as individual,” said Stephanie Harris, an LOHS art teacher and the chair of the LOCS art department.

While art is often viewed as outside of the core curriculum, the basic teaching tenets remain the same.

“We realize that art is not like an inherent talent, and you either have it or you don’t, art is a learned skill, so it’s a practice skill as much as any other class you’re going to take here,” art teacher Stacy Feeney said. “Do you have kids

that are inherently more talented than others? Sure. But you’ve also got kids in math classes that get it, and you get kids in math classes that need more work to learn how to do it. It’s the same thing.”

There is an art requirement over the four years, but with so many different choices, there are options for all students.

The art program has mirrored the interests of the students.

Harris was an LOHS art teacher in the early 2000s before leaving to work at the middle school level for 12 years. When she returned to LOHS, the focus was dramatically different.

In the early 2000s, there was extensive interest in digital art as the school was one of the few places to use the photography and computer-related tools. Now, the high school students use digital art technology on their own cell phones, their individual computers, artificial intelligence and apps that make those skills easier.

It’s back to the old school in the classes with a renewed and expanded interest in painting.

A focus on the LOHS general education students drives much of the opportunities, but art teacher Monica Cotton is supporting the special education students in LOHS – adaptive art–and the PHASES program.

Similar to the intro-level design concepts class, the special education students experience a wide array of the art world.

“We do a little bit of everything in adaptive, we just kind of modify it to fit the students’ needs.” Cotton said.

Because LOCS has long supported the art program, LOHS has many of the resources (including four teachers) and tools to provide opportunities for students. That’s one reason, along with the staff encouragement – Sam Rimi runs a vibrant afterschool art club for students who want more. The combination of various art classes and additional art opportunities, give LOHS students an art advantage. This is evident in the many awards received locally and nationally every year.

Combined with the popular student art show and National Art Honor Society silent auction each spring, LOHS is a trend-setter and a model for other districts to follow.



Student feedback

Brynn L., Grade 12

Hands on experience really helped me understand all mediums when working with art. Art had impacted my life mentally because I can see all aspects of everyday life as an art form. Art is also a way I express myself externally, I tend to express myself on the outside with my fashion choices and artistic jewelry pieces on a regular basis.

Ana B., Grade 12

What I value most about taking art classes at LOHS is the wide variety of courses offered and the opportunity to continually learn new skills that help me grow as an artist.

Aydan P., Grade 11

What I value most about taking art classes at our high school is the ability of our teachers to work one on one with students in order to improve what each person on an individual level needs to improve! In art there are so many different things a person could struggle with, and the teachers here understand that; they observe students and give personalized feedback based on the individual rather than only general advice.



Emma B., Grade 11

I believe that art is a form of self-expression through the fact that anyone can create art and put meaning to it even if it doesn’t come off looking as if its ‘art’. For me in the moment of creating, it doesn’t have to be beautiful in a sense but rather it’s a way of getting your feelings and ideas down on paper to express your mind that can then be developed further.

Scarlett S., Grade 12

Art at LOHS showed me the most kind and welcoming community, provided me with an outlet to let my creativity run free, and guided me though to see what I wanted for my future career. Art has become a part of my personality and holds a huge place in my heart.

Olivia S., Grade 11: These classes have widely expanded not only my skills, but the opportunities available to me from our teachers ranging from recommending local classes to the resources our school has like the raku pottery kiln and wheels for pottery. These programs have changed the trajectory of my life and what I want to study as I graduate and start college in the coming years.



Sign up for Fall & Winter Enrichment Programs:
LakeOrionSchools.org/departments/enrichment-services

THE FIRST AMENDMENT Is at Our Core

Orion Neighborhood Television (ONTV) and other public access stations champion the First Amendment by providing an open platform for all community voices. Unlike commercial or public media outlets, which have editorial control, **public access channels are dedicated “free speech zones”** where community members can create and air their own, non-commercial content.

By offering accessible production tools and training, ONTV empowers residents to produce and distribute programming that reflects diverse perspectives and local interests. This model ensures that grassroots organizations and individuals have a platform for civic discourse, cultural expression, and community engagement, thereby promoting a robust hub of ideas and opinions.

Through this commitment, stations like ONTV foster active public participation and protect the constitutional right to freedom of speech.

Speech of all kinds, even speech we do not agree with, is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Media access centers like ONTV are here to champion our First Amendment rights and encourage civic engagement. We should all be concerned when corporations and governments impose roadblocks to these freedoms. What other rights afforded to all of us will be challenged next?

Need to speak your mind? ONTV is here. Orion area residents have exercised their First Amendment rights at Orion Neighborhood Television for close to 40 years. Isn't it time to reengage in civil discourse where we can agree to disagree with a friendly handshake, instead of disparaging those we disagree with?

Ian J. Locke
Executive Director, ONTV



Please come out to support the annual ONTV Food and Fund Drive for the Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry. Our cash collection goal is again \$8,000. Non-perishable food donations are also needed! Help us fill our production van to restock the shelves at FISH.

February 2–6, 2026

**ONTV will be collecting donations at our studio on 1349 Joslyn Rd
Monday 2/2/26 – Thursday 2/5/26 | 10 am–8 pm
and Friday 2/6/26 | 10 am–5 pm.**

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Help the those in need in the Orion
area and restock the shelves at FISH
after the holiday season.



The Lake Orion Lions Club, Serving With Heart, All Year Long

In Orion Township, service isn't just a slogan—it's a way of life. Few organizations embody that spirit more than the Lake Orion Lions Club, a volunteer powered group that has been lifting up neighbors, supporting families, and strengthening our community for more than 80 years. As winter settles in, the Lions are once again at the heart of efforts to make sure everyone in Orion has what they need to thrive during the coldest months.

Best known for their motto, “We Serve,” the Lake Orion Lions Club focuses much of its mission on assisting individuals with vision and hearing needs—from supporting screenings and eye exams to providing glasses, hearing aids, and essential resources. But their reach stretches far beyond that. The Lions step up wherever the community needs them most: delivering meals, supporting families facing hardship, and partnering with local schools, service clubs, and nonprofits to broaden their impact.

Winter brings some of the Club's most meaningful traditions. Their annual Christmas Basket Program supports hundreds of local families with food, children's gifts, toiletries, and warm clothing. Volunteers of all ages come together to sort donations, pack boxes, wrap gifts, and hand deliver care and kindness

across the community. For many residents, this tradition is a reminder that no one in Orion faces the season alone.

The Lions also continue their year round efforts—collecting used eyeglasses for redistribution, hosting fundraisers, and providing support in moments of personal crisis. Whether it's helping a family recover after a fire or assisting a resident with unexpected medical needs, the Lions show up quickly, quietly, and compassionately.

“We're here to serve because this is our home,” Club members often say. That spirit is visible in every event, every food delivery, every pair of donated glasses, and every moment a volunteer gives to lift someone up.

As the snow falls and Orion glows with holiday lights, we offer a heartfelt thank you to the Lake Orion Lions Club and the volunteers who make our community brighter—not just in December, but every day of the year.

To learn more, donate, or get involved, visit the Lions at a meeting or upcoming community event. Together, we can continue building a stronger, more caring Orion Township. Visit LakeOrionLions.org for more information.

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ORION LIVING

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

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



First Snow in LO

A horse-drawn wagon glides through the streets of downtown Lake Orion as the first snow gently blankets the night.

Photo: Lisa Thierry