Orion Township Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Agenda
Thursday, April 15, 2021
6:30 p.m. – Library Meeting Room

Library Mission: To serve and engage a thriving community of lifelong learners

I. Call to order
II. Approval of agenda
III. Presentation: Maner Costerisan, 2020 Financial Audit Report
IV. Consent agenda
   A. Minutes of 3/18/2021 Regular Library Board meeting
   B. Bills from March 2021
V. Financial Statement and Treasurer’s Report as of March 31, 2021
VI. Public Comment
VII. Communications
   A. Annual Report of the Orion Township Corridor Improvement Authority
   B. Letter to Oakland County Equalization from Township Attorney
   C. Press coverage
VIII. Director’s Report
   A. Library news and activities
   B. Usage reports
   C. State of Michigan Coronavirus updates
      a. MDHHS Epidemic Order on Gatherings and Face Masks Amendment – March 31, 2021
   D. Advocacy news
      a. Michigan Library Advocacy Day on April 20, 2021 (Virtual)
IX. Old Business
   A. COVID-19 Status Update
   B. Linda Sickles Meeting Room signage update
   C. Quarterly Report on 2021 OTPL Goals
X. Standing Committee Reports
   A. Policy – update from meeting on 4/7/2021
   B. Finance
   C. Fund Development/Strategic Planning
   D. Board Development – Quarterly Review of Board Goals
   E. Building – update from meeting on 4/7/2021
   F. Human Resources
XI. Discussion Items
   A. 2020 Annual Report
XII. Action Items
XIII. Public Comment
XIV. Trustee Comments
XV. Adjournment
Library Mission: To serve and engage a thriving community of lifelong learners

I. Call to order: 6:34 p.m. Members present: Thorndycraft, Abramczyk, Phillips, Pergeau, and Quinn. Excused: Luna

II. Approval of agenda: Added to IX Discussion Items E. Ingram Fund Request. Motion by Pergeau, second by Phillips to approved the agenda as modified. **Roll Call: Ayes- Abramczyk, Phillips, Pergeau, and Quinn. Nays- None. Motion passed 4 to 0.**

III. Consent agenda: Motion by Abramczyk, second by Phillips to approved the consent agenda. **Roll Call: Ayes- Phillips, Pergeau, Quinn and Abramczyk. Nays- None. Motion passed 4 to 0.**
   A. Minutes of 2/18/2021 Regular Library Board meeting
   B. Minutes of 3/8/2021 Special Library Board meeting
   C. Minutes of 3/10/2021 Special Library Board meeting
   D. Bills from February 2021
   E. Financial Statement and Treasurer’s Report as of February 28, 2021

IV. Public Comment: None

V. Communications
   A. Press coverage- Nice coverage by the DDA regarding the Story Walk. Waiting to have a press release published by the Review about the monetary savings library patrons reaped.

VI. Director’s Report
   A. Library news and activities- Weekly call-in meditations continue. Recordings are also uploaded to YouTube and being watched there as well. Take and Make items are doing very well. Continuing to partner with the schools. One hundred fifty-two patrons signed up for 50 books in 52 weeks program. Applied for a LSTA grant. Social media continues to do well. Installed a Narcan box in the lobby. Purchased ‘electrical assist’ for the Bookbike. National Library Week is April 4th to the 10th. The Friends annual meeting will be by Zoom and held on April 13th at 6:30 p.m. The Friends bookstore is still closed, but should be opening soon. Friends book donations are still not being accepted but may do special collections outside with warmer weather if storage permits.
   B. Usage reports- usage figures still reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
   C. State of Michigan Coronavirus updates
      a. MDHHS Epidemic Order on Gatherings and Face Masks – March 2, 2021- This loosens restrictions on libraries, allowing 50% or less occupancy limits, limits of 25 people at non-residential indoor gatherings and 300 people at non-residential outdoor gatherings. Remote work must continue. Library moved to Grab & Go service on Monday, March 15.
   D. Advocacy news- Director briefly discussed the issues below. The HB 4371 and HB 4286 amendments are being discussed with the legislature to extend the allowance of virtual meetings past March 31, 2021. If they are not passed, open meetings will have to return to an in-person meeting. With the Library Privacy Act changes, video surveillance recording are no longer protected, meaning they can be turned over to police as needed. Current record retention for video is 30 days, seeking a 7-day limit to reduce cost of storage. The policy committee will meet to discuss.
      a. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 brings $200 million for IMLS, libraries
      b. Latest Open Meetings Act bills: HB4371, HB4286
      c. Michigan Library Advocacy Day on April 20, 2021 (Virtual)
d. Library Privacy Act – amended and goes into effect at the end of March

VII. Old Business
A. COVID-19 Status Update - Library is open for Grab & Go as of March 15. The Orion Center branch is now open M, W, Th from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. with limited services. Curbside pick-up now has new hours, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. -7 p.m., M – Th. And 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Friday & Saturday. Curbside is closed on Sunday. Continue to have some patrons that do not want to wear masks while visiting the library. It was suggested that a sign be placed in the lobby explain what the monitor’s percentage numbers mean regarding the number of patrons in the building.
B. Linda Sickles Meeting Room update- A draft of the possible signage was shared, Director to continue working on this.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports
A. Policy- set meeting date for 4/7/21 @ 4:30 p.m. to discuss library privacy act and the MGT-1 OTPL policy.
B. Finance- None. Audit results available next month.
C. Fund Development/Strategic Planning- None
D. Board Development – Advocacy & Saying Thank You! - The Director will send a link to board members so as to thank Legislative members for increasing library funding. Patron stories for possible publication is being collected by the Director from staff.
E. Building- Set meeting date of 4/7/21 @ 5 p.m. to provide update on Staff Kitchen and new doors projects.
F. Human Resources - None

IX. Discussion Items
A. Copier lease contract – Applied Imaging had the least expensive costs for handling all the library’s coping needs. A 5-year contract would have significant savings over current expenditures.
B. MLA Organizational Membership – new Linked Trustee benefit- Director will set up board members as ‘Linked Trustees’. Board members can join as affiliate members for $50.00
C. Baber estate bequest- The Director is seeking to purchase contactless patron pick-up lockers (available 24/7) with the Baber funds.
D. Donations since 2019 Donor Reception- Reviewed list of contributions from patrons.
E. Ingram request –Discussed funding to digitize the L.O. Review. The cost to finish the project is about $39,000.00. The fund’s balance is $67,451. Seeking $5,300.00 to continue the project.

X. Action Items
A. Copier lease contract – Motion by Phillips, second by Abramczyk to approve the copier/printer lease and maintenance agreement with Applied Imaging for a 5-year period. Roll Call: Ayes- Pergeau, Quinn, Abramczyk and Pregeau. Nays- None. Motion passed 4 to 0.

XI. Public Comment - None
XII. Trustee Comments
XIII. Adjournment: 7:47 p.m.
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Consent Agenda: Bills from March 2021 Acct Dist pg 6
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**Account Total**: 220.64  0.00

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**Education & Training**

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**Account Total**: 349.00  0.00

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**Dues**

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**Account Total**: 500.00  0.00

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**Accounting Fees**

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**Account Total**: 6,000.00  0.00

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**Consulting Fees**

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**Account Total**: 600.00  0.00

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**Grand Total**: 64,603.53  539.74
## Orion Township Public Library

For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2021

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<th>Actual To Date</th>
<th>Percent of Total Budget</th>
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<td>Property Taxes</td>
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<td>171</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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# Orion Township Public Library

## For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2021

### Operational Expenditures

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<th>Annual Budget</th>
<th>Actual To Date</th>
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<th>Balance of Budget</th>
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<td><strong>Salaries</strong></td>
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<td>1,460,000</td>
<td>264,767</td>
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<td><strong>Fringe Benefits</strong></td>
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<td>400,000</td>
<td>98,785</td>
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<td>145,000</td>
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(1) Credit Union Money Market .50% interest  
(2) Credit Union Savings  
(5) Money Market Account, CD  
* Change in value until the investment reaches maturity  
(13) CD maturing 9/14/2021 @ 3.00% interest  
(14) CD maturing 5/12/2023 @1.650% interest  
(15) CD maturing 1/31/2022 @1.800% interest  
(17) CD maturing 1/16/2026 @ 0.550% interest
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<th>Account Description</th>
<th>Beginning of Month</th>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>Realized/Unrealized Gain/Loss *</th>
<th>Operations</th>
<th>Transferred</th>
<th>Checks Issued</th>
<th>Transferred to PNC General</th>
<th>Transferred to other</th>
<th>End of Month</th>
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<td>PNC Bank - General Checking (1)</td>
<td>$205,631.26</td>
<td></td>
<td>$852,328.54</td>
<td>$837.54</td>
<td></td>
<td>($221,600.02)</td>
<td>($700,000.00)</td>
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<td>$125.85</td>
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<td>$127.85</td>
<td>$852,328.54</td>
<td>$700,837.54</td>
<td>($222,998.50)</td>
<td>($700,000.00)</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
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- (1) Business Checking
- (2) Business Savings Sweep
- (3) Cafeteria
- (4) Business Checking - Donation Account
- (5) Business Checking - Donation Account
- (6) High Yield Money Market .30% interest
- (7) Credit Union Savings
- (8) Credit Union Money Market 0.15% interest
- (9) Credit Union Savings
- (10) Credit Union Savings
- (11) Credit Union MM .40% interest
- (12) Additions
- (13) Money Market, Treasury Bills, CD’s
- (14) Money Market, CD

* Change in value until the investment reaches maturity
March 10, 2021

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ORION TOWNSHIP CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

Executive Summary Report on the activities of the Orion Township’s Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) approved by the Orion Township Board of Trustees on May 15, 2016 for the period ending December 31, 2020.

OVERVIEW:
This report is intended to summarize the activities of the Orion Township CIA for the reporting period. The reporting period is from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The prior period reports, this report, minutes of CIA Board meetings, and other CIA related information is available for public review on the Orion Township website at www.oriontownship.org, and at the Clerk’s Office at the Orion Township offices located at 2525 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion, Michigan 48360.

CIA PLAN RECAP AND SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:
In summary, the CIA Plan approved in May 2016 is divided into three priorities. Priority One is the engineering, property acquisition, watermain relocation, and hard cost of widening Brown Road from Joslyn Road to Baldwin Road from three lanes to five lanes (two each way plus a center turn lane). Priority Two is the Baldwin Road streetscape, which will follow the route of the first phase of the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) project from Brown Road to Gregory Road. Priority Three is other enhancements intended to improve the appearance and other components to stimulate development of the District. The total estimated cost of all three Priorities is slightly over $8,000,000. A partial breakdown of these costs and budget to actual is discussed later in this report.

To support these Priorities, the CIA has embarked on a not-to-exceed 20-year tax capture of 50% of the eligible taxes collected; the incremental increases in taxable values in the District from 2016, from the stakeholder taxing jurisdictions, in accordance with Public Act 280. Although there is, and always will be, variance with the budget to the actual timing of these increases, the increase in taxable value begins from a real estate taxable value floor of slightly under $31,000,000 in 2016 to a projected taxable value of just under $199,000,000 in 2035, as projected in the original plan. If this projection were accomplished without variance, the original projection would generate $13,911,000 +/-, which is deemed sufficient to cover the hard cost of the Priorities, interest (at 4%), and soft costs. It should be noted that in 2020 the Orion Township Board of Trustees lowered the interest rate to .75% which is deemed to be in line with commercially available municipal bonds at this time.

All activities are overseen by the appointed seven-member CIA Board. This board meets in publicly noticed sessions on a quarterly basis and, once approved, minutes of each meeting are posted on the Orion Township website. Individual stakeholder taxing jurisdictions participating in the CIA are individually noticed in advance of CIA Board meetings by the Orion Township administration.

The very first and clearly threshold activity of the CIA was to seek approval from all of the applicable taxing authorities. Presentations, in some cases on multiple occasions, conveyed the plan and its anticipated
long-term benefits to the community and each agency. The applicable taxing authorities include Oakland County TIF and Finance Committees, Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Oakland County Community College, Oakland County Parks, North Oakland Transportation Authority, Orion Township Library Board, and the Huron Clinton Metro Parks Authority (HCMA).

These presentations were prepared with input from the CIA Board and were conducted under the leadership of CIA Board Chairman Barnett, supported by SCS and other advisors. This task is nearly complete with all agencies agreeing to opt-in, except the HCMA. The HCMA policy of opting out remains in place although the Orion Township CIA remains hopeful that a new policy is forthcoming.

In 2018, The remaining details of the Priority One action items relative to the Brown Road widening were completed. The CIA, through its engineering consultant OHM Advisors, skillfully managed all aspects of the engineering, entitlement, and construction components of the road project to bring it in on time and under budget (summarized below). This effort required the acquisition of two properties and approximately 18 grading easements to achieve engineering and safety standards. It is noteworthy that the two properties acquired for this purpose, 95 Brown Road and 313 Brown Road, have resold to the private sector for commercial development, as anticipated. 95 Brown Road has been sold to a hotel developer and 313 Brown Road is under construction to be a component of a larger residential project being constructed by Pulte Homes.

Predictably, the traffic congestion relief and private sector development feedback about the Brown Road improvements has been outstanding. The road improvement is, and will continue to be, a key catalyst in repositioning the Brown Road Innovation Zone District (BIZ) properties and in turn, the overall image of two key southern gateways to the community. It is noteworthy also that the Planning and Zoning Director and Planning Commission have contributed greatly to this image initiative through the design and implementation of new standards for lighting, landscape, and architectural features along the Brown Road frontage, which will be required by individual applicants in the site plan approval process.

In response to multiple opportunities for public input, including a specifically designed public forum charrette on the Baldwin Road streetscape and pedestrian scale amenities, conceptual streetscape design has been completed on Priority Two. Preliminary design for the proposed pocket park location at Pasadena Road and Baldwin Road is in process. The land transfers to Orion Township to facilitate the pocket parks from surplus RCOC Baldwin Road real estate was completed in 2018. Unfortunately, labor and weather issues delayed the completion of the first phase of the RCOC Baldwin Road project until 2019, thereby delaying the start of the related streetscape work until late 2019 and 2020. The majority of the Priority Two work was completed in 2020. Generally, all the budgeted and CIA Board directed activities contemplated and budgeted by the original 2016 plan are completed except for some minor streetscape related components as detailed on page 4 in recap form.

As contemplated by the CIA, a new Playful Dragon pocket park at the corner of Jordan and Baldwin was completed in 2020 funded primarily by grant and in-kind developer donation. A second pocket park to the north in the Gingellville overlay zone is in a pre-planning stage at this time. Additional detail on private sector activity in 2020 can be found in the District Marketing Activity section later in this report.
In 2020 the CIA Board is pleased to announce that the improvements contemplated in the 2016 plan were substantially completed. The actual expenditures have been made or are committed with only minor, primarily landscape, visual enhancement, and other weather-related work to wrap up in 2021.

A recap of the expenditures by category are as follows:

**PRIORITY ONE BROWN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS:**
- The acquisition, design, and construction costs are budgeted in the plan at $5,085,000. Currently, the total of those items is $5,127,754 less $710,000 received by the CIA for the sale of the acquired properties, 95 Brown Road and 313 Brown Road. As a result, the expenditures for Priority One are $4,417,754, representing a net savings of $667,246 below budget for Priority One.

It should also be noted that in addition to $710,000 of cash proceeds, the developer of the 313 Brown Road property also provided approximately $65,000 toward the Jordan Road pocket park on an in-kind basis.

- The CIA is accruing a $20,000 annual administrative expense and interest to be paid to Orion Township as revenue becomes available as a component of the debt service.

**PRIORITY TWO BALDWIN STREETSCAPE:**
- The CIA Plan budgets the Baldwin Road streetscape plan at $2,199,000. To date, approximately $555,488 has been spent or been committed on planning, DTE Lighting, and RCOC contractor payments. The total expenditures in this Priority Two category are expected to be $1,575,488.

**PRIORITY THREE OTHER ENHANCEMENTS:**
- The CIA Plan budgets $800,000 for additional enhancements. The total expenditures in this category are expected to be $1,891,000. The difference in budget to actual represents a re-classification of Priority One and Priority Two budget savings to facilitate further CIA District area enhancements for design continuity along the Baldwin Road corridor, which will maximize the investment in terms of practicality and visual impact while maintaining an overall positive (below) budget variance.

**GRAND TOTAL:**
The total improvement expenditures budgeted in the May 2016 approved CIA Plan are $8,084,000. The net CIA expenditures, after deducting land sales, which were not budgeted, is now projected to be at approximately $7,884,242, or $199,758 below the budget amount. Going forward, the CIA Board will focus annual reporting on budget to actual taxable values and budget to actual TIF proceeds collected.
Increases in taxable value in real property and personal property within the CIA District limits is the essence of this and any TIF project. Increases are realized by new improvements and inflationary increases on existing properties with no change. All the values in the approved May 2016 CIA Plan are estimated and projected.

Comparison of the first year’s actual as determined by Oakland County Assessing are as follows:

Oakland County initially established the base year amount as $35,257,840.

**CIA TAXABLE VALUES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budgeted in Plan</th>
<th>County Actual</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$30,804,520</td>
<td>$36,225,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$40,324,633</td>
<td>$37,519,730</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>$58,774,733</td>
<td>$39,139,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$68,702,616</td>
<td>$51,009,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$74,378,697</td>
<td>$57,643,270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is noteworthy here that timing variance has a significant impact on taxable values as it relates to any given project. For example, a project which acquires obsolete houses and commences construction in the fall, could for that year have a negative variance because the previously taxed home is removed and the new construction has little or no taxable value on December 31, which is the only relevant day from the County assessing standpoint. That increment will therefore wait a full year, or in some cases two years, to be realized, as was the case with Menards in 2017. Negative timing variance in 2020 was amplified in 2020, particularly due to start delays on the hotel projects in process due to the pandemic.

**CIA TAX INCREMENT DOLLARS COLLECTED:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budgeted in Plan</th>
<th>Collected by CIA</th>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>$316,479</td>
<td>$179,535</td>
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</table>

**CIA DISTRICT MARKETING ACTIVITY:**

The area within the CIA District is approximately 400 acres of land. Predictably, since the completion of most of the Brown Road improvements, the BIZ-zoned portion of the CIA District has seen more meaningful new development activity than in any time in Township history. The infrastructure improvements and promotional activities of the CIA are clearly having the intended impact. It is important to keep in mind that Orion Township lead activities do not represent any specific properties (except 95 & 313 Brown Road) or any specific transactional elements, but instead focus on representing the concept and opportunities for the community in the CIA District. This is done through the dissemination of promotional materials, and meetings with prospective developers, land brokers, sellers, and other prospective stakeholders.
2020 was clearly a year of mixed results for development within the CIA District. On the positive side, three significant properties along Brown Road sold to prominent area developers. These include +/- 13 acres east of Menards, +/- 5 acres behind Checker's Restaurant and a site for a car wash and retail pad site west of Joslyn Road. In turn, these developers have razed several blighted, obsolete residential structures which is a meaningful goal of the CIA initiative. However, except for the car wash project now under construction, timing variance relative to the start of hard construction on the larger properties is delayed in large part due the issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The CIA is hopeful, if not confident, that this issue will subside in 2021, thereby returning to a more robust development schedule. The CIA continues to track an active pipeline of strong projects which of course is not assurance of future performance of the District but demonstrates the level of developer interest from the priority improvements.

NOTES ON CIA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:
Beginning in 2018, The CIA took proactive steps to comply with PA 57 of 2018, which is the State of Michigan TIF reporting requirements. To ensure transparency, all reports, minutes, and current budgets are posted on the Corridor Improvement Authority page on the Orion Township website, www.oriontownship.org. Contact information for all Township officials can similarly be found on the website. CIA Board meetings are publicly noticed and held quarterly. Records of the CIA are audited by Plante Moran annually as a part of the Orion Township requisite process. PA 57 is effective January 1, 2019, and the Orion Township CIA intends full compliance.

Should anyone have any questions regarding the information provided herein, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Barnett, Chairman
Orion Township Corridor Improvement Authority
April 5, 2021

Oakland County Equalization
Special Division
250 Elizabeth Lake Road, #1000W
Pontiac, MI 48341

RE: Orion Township Public Library Opt-Out of Village of Lake Orion DDA Tax Capture

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the Township Attorney for the Charter Township of Orion, I have been asked to provide an opinion and guidance with regard to the 2019 Orion Township Public Library Resolution to opt-out from the Village of Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority (“DDA”) tax capture.

By way of history, the Orion Township Public Library and Board (“Library Board”) was established in 1929 pursuant to 1877 PA 164, as amended, MCL 397.201, et seq. (“Act 164”). In 1985, the Village of Lake Orion created the Village of Lake Orion DDA pursuant to 1975 PA 175, MCL 125.1651, et seq. The DDA Plan was amended three times, and in 2019, was set to expire in December 2020. On October 28, 2019, the DDA and Village Council held a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the adoption of the DDA Plan’s fourth amendment, which included an extension of the DDA Plan’s duration.

On November 21, 2019, within 60 days of the DDA’s public hearing, the Orion Township Public Library Board of Trustees passed a Resolution to exempt all property tax levied by the Orion Township Public Library from capture by the DDA. The Library took said action pursuant to Act 57 of 2018, Section 303(6) (MCL 125.4303(6)) (“Act 57”), which states in part:

“If a separate millage for library purposes was levied before January 1, 2017, and all obligations and other protected obligations of the authority are paid, then the levy to exempt from capture under this part, unless the library board or commission allows all or a portion of its taxes levied to be included as tax increment revenues and subject to capture under this part under the terms of a written agreement between the library board or commission and the authority. The written agreement shall be filed with the clerk of the
municipality. However, if a separate millage for library purposes is levied before January, 2017, and the authority alters or amends the boundaries of the authority district or extends the duration of the existing financing plan, then the library board or commission may, not later than 60 days after a public hearing is held under this subsection, exempt all or a portion of its taxes from capture by adopting a resolution to that effect and filing a copy with the clerk of the municipality that created the authority....”

As stated above, the Library’s millage was levied before January 1, 2017. As such, in my opinion, upon a DDA altering or amending its boundaries or extending its duration, the Library Board may exempt all or a portion of its taxes from capture. In this case, within 60 days of the DDA’s public hearing, the Library Board adopted a Resolution to exempt its taxes from capture and, therefore, complied with the statutory requirements to exempt itself from DDA capture. In my opinion, the reference in the first sentence of Section 303(6) above that “and all obligations and other protected obligations of the authority are paid,” is not applicable and does not limit the Library Board’s authority to exempt its taxes from capture. The statute is quite clear that upon the amendment of the boundaries or an extension of the DDA’s duration, regardless of existing “obligations,” the Library Board may opt-out. To say otherwise would require the word “However” be ignored, which is not consistent with accepted statutory interpretation. Furthermore, the use of the word “however” shows a clear intent to create a separate and distinct treatment when an Authority amends to “extends the duration” of the Plan. The definition of “however” makes this point:

However (adverb): Used to introduce a statement that contrasts with or seems to contradict something that has been said previously. Oxford Dictionary

Consistent with the above, the Charter Township of Orion Board of Trustees, at its meeting on December 16, 2019, received and filed the Library Board’s letter and Resolution to opt-out dated November 26, 2019. Again, in my opinion, the applicable statutes do not require the approval of the Township Supervisor for a library board to opt-out of tax capture. Under Section 303(6) of the Act 57, the reference to the “shall have the concurrence of the chief executive officer of the city,” specifically limits the concurrence requirement to a “city.” Despite the statutes in several sections specifically addressing townships (i.e., Section 10(A) is entitled “City, village, and township libraries”, 1 or 10a of 1877 PA 164; MCL 397.201), the requirement for concurrence does not reference a “concurrence” of a Township nor a Township Supervisor. It is not appropriate to add words or an interpretation to a statute. Failure to state a Township or Township Supervisor must be presumed to be the legislator’s intent. The sections limitation to the “chief executive officer of the city” could easily have said “of the municipality” or listed “city, village or township” (as was done in other section of the statutes) but was not done here. Any reasonable interpretation would lead one to conclude the legislature intended to provide this extra layer of “concurrence” for cities, only. Even if concurrence of the Township Supervisor was required, the Orion Township
Board of Trustees’ (which includes the Township Supervisor) motion on December 16, 2019, to receive and file the Library Board’s Resolution, in all likelihood, constitutes a “concurrence.”

Given the above, it is my opinion, based on its Resolution of November 21, 2019, as amended, the Orion Township Library Board of Trustees properly exempted its tax levy from future Village of Lake Orion DDA tax capture. As a result, it was appropriate for the Orion Township Treasurer to withhold and refuse payment to the DDA of any portion of the Orion Library 2020 tax levy and capture. Similarly, for the settlement of delinquent taxes by the County, there is no basis to withhold from the Orion Township Library its entitlement to delinquent taxes without deduction for capture by the DDA. Given the above, I request that the settlement of delinquent taxes for the Orion Township Library be made in full to the Orion Township Treasurer for disbursement to the Orion Township Library.

If you have any questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

THE KELLY FIRM, PLC

Daniel J. Kelly

Daniel J. Kelly

DJK/jmp
Cc: Oakland County Treasurer (Settlement Division)
    Donni Steele, Orion Township Treasurer
Golden Pages win 2021 5th grade Battle of the Books

By mmkelley on March 31, 2021 No Comment

It was a friendly and fun battle between 83 Lake Orion fifth graders to earn the top spot in the Orion Township Public Library’s 2021 Battle of the Books. The 2021 program turned the final page on March 24, with 27 teams of two to four students battling it out online, answering questions about the books in this year’s battle.

“The traditional in-person battle competition, which has been running since 1986, was forced to be revamped to a virtual environment this year due to COVID-19 restrictions,” said Becky Bolin, library community relations specialist. “The new program included a combination of Zoom meetups, team video challenges and an online live quiz. The program kicked off in mid-November and teams were tasked to read and be quizzed on 10 books.”

“The youth librarians worked tirelessly to figure out exactly how we could hold Battle this year in a virtual environment,” said Ashley Lehman, head of library youth services. “We knew we had to make some big changes to make it just as fun as in person.”

Three teams took top honors at the Battle of the Books, while others won for their creativity and spirit.

**First place** went to the Golden Pages: Benjamin Schoenhals, Christopher Gonzalez, Shiva Arunchunaikani, Suhaas Maddipatla.

**Second place**: GirlsJustWanaRead: Emma Hopkins, Sneh Makhecha, Wynter Lemmon.

**Third place**: Book Divers: Anderson Buckland, Brady Borka, Brandon Houston, Daniel Ebbert

**Most Creative Costume**: Book Bandits: Allison Lockwood, Aubrielle Ripari.

**Most Creative Team Name**: Rosie the Readers: Betsy Hetu, Greta Colquitt, Trinity Hays, Verity Taylor. *(photo above)*

**Most Team Spirit**: Awkward Turtles: Alexis Frost, Daphne Williams, Marissa Hedrick.

All teams celebrated the four months of reading at a Victory party on Wednesday evening via Zoom with Battle of the Books authors Liz Braswell (Stuffed), Debbie Levy (Becoming RBG), and Janet Tashjian (My Life as a Book), Bolin said.

For more information, visit the Orion Township Public Library at 825 Joslyn Road; online at orionlibrary.org; or call 248-693-3000.

The library is open for Grab & Go service Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m.

Curbside pickup is available Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Curbside pickup is closed on Sundays.

*See the March 31, 2021 issue of The Lake Orion Review for more photos*
Celebrate Natl. Library Week at the Orion Twp. Public Library

By mmmkelley on March 31, 2021 | No Comment

The Orion Township Public Library will be celebrating National Library Week on their website from April 4 to 10 with fun and unique virtual services and programs.

National Library Week highlights the essential role that libraries and their staff play in transforming lives and strengthening communities.

This year’s theme ‘Welcome to your library’ promotes the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building and that everyone is welcome to use their services. Whether people visit virtually or in person, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and community through learning, discovery and exploration.

“We offer a wide array of online resources that are available from the comfort of home, including digital collections with cloudLibrary, hoopla, kanopy, and OverDrive/Libby,” said Karen Knox, library director in a press release. “There are also many other online resources for information on a wide variety of topics from homework help to business and careers to online learning with LinkedIn Learning and more.”

During these hard times, libraries have been going above and beyond to adapt to our changing world by expanding their resources and continuing to meet the needs of their patrons. Libraries across the country are making a difference in people’s lives by providing electronic learning resources like online homework help and wi-fi access for students and workers who may lack internet access at home.

“We are supporting the community with virtual services such as Little Lit (story time), book discussion groups, English Language Learning conversation groups, and many other virtual programs, as well as ‘take and make’ programs which are available to pick up,” said Knox. “We also started a ‘Grab & Go’ service on March 15, 2021, allowing patrons to visit for no more than 45 minutes, while continuing safety precautions as required by MDHHS and curbside pickup is also still available.”

Throughout the week, public can show their appreciation and support for libraries by visiting orionlibrary.org, and following the OTPL on social media using the hashtag #NationalLibraryWeek.

For more information, visit the Orion Township Public Library at 825 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion, MI 48362, orionlibrary.org or call 248-693-3000.
Ben Kirby gives COVID update

More than 300 staff and students unable to attend school in person through the ClearToGo app

By Megan Kelley
Review Writer

On March 24, just a few days after Lake Orion High School did away with their hybrid learning model, bringing all in-person students back to school Monday through Friday, Lake Orion Community School's Board of Education met for their regularly scheduled meeting. Each meeting, Superintendent Ben Kirby provides an update on how the district is handling COVID-19, and while it had only been a short time having the vast majority of the high school population back in school together, with rising cases and neighboring districts having to move to remote learning, this update was highly anticipated. Please see LOCS Update on page 2
Orion Twp. Supervisor Chris Barnett elected first vice chair of SEMCOG

The SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) elected its 2021-2022 slate of officers on March 18, with Orion Township Supervisor Chris Barnett elected as first vice chairperson of SEMCOG.

The SEMCOG General Assembly elected Brenda Jones, president of the Detroit City Council, as the chairperson.

Barnett will take over as SEMCOG chairperson in 2022-2023.

SEMCOG membership is open to all counties, cities, villages, townships, intermediate school districts, and community colleges in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties.

The organization brings together all governments to solve regional challenges and enhance the quality of life for the region's 4.7 million people.

Online: www.sem cog.org — J.N.

Celebrate Natl. Library Week at the Orion Twp. Public Library

The Orion Township Public Library will be celebrating National Library Week on their website from April 4 to 10 with fun and unique virtual services and programs.

National Library Week highlights the essential role that libraries and their staff play in transforming lives and strengthening communities.

This year’s theme “Welcome to your library” promotes the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building and that everyone is welcome to use their services. Whether people visit virtually or in person, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and community through learning, discovery, and exploration.

This year’s theme “Welcome to your library” promotes the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building and that everyone is welcome to use their services. Whether people visit virtually or in person, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and community through learning, discovery, and exploration.

We offer a wide array of online resources that are available from the comfort of home, including digital collections with cloudLibrary, hoopla, Kanopy, and OverDriveLibby,” said Karen Knox, li-
Golden Pages win 2021 5th grade Battle of the Books

It was a friendly and fun battle between 83 Lake Orion fifth graders to earn the top spot in the Orion Township Public Library’s 2021 Battle of the Books.

The 2021 program turned the final page on March 24, with 27 teams of two to four students battling it out online, answering questions about the books in this year’s battle. “The traditional in-person battle competition, which has been running since 1986, was forced to be revamped to a virtual environment this year due to COVID-19 restrictions,” said Becky Bolin, library community relations specialist. “The new program included a combination of Zoom meetups, team video challenges and an online live quiz. The program kicked off in mid-November and teams were tasked to read and be quizzed on 10 books.

“The youth librarians worked tirelessly to figure out exactly how we could hold Battle this year in a virtual environment,” said Ashley Lehman, head of library youth services. “We knew we had to make some big changes to make it just as fun as in person.”

These teams took top honors at the Battle of the Books, while others won for their creativity and spirit.

First place went to the Golden Pages: Benjamin Schoenhals, Christopher Gonzalez, Shiva Arunchunaikani, Suhaas Maddipatla.

Second place: GirlsJustWanaRead: Emma Hopkins, Sneh Makhecha, Wynter Lemmon.


The youth librarians turned the final page on Battle of the Books with the 2021 5th grade Battle of the Books for Orion Township Public Library.

The 5th graders at the Orion Township Public Library took top spot overall.

Blame it on the Books – girls, boys, and teams competing in the 2021 Battle of the Books for Orion Township Public Library.

For more information, visit the Orion Township Public Library at 825 Jolyn Road; online at orionlibrary.org; or call 248-693-3000.
Library

Continued from page 3

Library director in a press release. “There are also many other online resources for information on a wide variety of topics from homework help to business and careers to online learning with LinkedIn Learning and more.”

During these hard times, across the country are making a difference in people’s lives by providing electronic learning resources like online homework help and Wi-Fi access for students and workers who may lack internet access at home.

“We are supporting the community with virtual services such as Little Lit (story time), book discussion groups, English Language Learning conversation groups, and many other virtual programs, as well as ‘take and make’ programs which are available to pick up,” said Knox. “We also started a ‘Grab & Go’ service on March 15, 2021, allowing patrons to visit for no more than 45 minutes, while continuing safety precautions as required by MDHHS and curbside pickup is also still available.”

Throughout the week, public can show their appreciation and support for libraries by visiting orionlibrary.org and following the OTPL on social media using the hashtag #NationalLibraryWeek.

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Lake Orion Community Schools

**SCHOOLS-OF-CHOICE 2021-22**

LakeOrionSchools.org/SOC
Central Enrollment Department
Call (248) 814-0215 or email Alison.Doane@lok12.org
Application period: April 5-May 4, 2021

- In-Person
  - Grades K-8
  - Grades 10-12 at Learning Options HS
  - PHASES (ages 18-26 yrs, special needs)
- Dragon Virtual -- K-12

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Spring is here! Make the most of it

Let's get outside and have some healthy fun!

- The Law Office of Steven A. Drakos
  - An attorney who cares
Orion Township Library celebrates ‘winning year’

By mmkelley on March 24, 2021 No Comment

Earlier this month, despite the many challenges they have faced this year, the Orion Township Public Library announced that they had provided over $3.6 million in savings to over 5,500 active library users in the Orion community in 2020.

“Like everyone else, we had to look at all of our library services in 2020 and find ways to provide access in a safe way when the COVID-19 pandemic began,” said Library Director, Karen Knox in a press release. “We enabled Automatic Renewal, so you no longer have to request a renewal for an item that has an eligible renewal available. We put more funds into our digital collections, so we allowed more checkouts in hoopla and bought additional titles in CloudLibrary. We added Curbside Pickup for safe access to physical materials and printed items. We created Take &amp; Make programs so you could pick up supplies and complete them safely at home, and we added a new online resource to provide online tutorials on using many of our research tools.”

In February, the Friends of the Orion Library donated a check for $20,000.

“The library depends on the Friends to fund all of our programs, as we do not have a programming budget for the library,” said Knox. “We encourage residents and patrons to support the Friends so library programs and services can be continued at the library.”

Additionally, the passing of former Library Director, Linda Sickles in 2019 was a hard loss for the Twp. Library as well as the community. However, Sickles’ support for the library will only live on as she named the library as a beneficiary of her estate, which will allow the library to continue to provide programs and services that Sickles was proud of to our Orion community.

A large meeting room in the library that is used by many in the community is expected to be renamed after Sickles.

For more information, visit the Orion Township Public Library at 825 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion, MI 48362, orionlibrary.org or call 248-693-3000. The library is open for curbside service, or computer and makerspace appointments.

— M.K.

Orion Township Library celebrates ‘winning year’ added by mmkelley on March 24, 2021

View all posts by mmkelley →
LOCS provides high school student achievement data at March 10 mtg.

By Megan Kelley  
Review Writer

During their meeting on March 10, the Lake Orion Community Schools Board of Education was joined by the principal of Lake Orion High School, Steve Hawley, who presented additional high school achievement data. The board had received a presentation regarding student achievement data last month, but had requested a more in-depth presentation specifically for the high school.

"The academic impacts across the country and the state of Michigan are real. We have seen them throughout our state and our county at the high school level and also throughout Lake Orion Community Schools," Hawley said.

The Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals put out a survey in February that showed 92 percent of high schools in the state have reported a significantly high rate of course failures during the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.

"Course failures are typically a really good test for us to see where we are, not only as student achievement but how we're doing in terms of teaching and learning, so it's something we monitor very closely," said Hawley.

"That survey also told us that the trend holds true regardless of the size of the school, the location, or the instructional format that was utilized during this time period."

Over the past couple of years, Lake Orion High School students maintained a high overall course passing rate.

During the 2018-19 school year the overall passing rate was 98.4 percent. The first and second terms during the 2019-20 school year had an overall passing rate of 98.8 percent, a number that increased to 99.4 percent in the third and fourth term after students were transitioned to remote learning, Hawley said.

"Our overall passing rates at Lake Orion High School are extremely high and there are a number of reasons for that," said Hawley.

"I commend, first of all, our community, our parents, our students, but also the tremendous effort of our staff," Hawley said.

The modified block schedule at the high school is also something that students can use to their advantage in terms of course recovery options. Often, if a student fails a course, their schedule can quickly be reworked to allow for that student to retake the course during that same school year.

Please see Achievement Data on page 6 of the article.

Lake Orion middle schoolers wage 'Battle of the Books'

On March 9, 45 students from Oakview, Scripps and Waldon middle schools met virtually for the Lake Orion Community Middle Schools and Orion Township Public Library’s 2021 Battle of the Books.

Melissa Kempski, Media Specialist at Oakview Middle School; Rebecca Lowe, Media Specialist at Scripps Middle School; Katherian Montel, Media Specialist at Waldon Middle School; and Sabrina Halsey-Orrion Township Librarian, organized the 2021 Battle of the Books.

"This is normally an in-person event that we changed for this year to become virtual," Kempski said.

Teams were made up of two to five students who competed to answer trivia questions about three novels selected by the battle members themselves. Hello, Universe by Erin Kelly, Ungifted by Gordon Korman and Warriors: Into the Wild by Erin Hunter.

"Each team met virtually in a breakout room where questions were timed while students responded to short answer, multiple choice, and true/false questions. Students also showcased their love of reading through creative book-themed costumes and team names," Kempski said.

The Baguette Cats, a combined team of sixth graders — Camille De Veer, Gavin Kempski and Rosie Wagner — from Scripps and Oakview middle schools, took first place.

Second place went to repeat winners, Low Key, The God of Mischief, with team members Michelle Bach, Lillia Weiss, Lusiana Lacstra, Mariana Perez HuJi and Mariana Kirklin.

The Lazy Readers from Waldon Middle took third, with members Brendan Cox, Timothy Gdowski and Geo Biernat.

Despite being virtual this year, Kempski said the Battle of the Books went, "very smoothly."

Please see Battle of the Books on page 11 of the article.

News Briefs

DDA approves shared use agreement with Caruso Chiropractic

During their March 9 meeting, Lake Orion’s Downtown Development Authority Board of Director voted to approve a shared-use parking agreement with Caruso Chiropractic.

The lease will remain in effect for 12 months, during which time the DDA will pay an annual fee of $1,200. The DDA will also be responsible for the general liability insurance.

The lot will be available for public use Monday from 7:15 a.m. to 11 a.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The agreement also allows the village police department to enforce parking in the lot.

Caruso Chiropractic is located at 23 S. Lapeer St., behind Sagebrush and the Verwood Apartments — M.K.

Orion Twp. Library opens for browsing

The Orion Township Public Library announced last week they would be expanding library services starting on March 15.

This shift will allow patrons to view the shelves of books and other materials when they visit. Staff will also be available to assist.

Computers and other equipment will also be available. Appointments will be available for study rooms (individuals only), Makerspace Equipment and Exam Proctoring only.

Current library hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. During this time, the library will be open for patrons with no appointment required.

The library will follow the latest Michigan Department of Health and Human Services order, limiting capacity to 50 percent.

Patrons are asked to stay for no longer than 45 minutes and are required to wear a mask in the building, respect social distancing and use available hand sanitizer frequently. — M.K.
Lake Orion senior forward Andrew Patyk (no. 26) fights through the Clarkston defense to get to a loose puck near the Wolves net. Photos by Jim Newell.

**Battle of the Books**

Continued from page 3

“We have used the same platform, Nearpod, for the last few years and students were able to login and use their virtual breakout rooms with ease. Each group had 15 minutes to answer each section of questions (true/false, multiple choice, short answer) and once in their breakout room they were free to talk through the questions without any worry of another team overhearing their answers,” Kempski said.

Eight teams also designed their own costumes that they could wear during the competition.

“The winning costume was submitted by the team (of) Brain Boys from Scripps, and best team name was the Mandalor-readers, a team of Scripps and Oakview students.

“Teams also got into the virtual spirit by creating backgrounds to match their team names. The spirit of the competition was alive and well, it just looked a little different this year,” Kempski said.
Village of Lake Orion seeks applicants to fill two positions

The village is currently looking to hire a Laborer/Operator for the Department of Public Works and an Accounting Assistant/Office Coordinator at Village Hall, said Manager Joe Young.

For job descriptions and a village application, go to the Village of Lake Orion website, lakeorion.org, and look for Employment under the Departments tab at the top of the page. Contact Lake Orion Village Hall at 248-693-8391 or email villageadmin@lakeorion.us for more information. - J.N.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
ORION TWP.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Charter Township of Orion Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 22, 2021, at 7:00pm, regarding the matter below. The hearing will be held via a video conference only due to ongoing health concerns arising out of COVID-19 and the need to comply with Covid related orders or regulations.

AB-2021-01, Anton Rozhansky, 1500 W. Silverbell, 09-27-301-018 & 09-27-301-019 (parcelled directly east of 09-27-301-018) - postponed from 2/17/2021 ZBA meeting

The petitioner is requesting 2 variances from Zoning Ordinance #78 – Zoned SE

Article XXVII, Section 27.02 – Lot size over 2.5 acres
1. A 1,525-sq. ft. variance above the allowed 1,400-sq. ft. Maximum Floor Area of all Detached Accessory Buildings, to build a 2,925-sq.-ft. pole barn.
2. A 2,013-sq. ft. variance above the allowed, 1,900-sq. ft. Maximum Floor Area of all Accessory Buildings to build a 2,925-sq.-ft. pole barn in addition to a 988-sq. ft. attached garage, for a Total Maximum Floor Area of all Accessory Buildings of 3,913-sq. ft.

The video conference can be accessed by downloading the app GoToMeeting. The meeting number is 914793997. Live comments and questions will be accepted during the meeting at an appropriate time that will be explained by the Chair of the meeting via the GoToMeeting app or by phoning into the meeting using phone number 1-(872) 240-3412 and entering the meeting number above. You may also email comments to zba@oriontownship.org during the meeting.

A complete copy of the proposed ZBA application is on file in the Planning & Zoning Department and may be examined during normal business hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, until the date of the public hearing.

Orion Township will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids, and services for individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon advance notice by writing or calling Penny S. Shults, Township Clerk, 2525 Joslyn Rd., Attention Zoning Board of Appeals, Lake Orion, MI 48360 or to jshults@oriontownship.org.

A complete copy of the proposed ZBA application is on file in the Planning & Zoning Department and may be examined during normal business hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, until the date of the public hearing.

Orion Township will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids, and services for individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon advance notice by writing or calling Penny S. Shults, Township Clerk, 2525 Joslyn Rd., Lake Orion, Michigan 48360; (248) 391-0304, ext. 4001. Please contact the Clerk’s office at least 72 hours in advance of the public hearing.

Dan Durham
Zoning Board of Appeals
Charter Township of Orion
March 30, 2021

Lake Orion fifth graders compete in Battle of the Books program

The team Book Bandits, made up of Lake Orion students Allison Lockwood and Aubrielle Ripari, won Most Creative Costume in Orion Township Public Library's Battle of the Books. Photo courtesy of Orion Township Public Library

More than 80 Lake Orion fifth graders competed in Orion Township Public Library’s Battle of the Books program this year.

The traditional in-person battle competition, which has been running since 1986, was forced to be revamped to a virtual environment this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. The new program included a combination of Zoom meetups, team video challenges and an online live quiz. The program kicked off in mid-November and concluded this month.

“The youth librarians worked tirelessly to figure out exactly how we could hold the Battle this year in a virtual environment,” said Ashley Lehman, youth services head. “We knew we had to make some big changes to make it just as fun as in person.”

The final top teams were:

- **First Place**: “Golden Pages” – Benjamin Schoenhals, Christopher Gonzalez, Shiva Arunchunaikani, Suhaas Maddipatla
- **Second Place**: “Girls Just Wanna Read” – Emma Hopkins, Sneh Makhecha, Wynter Lemmon
- **Third Place**: “Book Divers” – Anderson Buckland, Brady Borka, Brandon Houston, Daniel Ebbert
- **Most Creative Costume**: “Book Bandits” – Allison Lockwood, Aubrielle Ripari
- **Most Creative Team Name**: “Rosie the Readers” – Betsy Hetu, Greta Colquitt, Trinity Hays, Verity Taylor
- **Most Team Spirit**: “Awkward Turtles” – Alexis Frost, Daphne Williams, Marissa Hedrick

All teams celebrated the four months of reading at a victory party with award-winning authors Liz Braswell (“Stuffed”), Debbie Levy (“Becoming RBG”) and Janet Tashjian (“My Life as a Book”).

The Orion Township Public Library is located at 825 Joslyn Road, Orion Township. For more information, visit [www.orionlibrary.org](http://www.orionlibrary.org) or call 248-693-3000.

-Submitted by Becky Bolin
Heritage Real Estate is sponsoring an **Adopt-A-Road** clean up on **Saturday April 24 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon**. This is a great outdoor, socially-distanced opportunity to help our community, enjoy some sunshine, and for our youth to earn LOHS service hours.

The check-in station is in the parking lot at **Orion Township Library** and the road clean-up is on Joslyn Road from Clarkston to Indianwood. There will be refreshments and a raffle for some gift cards and prizes. It promises to be a fun event!

For info or to donate refreshments or raffle prizes contact Michele Shindling at 248-860-5244.

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**Supervisor Chris Barnett Receives MML Award**

On March 18, Orion Township Supervisor Chris Barnett was awarded the Michael A. Guido Leadership and Public Service award by the Michigan Municipal League.

Barnett, who has served as the Orion Township supervisor since 2012, responded, "Receiving this recognition from fellow municipal leaders is an honor of the highest level. Doing the work of a township manager is all about helping people and ensuring our communities offer the very best services so that people and businesses want to locate there and others want to visit."

The OACC congratulates Barnett on this prestigious award, and thanks him for his dedication to our community.
Orion Township Public Library
March 26, 2021

Have you been to downtown Lake Orion lately? Check out our storywalk featuring the family favorite "Five Little Ducks". Read the story as you follow the path and explore the downtown area! What better way to get outside, practice reading skills, and visit downtown! There will be a new story next month, so get downtown ASAP!

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Orion Township Public Library
March 25, 2021

Oakland County Michigan Works is hosting FREE, virtual financial wellness workshops all year long! For the schedule and full list of classes, follow the link below.

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Executive Office, Oakland County, Michigan

is at

Oakland County Michigan Works

NEWS RELEASE:
Oakland County Michigan Works
is launching a new, year-long series of free, virtual financial wellness workshops next month, to help people make …

See More

Like
Comment
Share
Orion Township Public Library

March 24, 2021

Great news, our Friends of Orion Township Public Library Book Store in the lobby is OPEN! Come browse our selection of gently used books at bargain prices and pay at the front desk. Please note: We are NOT accepting donations at this time.

Halli Zalesin, Laurel Dancoe and 39 others
1 Comments
4 Shares

Orion Township Public Library

March 23, 2021

See What's New this week at the Orion Library!

3 Like
Comment
Share
Comments

Orion Township Public Library

March 23, 2021

https://youtu.be/5W5rW53I640

YOUTUBE.COM

ONTV News Break: Library Reopens to the Public
On Monday, March 15, 2021, the Orion Township Public Library reopened its doors to the public after being shut down for a year due to the pandemic.

Kim Dillon Winther, Lori Morris and 13 others
1 Comment
1 Share
Like
Orion Township Public Library
March 23, 2021

1 Share
Like
Comment
Share

Orion Township Public Library
March 22, 2021

Check out all the fun programs happening this week for all ages!

Like
Comment
Share

Orion Township Public Library
6d ·
Oakland County Homeland Security
March 22, 2021

This week has been designated Severe Weather Awareness Week. Let’s start the week off by defining just what severe weather is: it can include hazardous condi…

See More

22
1 Share
Like
Orion Township Public Library
March 22, 2021

This Wednesday, Lynda.com will become LinkedIn Learning. Following the move, Orion residents will have access to over 16,000 courses. That's over twice as many as previously available! For more information, see http://bit.ly/OTPL-LinkedInLearning.

Orion Township Public Library
March 21, 2021

Introducing Little Lit! A virtual storytime for all ages. Children ages 0-5 and their families are invited to meet us weekly on Zoom for stories, songs, and activities that promote the five staple early literacy practices: reading, writing, singing, talking, and playing Register at orionlibrary.org/calendar

Orion Township Public Library
March 19, 2021

Congratulations to all of our 2021 5th Grade Battle of the Books participants! You all did such a great job adapting to this year's new and virtual format. We are proud of you all and wish you good luck in tomorrow's competition!

- Kimberly Abel Buckland
  It was awesome. You guys did a great job putting this together. Nicely done! I actually preferred the kahoot & zoom at home. I attended the battle for my 5th & 6th grader previously in person. The kids had a blast on Saturday! My son is DYING for Wednesday. 🎉

- Megan Lynn
  Great to see Ashley and Halli today! First time inside OTPL in over a year!!!! Oh how we’ve missed our time spent at this special special place filled with special staff
Orion Township Public Library
March 18, 2021

We had a great turnout for our monarch butterfly presentation presented by Monarch Watch. You can view a recording of this presentation on our YouTube channel here: https://youtu.be/zLDTdv45o4w

Monarch Butterflies
A presentation from Monarch Watch about the conservation of monarch butterflies.

Orion Township Public Library
March 17, 2021

Virtual: Board Game Night
Monday, March 22 | 6:30 pm
Adults can join us on Board Game Arena to play a variety of popular board games virtually.

Adult Services
(248) 695-5001
orionlibrary.org

Take and Make for Teens: Feather Quill Pens
Saturday, March 20
DIY feather quill pens will make you feel like royalty! Teens can pick up kits complete with supplies and instructions in the lobby (while supplies last). Don't forget to post the finished product at OTPLtakeandmake.
Thank you to our Friends for all you do for us at the Orion Library! If you would like to become a Friends member visit orionlibrary.org/friends/membership/join. And just a reminder, the membership fee is waived now through April 30, 2021!
**Orion Township Public Library**

March 16, 2021

See What's New this week at the Orion Library!


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**Orion Township Public Library**

March 15, 2021

TODAY IS THE DAY! We are now offering limited in-person library services.

- Pick out what you need and enjoy your materials at home.
- Masks are required for all in-person visits.
- Respect social distancing.…

See More

21 Jessica Scott Streetman, Carla May Tousley and 19 others

4 Shares

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**Orion Township Public Library**

March 14, 2021

Happy Pie Day! Staff and board members recently held a canned food drive to benefit the Oxford/Orion FISH - Food Pantry with a "Pie in the Face" contest. Every donation equaled one ticket to vote on who got the pie in the face. Enjoy the video to see the results! If you would like to donate to Oxford/Orion FISH, contact them at 248-628-3933.

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**Orion Township Public Library**

March 14, 2021

Check out what is happening at the library this week for all ages!
Orion Township Public Library

March 13, 2021

Reminder that we will be offering limited in-person library services beginning on Monday, March 15, 2021.
- Pick out what you need and enjoy your materials at home.
- Masks are required for all in-person visits.
- Respect social distancing.
- Limited Curbside pickup will still be available.

See More

88
4 Comments
3 Shares

Orion Township Public Library

March 12, 2021

Virtual: Monarch Butterflies
Tuesday, March 16 | 7 pm
Angie Babbit from Monarch Watch will be leading a virtual presentation for adults about monarch butterflies and how we can help conserve them. All participants will get their very own packet of milkweed seeds that can be picked up after the program in the lobby.

Adult Services
(248) 693-5001
orionlibrary.org

Orion Township Public Library

March 11, 2021

We are excited to announce that we will be offering limited in-person library services beginning on Monday, March 15, 2021.
- Pick out what you need and enjoy your materials at home.
- Masks are required for all in-person visits.
- Respect social distancing.

See More

53 Katie London, Lori Morris and 51 others
6 Comments
9 Shares
UPDATE: OverDrive/Libby believes the problem is fixed and they are monitoring the situation.

OverDrive / Libby is currently experiencing network outages and are working to resolve the issue.

See What's New this week at the Orion Library!

There is still time to sign up!
Orion Township Public Library
March 8, 2021

It's the last week to submit a design for the Lake Orion GreenUp Reusable Bag Logo Design Contest 2021! Submit your design, name, and contact info, to environment@oriontownship.org by Monday, March 15th!
For more information visit orionlibrary.org/reusable-bag-logo-design-contest-2021/

Best of Luck!

Orion Township Public Library
March 8, 2021

Happy #InternationalWomensDay! Check out these and other great stories of inspirational women throughout history at catalog.orionlibrary.org/

55
1 Share

Orion Township Public Library
March 7, 2021

Check out what is happening at the library this week for all ages!

Like
Comment
Share

Orion Township Public Library
March 5, 2021

Challenging all 6-8th graders to read 75 BOOKS BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL! Sign up at any time, and read at your own pace. Visit orionlibrary.org for more information!
As spring approaches, what better way to fight cabin fever than a storywalk in downtown Lake Orion. Practice early reading skills and say "Hi!" to local business owners all while participating in a healthy outdoor activity! This month, enjoy the story "Five Little Ducks" with your family as you follow the path and explore the downtown area.

Challenging all high school students in grades 9-12 to read 100 BOOKS BEFORE GRADUATION! Please visit orionlibrary.org for more information!

See what's new this week at the Orion Library!

March is Reading Month and it is The National Education Association’s Read Across America Day! There are many classic books we know and love. However, within some of these stories there are depictions and stereotypes of people groups that are negative. So we developed Intentional Conversations Bookmarks containing question prompts to help you discuss these negative stereotypes with your kids. We love these classic stories. We also want to help inform our children about empa...
Orion Township Public Library
March 2, 2021

March is Reading Month and it is The National Education Association’s Read Across America Day! We are celebrating the power of diverse and inclusive books today with the Reading Without Walls Challenge. The goal: just find something new and different to read and let books open up the world around you! Are you up for the Challenge?

Orion Township Public Library
March 2, 2021

It’s that time of year again: The National Education Association’s Read Across America Day! We are celebrating the power of diverse and inclusive books today with the Reading Without Walls Challenge by following these 3 simple rules.
The goal: just find something new and different to read and let books open up the world around you!
Follow our Facebook page for more videos throughout the day! Happy Reading!

Orion Township Public Library
March 1, 2021

March is Reading Month! And what better way to kick off a month of reading than with Read an eBook Week! With an Orion Library card, library patrons have 24/7 access to streaming and downloadable content in a variety of formats. Just look for the icon on our website or visit orionlibrary.org/downloads/

Orion Township Public Library
March 1, 2021

Dial-a-Story begins today! Now through May adults can simply call us at 248-287-8028 to listen to essays, short stories, or poetry read by library staff. Every week a new reading will be posted so you can listen anytime from anywhere that works for you!
Happy Spring! We are not out of the woods yet, with regard to this pandemic. In fact, COVID-19 cases in Michigan are on the rise. And yet, things are moving forward. It is a balancing act that we continue to strive for. On Monday, March 15, 2021, we reopened for our “Grab & Go” service, allowing patrons to visit in the library for up to 45 minutes, while still following safety protocols, with masks and social distancing. So far, so good. Patrons are happy to be able to come back into the building, even in a limited way.

For the state of Michigan, the MDHHS has issued Epidemic Orders related to COVID-19, and the latest is from March 19, 2021 on Gatherings and Face Masks. I have included the order in the board packet, or you can find it online at: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-554922--,00.html. This also has an Amendment, dated March 31, which is included and online at: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-555958--,00.html. As of these orders, we are limited to 50% or less capacity, limits of 25 people at indoor non-residential gatherings and 300 people at outdoor non-residential gatherings. The Amendment addresses meetings that fall under the Open Meetings Act, which are now required to be held in-person, and the amendment states that we can go over 25 people limit at an open meeting, but still must stay under the total 50% capacity. For those of you at committee meetings this week, we did well to meet in-person and socially distanced.

Looking back over the month of March, our library services continue during this time in new ways. In the beginning of the month, we continued with our popular Curbside Pickup service, but since reopening for Grab & Go, more patrons are checking out in the lobby again. Our digital collections are still being used frequently as well. We were able to complete 41 virtual notaries in March, and at the end of the month, we started allowing patrons to make appointments for in-person notary services once again as well. We made 11 Home Deliveries and 35 Outreach homebound deliveries this month. We mailed 9 bags to patrons participating in our Books by Mail trial program. Youth staff fulfilled 33 Book Bundle requests in March, while we had 11 Book Bundle requests for adults and teens. 28 calls came in for Ring Me a Story for stories, jokes, and folktales. We currently have 12 users signed up for Bright by Text. We sent out 1 community related messages that reached 190 users in Oakland County.

Between March 1 and March 14, we had 96 computer appointments, and an additional 20 appointments for using our equipment to fax/copy/scan, totaling 116 appointments before we opened for Grab & Go. In addition, we completed 3 3D printer projects, and we completed 16 paper print jobs as well, which were all picked up curbside. Since March 15, we have discontinued remote paper print jobs, as patrons can come inside and do their printing easily again. We had 17 people come in to use a study room individually. We did start “Grab & Go” at the Orion Center Branch, open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We will be opening the Orion Center Branch 5 days a week once again starting on Monday, April 12.

Programs continue to be a mix of virtual or take & make formats. For kids, we had 9 sessions of Virtual Little Lit (119), Dr. Seuss Fun Take & Make (40), Virtual Sense-sational
Director’s Report  
April 15, 2021  
Karen Knox

Storytime (6), STEAM Academy Light & Dark Take & Make (30), All Ages Makerspace Take & Make (20), Cardboard Pinball Take & Make (37), Nailed It! Take & Make (42), and Rainbow Art Take & Make (40). At this time, 357 kids are now registered from the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program with 34 kids completed, and 142 kids are registered for the 500 Books by 5th program with 4 kids completed.

We had a great time with our all virtual Battle of the Books this year! We had a total of 83 students who participated on 27 teams. Total numbers from Flipgrid included 168 videos uploaded. We had a final meetup before the Battle, with 128 virtual attendees. For the Battle itself, we had 166 virtual attendees. For our Victory Party, we had three authors: Janet Tashjian, Liz Braswell, and Debbie Levy, and in total we had 156 virtual attendees celebrating with us! Youth staff received many compliments on how things went this year from parents and coaches. Just another example of how we have adapted successfully during this pandemic!

For teens, we had Feather Quill Pens Take & Make (36) and Middle School Battle of the Books (41). We also did a joint teen & youth program, which was for Harry Potter Book Day and included a Take & Make (60) and a virtual program (30).

For adults, we had 3 Book Discussions (17), Orion Historical Society (8), 12 sessions of Virtual Tech Help (12), All Ages Makerspace Take & Make (20), Glass Gem Suncatchers (75), Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group (5), Writers Workshop (6), and Monarch Butterflies (11) – with an additional 20 views of the recording on YouTube. We switched up our call-in program for adults, now offering a Dial-a-story option, which had 46 callers in March.

For outreach patrons, we had 5 sessions of English Language Learning Conversation Group (20) and Book Bunch (7). We dropped off packets for Pomeroy Memory Lane (20), LONC Memory Lane (20), Heritage Place Book Discussion (6), and Villa at Silver Bell Estates Memory Lane (20). Also, note that staff delivered over 30 Glass Gem Suncatchers Take & Make kits to homebound patrons to include them as well. OTPL monthly activity sheets titled “Boredom Busters” were delivered to 25 Meals on Wheels customers in March, and they were included in home delivery bags and in books by mail bags. Mary also made 15 calls to check-in on seniors.

LOCS continues to navigate COVID-19 as well as they can. In March, we did 1 virtual school visit at the Pre-K level and 4 virtual school visits at the K-5 level, reaching about 105 students. We also completed 3 ThinkLink book requests though, providing 22 items through ThinkLink.

On March 9, the library and the middle schools hosted a shortened and modified version of the Middle School Battle of the Books on Teams. 14 teams and 41 students participated in a virtual trivia competition. The library provided prizes for the top three teams and the school district provided prizes for best costume and best team name. In addition, Sabrina partnered with the middle schools to provide another take and make kit in March in lieu of Lit Lunches. This month she made 20 pipe cleaner animal take and
make kits for each school, 60 total. Sabrina also worked with two middle school ELA teachers on a special request to get 60 copies from the A Wicked History book series from ILL for a school project.

Ashley worked with the DDA to plan downtown storywalks through June of next year. The current story is *Five Little Ducks*, which is up for March and April, then we will move to one story per month.

Our new 50 Books in 52 Weeks now has 175 patrons signed up with 1,414 books read as of the end of March. We launched two new reading programs for teens as well: 75 Books Before High School (2 signed up) and 100 Books Before Graduation (2 signed up).

A writer at American Libraries Magazine watched a Games and Gaming Roundtable presentation at Midwinter and interviewed the panel (that Dan was on) about virtual gaming. No news about when this article will be published yet.

The library received a couple nice donations adding to our Makerspace options. One came from a wish list donation of a Spellbinder cutting and embossing machine as well as embossing plates. The other was a donation from a library board member of a vinyl recording to MP3 converter.

The library is a collection site for the Orion Area Youth Assistance shoe drive, collecting new or gently used (clean) shoes through the month of April.

We are making progress with our plans for renovating the staff kitchen. Working on details like cabinets, appliances, flooring, etc. Mike is also getting quotes for replacing the front entry doors and staff door. We did get the tile replaced in the public men’s restroom. We gave an update to the Building Committee this week and will continue our work.

Staff are working hard in planning for our 2021 Summer Reading Program! Lots of fun planned and will be in the summer issue of Orion Living, which we are starting to draft. The summer’s theme is *Tales and Tails*, and we are planning for many “no screen” options! The Kickoff will be held outdoors with Howell Nature Center on June 12, and we also have booked Bees in the D for an outdoor family program.

I continue to meet with the Friends board monthly on Zoom. They will have their Annual Meeting on April 13 on Zoom at 6:30p. At that meeting, they will elect new officers to take over on May 1 and approve some minor bylaws updates. They have also reopened the lobby Book Store which is going well so far. I will give an update on their Annual Meeting at our board meeting on April 15.

I look forward to seeing you all in person at our meeting next week. Thanks so much for all your continued support and all that you do.
## Statistical Report - Usage for the month of March 2021

### Circulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current month</th>
<th>This month last year</th>
<th>Current FYTD</th>
<th>Previous FYTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Library Circ Checkouts</td>
<td>7,503</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>20,814</td>
<td>23,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Library Self Checkouts</td>
<td>2,995</td>
<td>4,852</td>
<td>2,995</td>
<td>28,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewals</td>
<td>6,363</td>
<td>4,176</td>
<td>18,483</td>
<td>20,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orion Cntr Branch Checkouts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILL Items borrowed</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>1,651</td>
<td>2,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILL Items loaned</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Physical Checkouts</strong></td>
<td>17,415</td>
<td>13,576</td>
<td>43,947</td>
<td>74,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-books (OD &amp; CL) **</td>
<td>9,426</td>
<td>9,573</td>
<td>36,687</td>
<td>34,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-audio books (OD &amp; CL)</td>
<td>1,909</td>
<td>1,848</td>
<td>5,684</td>
<td>5,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-magazines</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>2,145</td>
<td>1,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoopla</td>
<td>1,878</td>
<td>1,617</td>
<td>5,633</td>
<td>4,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanopy</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>199</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total digital checkouts</strong></td>
<td>13,980</td>
<td>13,649</td>
<td>50,388</td>
<td>46,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Circulation</strong></td>
<td>31,395</td>
<td>27,225</td>
<td>94,335</td>
<td>120,592</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PebbleGo and BookFlix = 6,471 of ebook checkouts**

### Number of Items in our Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current month</th>
<th>This month last year</th>
<th>Current FYTD</th>
<th>Previous FYTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Print</td>
<td>90,147</td>
<td>91,003</td>
<td>Residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio (physical)</td>
<td>10,419</td>
<td>10,054</td>
<td>Non-Residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video</td>
<td>18,424</td>
<td>18,612</td>
<td>Total Card Holders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-books</td>
<td>89,500</td>
<td>82,145</td>
<td>New Registrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-audio books</td>
<td>46,639</td>
<td>35,786</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Total Items** | 265,726             | 247,967

### Room Usage Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current month</th>
<th>This month last year</th>
<th>Current FYTD</th>
<th>Previous FYTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Room bookings (public)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Programs for adults</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Programs for children</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Programs for teens</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># School visits for Think Link</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program attendance for adults</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program attendance for children</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>1,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program attendance for teens</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance school visits Think Link</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Technology Usage Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current month</th>
<th>This month last year</th>
<th>Current FYTD</th>
<th>Previous FYTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer signups</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless users</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web site hits - desktop users</td>
<td>10,816</td>
<td>8,827</td>
<td>30,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web site hits - mobile users</td>
<td>8,690</td>
<td>7,600</td>
<td>25,467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Usage Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current month</th>
<th>This month last year</th>
<th>Current FYTD</th>
<th>Previous FYTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Visitors to Main Library</td>
<td>3,033</td>
<td>6,561</td>
<td>3,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Visitors to Orion Center branch</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Volunteer hours</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Notarized documents</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Think Link requests for books</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Think Link check outs</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* As of February 1, 2021 move to Phase 4, allowing limited number of patrons by appt for technology use and individual study rms

* As of March 15, 2021 Phase 4+, allowing for 50% building capacity and grab & go service
Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order

Michigan law imposes on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) a duty to continually and diligently endeavor to “prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health,” and gives the Department “general supervision of the interests of the health and life of the people of this state.” MCL 333.2221. MDHHS may “[e]xercise authority and promulgate rules to safeguard properly the public health; to prevent the spread of diseases and the existence of sources of contamination; and to implement and carry out the powers and duties vested by law in the department.” MCL 333.2226(d).

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. It is caused by a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans and easily spread from person to person. COVID-19 spreads through close human contact, even from individuals who may be asymptomatic.

In recognition of the severe, widespread harm caused by epidemics, the Legislature has granted MDHHS specific authority, dating back a century, to address threats to the public health like those posed by COVID-19. MCL 333.2253(1) provides that:

If the director determines that control of an epidemic is necessary to protect the public health, the director by emergency order may prohibit the gathering of people for any purpose and may establish procedures to be followed during the epidemic to insure continuation of essential public health services and enforcement of health laws. Emergency procedures shall not be limited to this code.

See also In re Certified Questions from the United States District Court, Docket No. 161492 (Viviano, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part, at 20) (“[T]he 1919 law passed in the wake of the influenza epidemic and Governor Sleeper’s actions is still the law, albeit in slightly modified form.”); id. (McCormack, C.J., concurring in part and dissenting in part, at 12). Enforcing Michigan’s health laws, including preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting public health, requires limitations on gatherings and the establishment of procedures to control the spread of COVID-19. This includes limiting the number, location, size, and type of gatherings, and requiring the use of mitigation measures at gatherings as a condition of hosting such gatherings.

On March 10, 2020, MDHHS identified the first two presumptive-positive cases of COVID-19 in Michigan. As of March 18, 2021, Michigan had seen 618,421 confirmed cases and 15,835 confirmed deaths attributable to COVID-19. Michigan was one of the states most heavily impacted by COVID-19 early in the pandemic, with new cases peaking at nearly 2,000 per day in late March. Strict preventative measures and the cooperation of Michiganders drove daily case numbers dramatically down to fewer than 200 confirmed cases per day in mid-June, greatly reducing the loss of life. Beginning in October, Michigan again experienced an exponential growth in cases. New cases peaked at nearly 10,000 cases per day in mid-November, followed by increases in COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths.

On November 15, 2020, MDHHS issued an order enacting protections to slow the high and rapidly increasing rate of spread of COVID-19. Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths remained high through early
December, threatening hospital and public health capacity. On December 7, 2020, December 18, 2020, and January 13, 2021, MDHHS issued orders sustaining those protections. These orders played a crucial role in slowing the spread in Michigan and had brought new cases down to about 1,500 per day. This decrease in cases prevented Michigan’s healthcare system from being overwhelmed with a holiday surge. On January 22, 2021, considering the reduction in cases, MDHHS issued an order permitting indoor dining. And on February 4, 2021, in light of continued decreases in cases of COVID-19 in the state, MDHHS issued an order permitting contact sports to be played.

Cases dropped to under 1,000 per day in mid-February. However, these trends have shifted and cases are once again increasing. The State of Michigan had a seven-day average of 1,825 daily cases on March 11, nearly 90% higher than the number of cases in mid-February. Test positivity has also increased 86% since the mid-February trough. The statewide positivity was 6.5% as of March 16. While metrics remain below all-time highs, progress has stalled and epidemiologists are concerned that this portends another spike with the presence of more infectious variants in Michigan and the United States. A high number of cases creates significant pressure on our emergency and hospital systems. Improvements in healthcare capacity have reversed and hospitalizations are once again increasing. An average of 168 daily hospital admissions was seen in Michigan in the past week, with individuals under the age of 60 accounting for nearly 50% of all new admissions. As of March 17, 1,226 Michiganders were hospitalized with COVID-19, and 5.0% of all available inpatient beds were occupied by patients who had COVID-19. During this time, the state death rate was 1.3 deaths per million people and there were approximately 95 weekly deaths in Michigan attributable to COVID-19. This is a 90% decrease from the second peak, which reached 13.7 deaths per million on December 10, 2020. However, deaths trends have historically lagged four to six weeks following trend shifts in cases and hospitalizations.

Even where COVID-19 does not result in death, and where Michigan’s emergency and hospital systems are not heavily burdened, the disease can cause great harm. Recent estimates suggest that one in ten persons who suffer from COVID-19 will experience long-term symptoms, referred to as “long COVID.” These symptoms, including fatigue, shortness of breath, joint pain, depression, and headache, can be disabling. They can last for months, and in some cases, arise unexpectedly in patients with few or no symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of diagnosis. COVID-19 has also been shown to damage the heart and kidneys. Furthermore, minority groups in Michigan have experienced a higher proportion of “long COVID.” The best way to prevent these complications is to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

Since December 11, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration has granted emergency use authorization to three vaccines to prevent COVID-19, providing a path to end the pandemic. Michigan is now partaking in the largest mass vaccination effort in modern history and is presently working toward vaccinating at least 70% of Michigan residents 16 years of age and older as quickly as possible.

New and unexpected challenges continue to arise: in early December 2020, a variant of COVID-19 known as B.1.1.7 was detected in the United Kingdom. This variant is roughly 50 to 70 percent more infectious than the more common strain. On January 16, 2021, this variant was detected in Michigan. It is anticipated that the variant, if it becomes widespread in the state, will significantly increase the rate of new cases. Currently, Michigan is second in the nation with respect to the number of B.1.1.7 variants detected. To date, there are over 600 cases in Michigan. CDC modeling predicts B.1.1.7 could become the predominant variant by the end of March. At present, however, it appears that cases have plateaued. And on March 8, 2021, the first case of variant B.1.351 was detected in Michigan. A recent study suggests that B.1.351 may impair vaccine efficacy.

In the past four weeks, spread of COVID-19 has risen 105% amongst persons aged 10-19. As of March 11, local health departments had reported 162 new and ongoing outbreaks among K-12 schools, with 54 of those outbreaks reported in the week prior. Additionally, there are 135 identified outbreaks among minors participating in school and club sports. The social activities surrounding sports, such as team meals and parties, may be a major factor in this spread. To promote the continued safe operation of in-person schools, additional mitigation measures related to youth sports activities are warranted.
Considering the above, and upon the advice of scientific and medical experts, I have concluded pursuant to MCL 333.2253 that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to constitute an epidemic in Michigan. I have also, subject to the grant of authority in 2020 PA 238 (signed into law on October 22, 2020), herein defined the symptoms of COVID-19 based on the latest epidemiological evidence. I further conclude that control of the epidemic is necessary to protect the public health and that it is necessary to restrict gatherings and establish procedures to be followed during the epidemic to ensure the continuation of essential public health services and enforcement of health laws. As provided in MCL 333.2253, these emergency procedures are not limited to the Public Health Code.

I therefore order that:

1. **Definitions.**

   (a) “Camp” means a day, residential, travel, or troop camp for children (as defined by Rule 400.11101(1)(q) of the Michigan Administrative Code).

   (b) “Child care organization” means that term as defined by section 1(b) of the Child Care Organizations Act, 1973 PA 116, as amended, MCL 722.111(b)).

   (c) “Contact sports” means sports involving more than occasional and fleeting contact, including: football; basketball; rugby; field hockey; soccer; lacrosse; wrestling; hockey; boxing; futsal; martial arts with opponents; and other sports meeting those criteria.

   (d) “Competition” means a game of skill played between opposing teams.

   (e) “Employee” means that term as defined in section 2(c) of the Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act, 2018 PA 337, as amended, MCL 408.932(c), and also includes independent contractors.

   (f) “Entertainment and recreational facility” includes: auditoriums; cinemas; concert halls; performance venues; sporting venues; theaters; night clubs; strip clubs; water parks; archery ranges; amusement parks; arcades; bingo halls; bowling centers; casinos; gun ranges; laser tag arenas; trampoline parks; and the like.

   (g) “Exercise facility” means a location in which individuals participate in individual or group physical activity, including gymnasiums, fitness centers, and exercise studios.

   (h) “Face mask” means a tightly woven cloth or other multi-layer absorbent material that closely covers an individual’s mouth and nose.

   (i) “Fully vaccinated persons” means persons for whom at least two weeks has passed after receiving the final dose of an FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

   (j) “Food service establishment” means that term as defined in section 1107(t) of the Food Law, 2000 PA 92, as amended, MCL 289.1107(t).

   (k) “Gathering” means any occurrence, either indoor or outdoor, where two or more persons from more than one household are present in a shared space.

   (l) “Household” means a group of persons living together in a shared dwelling with common kitchen or bathroom facilities. In dwellings with shared kitchen or bathroom facilities occupied by 20 or more unrelated persons, households are defined by individuals who share a bedroom.
(m) “Indoors” means within a space that is fully or partially enclosed on the top, and fully or partially enclosed on two or more contiguous sides. Additionally, in a space that is fully or partially enclosed on the top, and fully or partially enclosed on two non-contiguous sides, any part of that space that is more than 8 feet from an open side is indoors.

(n) “Non-contact sports” means sports that are not contact sports.

(o) “Outdoors” means a space that is not indoors.

(p) “Organized sports” means competitive athletic activity requiring skill or physical prowess and organized by a sports organizer.

(q) “Practice” means a training session for a game of skill, involving only members of a single team.

(r) “Principal symptoms of COVID-19” means at least 1 of fever, uncontrolled cough, or atypical new onset of shortness of breath, or at least 2 of the following not explained by a known physical condition: loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, sore throat, severe headache, diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. Per section 1(j) of 2020 PA 339, this definition represents the latest medical guidance, and serves as the controlling definition.

(s) “Sports organizer” means an association or other organization that sets and enforces rules to ensure the physical health and safety of all participants for an organized sport. Sports organizers at the sub-association level must follow all health and safety rules and procedures set by the association of which they are a member.

(t) “Stadiums and arenas” means venues with fixed seating for at least 5,000 spectators.

2. General capacity limitations at gatherings.

(a) Indoor gatherings:

(1) Are prohibited at residential venues, except where no more than 15 persons from no more than 3 households are gathered. Such gatherings should be held consistent with guidance issued by the Department of Health and Human Services for such gatherings; and

(2) Are prohibited at non-residential venues, except where no more than 25 persons are gathered.

(b) Outdoor gatherings are permitted only as follows:

(1) At residential venues, where 50 or fewer persons are gathered;

(2) At non-residential venues, where 300 or fewer persons are gathered.

(c) The limitations to gatherings in sections 2(a) and 2(b) do not apply to:

(1) Incidental gatherings of persons in a shared space, such as frequently occur in an airport, bus station, exercise facility, food service establishment, shopping mall, or public pool, except as prohibited in section 3;

(2) Workplace gatherings that occur consistent with the Emergency Rules issued by MIOSHA on October 14, 2020;

(3) Voting or official election-related activities;
(4) Training of law enforcement, correctional, medical, or first responder personnel, insofar as those activities cannot be conducted remotely;

(5) Education and support services at public, nonpublic, and boarding schools serving students in prekindergarten through grade 12;

(6) Children in a child care organization, after school program, or camp setting;

(7) Persons traveling on a school bus or public transit;

(8) Gatherings for the purpose of medical treatment, including mental health and substance use disorder support services;

(9) Residential care facilities, which are subject to the March 17, 2021, epidemic order entitled “Requirements for Residential Facilities,” or any replacement of that order;

(10) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses and swimming instruction courses;

(11) Proctored, nationally-administered admissions and certification examinations that are not available remotely, provided that examinees are spaced no less than 6 feet apart;

(12) Gatherings at entertainment and recreational facilities that comply with the restrictions set forth in section 3(a) of this order;

(13) Gatherings for the purposes of indoor group fitness, exercise, or sports that comply with the restrictions set forth in sections 4(b), 4(d), 4(e), and 6 of this order;

(14) Gatherings for public health or other emergency purposes.

(d) As a condition of hosting a gathering under this order, organizers and facilities must design the gathering to encourage and maintain physical distancing, and must ensure that persons not part of the same group maintain 6 feet of distance from one another to the extent possible.

3. Gathering restrictions for entertainment facilities, recreational facilities, and food service establishments.

(a) Gatherings are prohibited at entertainment facilities and recreational facilities unless:

(1) Venues and activities held at those venues comply with masking and distancing requirements in this subsection. Venues that cannot consistently adhere to these requirements (e.g., water parks, dance floors at a nightclub, or children’s indoor playgrounds inasmuch as staff are not present to prevent physical contact) may not be open.

(A) Patrons must remain masked at all times, except when eating or drinking in designated areas;

(B) Groups of patrons participating in activities together (such as those seated together at a concert or movie, or bowling in the same lane or group of lanes) must not exceed 25 persons indoors, or 300 persons outdoors;

(C) Patrons must be prevented from mingling with or engaging in physical contact with persons outside their group; and
(D) For sports practice and competition, participants must comply with the restrictions set forth in section 6;

(2) If participating in stationary activities, groups are spaced or seated at least 6 feet apart. If participating in non-stationary activities, groups maintain a consistent 6 feet of distance from other groups at all times;

(3) Consumption of food or beverages is permitted only where patrons are seated, groups of patrons are separated by at least 6 feet, no more than 6 patrons are seated at a table, and groups of patrons do not intermingle;

(4) Venues that are also food service establishments, as a condition of offering food or beverages, ensure their designated dining areas comply with all requirements in subsection (b);

(5) Venues abide by the following density limitations:
   
   (A) Where applicable, occupancy must not exceed 50% of the limits established by the State Fire Marshal or a local fire marshal; and
   
   (B) Groups must remain at least 6 feet apart at all times;

(6) Venues abide by the following maximum capacity limitations:

   (A) For indoor entertainment and recreational facilities, no more than 300 patrons may be gathered within any distinct space within the venue;
   
   (B) For outdoor entertainment and recreational facilities and for stadiums and arenas, except as provided in subsection (E), no more than 1,000 patrons may be gathered;
   
   (C) At indoor stadiums and arenas with a fixed seating capacity of up to 10,000, no more than 375 patrons may be gathered;
   
   (D) At indoor stadiums and arenas with a fixed seating capacity greater than 10,000, no more than 750 patrons may be gathered;
   
   (E) At outdoor stadiums and arenas that establish and abide by an infection control plan that complies with the MDHHS publication entitled Enhanced Outdoor Stadium and Arena Guidance, gatherings may not exceed 20% of the venue’s fixed seating capacity. Such venues must post their plan publicly, including on a public website. Infection control plans must be provided to the local health department and MDHHS at least seven days before scheduled events. Sports organizers of events occurring at outdoor stadiums and arenas proceeding under this subsection must administer a testing program for all players as specified in the MDHHS publication entitled Interim Guidance for Athletics issued March 20, 2021, for all players.

(b) Gatherings are prohibited at food service establishments, whether indoor or outdoor, unless:

   (1) Consumption of food or beverages is permitted only in a designated dining area where patrons are seated, groups of patrons are separated by at least 6 feet, no more than 6 patrons are seated together (at a table, booth, or group of fixed seats), and groups of patrons do not intermingle;
(2) Patrons are not permitted to gather in common areas in which people can congregate, dance, or otherwise mingle;

(3) In the event that an employee of a food service establishment is confirmed positive for COVID-19 or shows principal symptoms of COVID-19 while at work, the food service establishment has been deep cleaned consistent with Food and Drug Administration and CDC guidance;

(4) At establishments offering indoor dining:

- The number of patrons indoors (or in a designated dining area of a multipurpose venue) does not exceed 50% of normal seating capacity, or 100 persons, whichever is less, provided, however, that this limitation does not apply to soup kitchens and shelters;

- At food service establishments, or the designated dining area of a multipurpose venue, indoor dining is closed between the hours of 11:00 PM and 4:00 AM;

- The venue displays, in a prominent location, the MDHHS “Dining During COVID-19” brochure.

(c) Gatherings at non-tribal casinos may not exceed 30% of total occupancy limits established by the State Fire Marshal or a local fire marshal.

4. Gathering restrictions for other facilities. In addition to the gathering limitations set forth elsewhere in this order, the following limitations apply to gatherings in the following facilities:

(a) A gathering at a retail setting, library, or museum must not exceed 50% of total occupancy limits established by the State Fire Marshal or a local fire marshal. Nevertheless, a retail store, library, or museum may permit one customer at a time to enter if strict adherence to the 50% total occupancy limit would otherwise result in closure. Spaces for indoor dining, including food courts, must comply with the requirements for food service establishments as set forth in section 3(b).

- Retail stores must establish lines to regulate entry and checkout, with markings for patrons to enable them to stand at least 6 feet apart from one another while waiting.

(b) At exercise facilities:

- Gatherings must not exceed 30% of the total occupancy limits established by the State Fire Marshal or a local fire marshal;

- There must be at least 6 feet of distance between each occupied workout station and physical layout of the space must be established such that exercisers can move between stations while maintaining 6 feet of distance from others at all times; and

- Gatherings for group fitness activities or classes are permitted, provided that all persons maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others at all times and wear a face mask at all times.

(c) Gatherings in waiting rooms at outpatient health care facilities, veterinary clinics, and other businesses are prohibited unless the facility implements a system to ensure that persons not of the same group maintain 6 feet of distance. To the extent possible, this
system must include a policy that patients wait in their cars for their appointments to be called.

(d) Gatherings at an indoor pool not otherwise prohibited by this order must not exceed 30% of bather capacity limits described in Rule 325.2193 of the Michigan Administrative Code. Gatherings at an outdoor pool not otherwise prohibited by this order must not exceed 50% of bather capacity limits described in Rule 325.2193 of the Michigan Administrative Code.

(e) Gatherings at ice and roller rinks are permitted, provided that occupancy is limited to 10 persons per 1,000 square feet, including within the exercise space. Gatherings for the purpose of open skating are permitted.

(f) In facilities offering non-essential personal care services, including hair, nail, tanning, massage, traditional spa, tattoo, body art, piercing services, and similar personal care services, all services must be provided by appointment, and gatherings in waiting areas are prohibited.

5. Schools, colleges, technical schools, and universities.

(a) Subject to local health department and school district authority, and consistent with the applicable restrictions in section 6, gatherings at public, nonpublic, and boarding schools are permitted for the purpose of conducting in-person instruction and extracurricular activities in prekindergarten through grade 12.

(b) Gatherings at public, nonpublic, and boarding schools are permitted for the purpose of child care programs, tutoring and academic support, and for providing services to students in need, including food distribution, access to internet connectivity, and physical and mental health care services.

(c) Gatherings at colleges and universities, trade schools, and career schools are permitted for the purpose of holding in-person classes and other events sponsored by the educational institution. The limits imposed by section 2(a) and 2(b) do not apply to such gatherings, but they remain subject to all other applicable requirements of this order.

6. Organized sports gathering restrictions.

(a) Gatherings for the purpose of contact sports practice and competition are prohibited unless:

   (1) Participants remain masked; or

   (2) Where it would be unsafe for participants to remain masked, all participants are tested consistent with the MDHHS publication entitled Interim Guidance for Athletics issued March 20, 2021.

(b) Gatherings for the purpose of sports practice and competition are prohibited unless participants maintain 6 feet of distance from each other when not engaged in play.

(c) Gatherings of non-participants for the purpose of observing sports practice and competition must be held consistent with section 3.

(d) Sports organizers, venues, and teams must ensure that all gatherings for the purpose of sports competition and practice comply with the requirements of this order.
(e) Even where it is not required, sports organizers are encouraged to administer a testing program as specified in the MDHHS publication entitled Interim Guidance for Athletics issued March 20, 2021.

(f) Beginning on April 2, 2021, gatherings for the purpose of sports practice and competition involving persons age 13 to 19 are prohibited unless all such persons participate in a testing program as specified in the MDHHS publication entitled Interim Guidance for Athletics issued March 20, 2021.

7. **Face mask requirement at gatherings.**

(a) All persons participating in gatherings are required to wear a face mask.

(b) As a condition of gathering for the purpose of transportation, transportation providers must require all staff and patrons to use face masks, and must enforce physical distancing among all patrons to the extent feasible.

(c) Except as provided elsewhere in this order, a person responsible for a business, store, office, government office, school, organized event, or other operation, or an agent of such person, must prohibit gatherings of any kind unless the person requires individuals in such gatherings (including employees) to wear a face mask, and denies entry or service to all persons refusing to wear face masks while gathered.

(d) A person responsible for a business, store, office, government office, school, organized event, or other operation, or an agent of such person, may not assume that someone who enters the facility without a face mask falls within one of the exceptions specified in section 8 of this order, including the exception for individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face mask. An individual’s verbal representation that they are not wearing a face mask because they fall within a specified exception, however, may be accepted.

(e) A person responsible for a child care organization or camp, or an agent of such person, must not allow gatherings unless face masks are worn by all staff. Children must wear face masks as indicated below:

(1) All children 2 years and older when on a school bus or other transportation provided by the child care organization or camp;

(2) All children 4 years and older when in indoor hallways and indoor common areas;

(3) All children 5 years and older when in classrooms, homes, cabins, or similar indoor settings.

(f) Participants in gatherings for any exercise activities, group fitness, or organized sports must comply with face mask requirements listed in the MDHHS publication entitled Interim Guidance for Athletics issued March 20, 2021.

8. **Exceptions to face mask requirements.** Although a face mask is strongly encouraged even for individuals not required to wear one (except for children under the age of 2), the requirement to wear a face mask in gatherings as required by this order does not apply to individuals who:

(a) Are younger than 5 years old, outside of a child care organization or camp setting (which are subject to requirements set out in section 7(e));

(b) Cannot medically tolerate a face mask;
(c) Are eating or drinking while seated at a food service establishment or at a private residence;

(d) Are exercising outdoors and able to consistently maintain 6 feet of distance from others;

(e) Are swimming;

(f) Are receiving a medical or personal care service for which removal of the face mask is necessary;

(g) Are asked to temporarily remove a face mask for identification purposes;

(h) Are communicating with someone who is deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing and whose ability to see the mouth is essential to communication;

(i) Are actively engaged in a public safety role, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel, and where wearing a face mask would seriously interfere in the performance of their public safety responsibilities;

(j) Are engaging in a religious service;

(k) Are giving a speech for broadcast or to an audience, provided that the audience is at least 12 feet away from the speaker; or

(l) Are participating in a testing program specified in the MDHHS publication entitled Interim Guidance for Athletics issued March 20, 2021, and are engaged in practice or competition where the wearing of a mask would be unsafe;

(m) Are engaging in an activity that requires removal of a mask not listed in another part of this section, and are in a facility that provides ventilation that meets or exceeds 60 ft³/min of outdoor airflow per person;

(n) Are at a residential gathering where all persons are fully vaccinated and not experiencing the principal symptoms of COVID-19.

9. Contact tracing requirements for particular gatherings.

(a) Gatherings are prohibited at the following facilities unless the facility maintains accurate records, including date and time of entry, names of patrons, and contact information, to aid with contact tracing, and denies entry for a gathering to any visitor who does not provide, at a minimum, their name and phone number:

(1) All businesses or operations that provide hair, nail, tanning, massage, traditional spa, tattoo, body art, piercing services, or similar personal care services; and

(2) Exercise facilities.

(b) All businesses or operations that provide in-home services, including cleaners, repair persons, painters, and the like must not permit their employees to gather with clients unless the business maintains accurate appointment records, including date and time of service, name of client, and contact information, to aid with contact tracing.

(c) All dine-in food service establishments must maintain accurate records of the names and phone numbers of patrons who purchase food for consumption on the premises, and the date and time of entry.
(d) Upon request, businesses, schools, and other facilities must provide names and phone numbers of individuals with possible COVID-19 exposure to MDHHS and local health departments to aid in contact tracing and case investigation efforts.

(e) Data collected under this section:

1. Must not be sold, or used for sales or marketing purposes without the express consent of each patron;
2. Must be protected as confidential information to the fullest extent of the law;
3. Must not be provided to law enforcement or immigration officials except upon receipt of a lawful subpoena from a court or other lawful court order;
4. Must be retained for 28 days by the collecting organization, after which time the data must be destroyed. If facilities use existing data to fulfill this requirement, they may instead follow their own pre-existing data retention and destruction policies at the conclusion of the 28-day retention period.

10. Implementation.

(a) Nothing in this order modifies, limits, or abridges protections provided by state or federal law for a person with a disability.

(b) Under MCL 333.2235(1), local health departments are authorized to carry out and enforce the terms of this order.

(c) Law enforcement officers, as defined in the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards Act, 1965 Public Act 203, MCL 28.602(f), are deemed to be “department representatives” for purposes of enforcing this order, and are specifically authorized to investigate potential violations of this order. They may coordinate as necessary with the appropriate regulatory entity and enforce this order within their jurisdiction.

(d) Neither a place of religious worship nor its owner is subject to penalty under this order for allowing religious worship at such place. No individual is subject to penalty under this order for engaging in religious worship at a place of religious worship.

(e) Consistent with MCL 333.2261, violation of this order is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or a fine of not more than $200.00, or both.

(f) Nothing in this order affects any prosecution or civil citation based on conduct that occurred before the effective date of this order.

(g) Nothing in this order should be taken to interfere with or infringe on the powers of the legislative and judicial branches to perform their constitutional duties or exercise their authority, or protections guaranteed by the state or federal constitution under these emergency circumstances.

(h) Consistent with any rule or emergency rule promulgated and adopted in a schedule of monetary civil penalties under MCL 333.2262(1) and applicable to this order, violations of this order are also punishable by a civil fine of up to $1,000 for each violation or day that a violation continues.
(i) If any provision of this order is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, whether in whole or in part, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining part of this order.

This order takes effect on March 22, 2021, at 12:01 AM, at which time the March 2, 2021, order entitled Gatherings and Face Mask Order is rescinded. This order remains in effect through April 19, 2021, at 11:59 PM. Persons with suggestions and concerns are invited to submit their comments via email to COVID19@michigan.gov.

Date: March 19, 2021

______________________________
Elizabeth Hertel, Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
March 31, 2021

Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order Amendment

On December 22, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed into law Public Act 254, which amended the Open Meetings Act to, among other things, permit meetings of public bodies to be held electronically by telephonic or video conferencing for any reason through March 31, 2021. Beginning on that date, meetings of public bodies can be held remotely only in certain circumstances, including where a state of emergency or state of disaster is declared. In recognition of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many counties and other local units of government have declared a local state of emergency. Nevertheless, some local units of government have not done so. For units of government that have not declared a disaster or state of emergency, meeting in-person may now be the only lawful option to conduct the public’s business in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

On March 19, 2021, I issued an order entitled Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order. The order limits the size of gatherings, including meetings under the Open Meetings Act. If the March 19, 2021, order is not amended to accommodate in-person meetings of public bodies, the public’s ability to participate in meetings of public bodies may be curtailed.

The order issued on March 19, 2021, entitled Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order, is amended to add subsection (15) to section 2(c):

(15) Gatherings of public bodies and attendees of meetings held by public bodies in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.261 et seq.

This amendment takes effect immediately.

Date: March 31, 2021

Elizabeth Hertel, Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
EDITOR’S NOTE

Nothing about 2020 was business as usual in any part of American society, and libraries and their workers, users, and services were all deeply impacted by the pandemic. In reflecting on the year, the only way to tell the stories of America’s libraries is through the lens of the challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19.

Every year, The State of America’s Libraries report aims to present a complete picture of the activities and trends in libraries of all kinds during the previous calendar year. This year, we are taking a different approach. Rather than a broad focus, we have narrowed our scope, and the result, we hope, provides library users a more nuanced understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on libraries in their schools, communities, and campuses and offers library workers, and everyone associated with the profession, some insight into best practices during an extraordinary and challenging year.

Although there are statistics and figures in this report, our primary goal was to spotlight the resilience, determination, and innovations of library workers in unprecedented circumstances. These human stories, ultimately, can tell us more than numbers ever could.

Writing a report about the impact of the pandemic on libraries while we are still in the thick of it is a bit like flying a plane while still building it. We know that we cannot possibly capture everything that happened in 2020. Our hope, instead, is to provide a snapshot of a moment in time that might encourage conversation, reflection, and ultimately, action. While historical in nature, this report is also about change and perseverance. We hope it will inspire appreciation for the essential role that libraries play in our world and persuade you to take steps to help them thrive.

Stephanie Hlywak
Director, Communications and Marketing Office
American Library Association
ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report would not be possible without the support and contributions of the staff and members of the following American Library Association (ALA) divisions and offices:

- ALA Editions
- American Association of School Librarians
- Association for Library Service to Children
- Association of College and Research Libraries
- Chapter Relations Office
- Communications and Marketing Office
- Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures
- International Relations Office
- Library and Information Resource Center
- Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services
- Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment
- Office for Intellectual Freedom
- Office of ALA Governance
- Public Library Association
- Public Policy and Advocacy Office
- Public Programs Office
- Reference and User Services Association
- United for Libraries
- Young Adult Library Services Association

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Design: ALA Production Services

ABOUT ALA

American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, ALA has been the trusted voice of libraries, advocating for the profession and the library’s role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit ala.org.

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HOW TO CITE THIS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

LIBRARIES SERVE AS “FIRST RESTORERS”

Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., ALA President

In 2020, libraries of all types stepped up to meet the needs of their communities as they responded to the impacts of COVID-19, a national financial crisis, and social unrest. They were at the center of some of our nation’s most consequential work, including supporting accurate counts in the US Census, fighting political disinformation, and facilitating free and fair elections.

Libraries also extended necessary lifelines to community members facing job losses, healthcare crises, and remote work and learning during an unprecedented and uncertain time. As we assess the state of America’s libraries, we find 2020 was a year when library professionals answered the call to serve amid multiple emergencies and a year when library workers again proved to be essential “first restorers” or “second responders.”

It also proved to be a year of opportunity, as libraries kept Americans connected in ways that brought our communities closer. Buildings may not have been open, but libraries were never closed.

I was lucky enough to see this work in action myself when I embarked on a national virtual tour meant to understand the needs of libraries on the ground. What I saw was awe-inspiring, even for someone like me who has spent decades in the profession.

At the Cambria County (PA) Library in Johnstown, for instance, workforce development programs, services, and local partnerships supported patrons with finding jobs and building careers. At the time of my visit with them, the state’s unemployment rate was 16 percent, and the library’s career center was essential for residents seeking economic advancement, digital literacy, and professional certifications.

Rural communities across the country faced and continue to confront tall hurdles to connect residents often scattered over large geographic areas. In Zanesville, Ohio, the Muskingum County Library’s parking lot was filled most days with families, jobseekers, telecommuters, and students taking advantage of free Wi-Fi to participate in Zoom meetings, distance learning, job interviews, and telemedicine appointments.

From the Midwest to the Southwest (and everywhere in between), people who didn’t have access to reliable, affordable broadband internet found themselves on the wrong side of the digital divide. In 2018, the Federal Communications Commission estimated that more than one in three residents living on tribal land lack access to broadband. During the pandemic, rural New Mexicans used the Jemez Pueblo Community Library’s parking lot to access Wi-Fi, and librarians there helped community members with
unemployment and stimulus forms and even auto license renewals.

Social justice is an issue that is close to my heart, and as the nation faced a racial reckoning, the work of our libraries as centers for engagement and community dialogue came into sharper focus. The John Brown Watson Memorial Library at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, a historically Black university, takes its role in preserving history that is not always visible in white institutions very seriously. In Oakland, California, community programming like the Father Circle, a non-judgmental family setting where fathers can share their feelings, and bike repair workshops that resist gentrification and support youth entrepreneurship are just two examples of the countless ways libraries demonstrate their commitment to diversity and community empowerment.

Of course, we can’t speak of the past year without acknowledging the significant role of school librarians in supporting their community’s remote learning needs. In Texas, I met creative and innovative librarians like those at Castleberry Independent School District’s Grab & Go Library, who provided families with activity packs so they could create and learn at home, and at Dallas’s Franklin Middle School, who distributed laptops to students when in-person learning was cut short by lockdown orders.

In Hawaii, school librarians had to be flexible long before coronavirus made remote learning the default for students across the country. School librarians at Kamehameha Schools told me students are offered three modalities of learning—traditional in-class instruction, distance learning, and a blend of both—because some of the students travel as far as sixty-eight miles just to get to school.

As we move into the future, I realize that last year was not the first time librarians and library workers have been challenged. Yet libraries are still standing. Read on for more about how these fundamental institutions are serving our communities during a most unusual time. And I hope you’ll join me in advocating for their success.

For more on how strong libraries—and a well-supported library workforce—are essential to the recovery of communities devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, check out resources developed and updated by units across the American Library Association designed to help communities, library workers, and library supporters plot the best course forward for their libraries. See ala.org/tools/covid-19-recovery.
CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Books unite us. They reach across boundaries and build connections between readers. Censorship, on the other hand, divides us and creates barriers. In 2020, 273 books were affected by censorship attempts. Learn more at ala.org/bbooks.

REASONS FOR CHALLENGES

Each word and phrase in this graphic is cited from 2020 censorship reports.

WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?

50% Parents
20% Patrons
11% Board/administration
9% Political/religious groups
5% Librarians/teachers
4% Elected officials
1% Students

BOOKS AND BEYOND

The ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 156 challenges in 2020. Here’s the breakdown:

73% Books, graphic novels
14% Programs, meeting rooms
3% Social media
2% Displays, photos
1% Films
7% Other*

* Includes filtering, access, databases, magazines, online resources, legislation

WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?

43% Public libraries
38% Schools
15% School libraries
2% Academia
2% Other
TOP 10 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2020

The American Library Association tracked 156 challenges to library, school, and university materials and services in 2020. A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials or services based on content. Overall, 273 books were targeted. Here are the “Top 10 Most Challenged Books in 2020,” along with the reasons cited for censoring the books:

1. **George** by Alex Gino
   - Challenged, banned, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content, conflicting with a religious viewpoint, and not reflecting “the values of our community”

2. **Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You** by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds
   - Banned and challenged because of author’s public statements and because of claims that the book contains “selective storytelling incidents” and does not encompass racism against all people

3. **All American Boys** by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
   - Banned and challenged for profanity, drug use, and alcoholism and because it was thought to promote anti-police views, contain divisive topics, and be “too much of a sensitive matter right now”

4. **Speak** by Laurie Halse Anderson
   - Banned, challenged, and restricted because it was thought to contain a political viewpoint, claimed to be biased against male students, and for the novel’s inclusion of rape and profanity

5. **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** by Sherman Alexie
   - Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references, and allegations of sexual misconduct by the author

   - Challenged for “divisive language” and because it was thought to promote anti-police views

7. **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee
   - Banned and challenged for racial slurs and their negative effect on students, featuring a “white savior” character, and its perception of the Black experience

8. **Of Mice and Men** by John Steinbeck
   - Banned and challenged for racial slurs and racist stereotypes and their negative effect on students

9. **The Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison
   - Banned and challenged because it was considered sexually explicit and depicts child sexual abuse

10. **The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas
    - Challenged for profanity, and it was thought to promote an anti-police message
During times of crisis, libraries take pride in staying open as vital community centers.

The novel coronavirus made gathering together indoors unsafe, however, and in March, out of concern for the safety and well-being of library staff and the communities they serve, many libraries closed their doors to the public, a move supported by the Executive Board of the American Library Association (ALA). They wrote, “Although closing a library is a local decision, we urge library administrators, local boards, and governments to close library facilities until such time as library workers and our communities are no longer at risk of contracting or spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus.”

For libraries, however, closing didn’t mean shutting down; rather it required finding new ways to serve and continue supporting their communities—often at a distance.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES PIVOT

The Public Library Association (PLA), an ALA division, conducted a survey March 24–April 1 to understand how public libraries were responding to the pandemic. Although 99 percent of respondents confirmed that their libraries had closed, most of them had extended online renewal policies, expanded online checkout services, and added virtual programming.

Many distributed such materials as free craft supplies and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) kits, supported distance learning, and, significantly, boosted their technology offerings by checking out laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots and extending Wi-Fi to their parking lots.

Emblematic of the trend, the McArthur Public Library in Biddeford, Maine, offered virtual storytimes, read-alouds, and cooking demos.

Still, as centers of lending, libraries also had to develop new policies for handling library materials. The Bertha Bartlett Public Library in Story City, Iowa, was among those that devised a detailed procedure for handling books and money to keep staff and the public safe.

Respondents to the PLA survey expressed concern about the loss of tax revenue and the strain on their budgets.
Many responded they would need state and federal financial support because local governments were stretched thin.

A few libraries managed to stay open. At the Idaho Falls (ID) Public Library, which canceled its programming but remained open to the public for browsing, checkout, and computer use, Director Robert Wright told American Libraries magazine, “We’re paid to be public servants, and we are leaving the decision about whether to open or close to the people who are experts in epidemiology.”

Wright’s library followed recommended social-distancing measures, including moving furniture to maintain six feet distance between patrons and staff, directing employees to stay six feet away from each other, sanitizing surfaces every ninety minutes, placing returned materials in quarantine for five days, and offering curbside checkout service on request.

Even for libraries that were closed but offered curbside pickup, concerns about safety preoccupied workers. Meagan McLendon, library assistant at the Kyle (TX) Public Library, pointed out that part-time employees posed the greatest threat for COVID-19 transmission. “A lot of us have other jobs [such as pizza delivery], and we take those jobs into this job,” she told American Libraries.

**COLLEGE, RESEARCH, AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES PROVE RESILIENT**

It wasn’t just public libraries that felt the impact of COVID-19. A survey developed by Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe (University of Illinois at Urbana–Campaign) and Christine Wolff-Eisenberg (Ithaka S+R) chronicled the impact of the pandemic on academic libraries. It found that libraries pivoted reference services to online or phone delivery. Meanwhile, access to print collections, whether onsite or via delivery, declined significantly. An ALA survey showed that more than half of college and research libraries had seen eliminations or reductions in planned hiring, professional development funding, print collection budgets, and program budgets.

School librarians demonstrated their resourcefulness, despite the fact that two-fifths of school libraries did not expect to reopen during the 2019–2020 school year. Vancouver, Washington, librarian Traci Plaster Chun said, “We have been supporting parents in this pandemic, which has been a shift. Teachers and parents are working so hard; I feel it’s my role to help make their jobs easier with tech, resources, e-books, and whatever they need. We know our students, our curriculum, our teachers, and so it makes sense that we jump in. We can personalize for our families.” Van Meter (IA) Community School District librarian Shannon McClintock Miller hosted webinars to spark ideas and share best practices.

**HOW AND WHEN TO REOPEN**

Guidelines for reopening were developed by Theresa Chmara, an expert on First Amendment and public forum issues related to libraries and general counsel for the Freedom to Read Foundation, and approved by the ALA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee in June. The guidelines included reviewing federal, state, and local laws, including agency recommendations, such as those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. It also addressed such questions as whether a public library can terminate an employee who refuses to return to work and whether it has the authority to mandate mask-wearing for patrons or employees.
Libraries, which provide a lifeline to communities coping with the ravages of COVID-19, received a much-needed boost from the federal government early in the pandemic.

In March, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a $2.2 trillion economic stimulus package, included $50 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which then distributed the funds to help states and territories expand digital network access, purchase internet-accessible devices, and provide technical support services to their communities.

The institute’s activities also included the REALM (REopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums) project—in conjunction with OCLC, a bibliographic information organization, and the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio—to produce science-based information about how materials can be processed to mitigate COVID-19 exposure to staff and visitors of archives, libraries, and museums.

The need for federal assistance grew urgent as thousands of library staff were furloughed or laid off due to COVID-19 and the demand for library services increased.

The CARES Act created the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which provided loans to help businesses—including libraries—weather the financial crisis due to the
ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN. PPP funds could be used to pay staff, and many libraries accessed these forgivable loans that proved to be vital assistance for many organizations.

In July, Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI) introduced in their respective chambers the Library Stabilization Fund Act (LSFA) to establish a $2 billion fund, administered by IMLS, to address financial losses and bolster library services, with an emphasis on the hardest-hit communities. The LSFA would have supported library operations and such urgent technology needs as broadband access and digital literacy training. It would have also provided funds for hotspots, laptops, printers, and other technology.

CONGRESS ACTS TO SUPPORT LIBRARIES

In December, for the eighth consecutive year, Congress increased appropriations to IMLS. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2021, passed on December 21 along with a $900 billion stimulus relief package for COVID-19, included an additional $5 million for IMLS, including $2 million for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Appropriations for 2021 include increases for other library line items, including $28 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program, an increase of $1 million, with at least half of this funding dedicated to school libraries.

READERS BENEFIT FROM CHANGES TO E-BOOK LENDING

Readers who relied on e-books from libraries to stay well-read during the pandemic saw waiting lists for some top titles decrease significantly. That’s because one of the big five publishers, Macmillan Publishers, announced it would end an embargo on sales of new titles to libraries, which had resulted in six-month-plus waiting lists for new releases.

In a statement, ALA Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Alan Inouye said, “Equitable access to digital content is more important than ever as libraries continue to serve their communities amid rapidly changing circumstances.”

Publisher Penguin Random House (PRH) also made changes so that libraries could better afford to provide access to the digital content its users needed. In April, PRH announced that it was offering libraries e-book and digital audio book licenses for one year at a 50 percent prorated price, a move necessary to “meet the needs of patrons and homebound school kids,” said Skip Dye, senior vice-president.
WI-FI AND BROADBAND ACCESS

In the pre-COVID-19 era, America’s 16,557 public library locations provided critical digital infrastructure to their communities. For many, the library’s computers were their personal computers. Libraries offered internet hotspots to borrow, promoted digital literacy through specialized training, and assisted careers by allowing job seekers to access crucial online information.

Throughout the pandemic, the library’s role as a digital provider widened. The American Library Association (ALA) recognized the importance of libraries as broadband service points early in the crisis. In a March statement, the ALA Executive Board recommended that “libraries can and should leave their Wi-Fi networks on even when their buildings are closed wherever possible.”

During the pandemic, libraries like rural Marathon County (WI) Public Library and suburban Cuyahoga County (OH) Public Library compensated for closures by making their Wi-Fi networks accessible to patrons outside the building. Library users could sit in or near their cars and tap into the networks with laptops or smartphones, as long as they maintained six feet of social distance from passersby.

The Leominster (MA) Public Library took it one step further, installing mobile hotspots at the local senior center and veterans’ center.

Santa Fe (NM) Community College and Pima (AZ) Community College played a vital role during the pandemic for students and communities that didn’t have reliable internet access. They purchased and lent out hundreds of laptops and dozens of portable Wi-Fi hotspots. Expanded Wi-Fi also allowed students to safely access the internet outside closed buildings from the parking lot or other outdoor spaces.

The bookmobile, the classic vehicle for library outreach, reinvented itself as a conveyor of broadband to communities in need. Williamsburg (VA) Regional Library parked its bookmobile outside schools, grocery stores, and community centers, while the Topeka and Shawnee County (KS) Public Library deployed its bookmobiles as Wi-Fi hotspots to a local mobile home park and a correctional facility.

INEQUITIES LAID BARE

But even as libraries responded to the call, inequities in allocation were exposed—gaps that would affect communities in need of broadband during the pandemic for access to digital collections, e-government services, legal information, distance learning, telemedicine, and other essential community services.
The COVID-19 outbreak exacerbated these inequities. About 25 percent of Americans lack high-speed internet access at home, according to a June 2019 study by the Pew Research Center. Roughly 33 percent of rural Americans lack home broadband access.

In a September case study of two tribally owned and operated networks, the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office reported that barely half of Native Americans living on tribal lands had access to high-speed internet. Six tribal libraries and two schools in six pueblos in north-central New Mexico aggregated their demand and built two sixty-mile fiber-optic networks. During the pandemic, tribal libraries stepped up significantly to form partnerships to connect diverse populations with broadband.

In Washington, DC, lawmakers proposed several bills to address broadband needs, including the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act, passed by the House in May, which would have provided $2 billion for hotspots and other devices for library patrons and K–12 students. This bill was never brought up for consideration in the Senate.

**LEARNING GOES VIRTUAL**

When learning moved online, school libraries like those in the Leander (TX) Independent School District became tech hubs for teachers and students. There, librarians helped guide teachers during the initial weeks of the pandemic, sitting in on staff meetings, helping set up Google classrooms and Zoom calls, answering copyright questions, and curating digital resources.

“Everyone in the school turns to you,” when dealing with computers and setting up online learning, said Four Points Middle School librarian April Stone. “Librarians stepped in to help teachers navigate those new tools and shift what they were doing physically versus virtually. We were always on the front lines for campus tech anyway, and it’s the librarians helping not only navigate Zoom, but also best practices on how to use the tools.”

When its physical locations closed, the Florida State University (FSU) Libraries demonstrated the crucial educational role academic libraries play on their campuses. It began providing electronic resources, online instructional support, open education resources, online tutoring, and other remote services. FSU librarians also helped instructors identify digital, open, and primary-source resources to use in remote teaching.

Meanwhile, advocates called for the Federal Communications Commission to boost broadband connectivity during the pandemic to help school libraries. FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel recommended the FCC expand its E-Rate program, a subsidy created in 1996 for K–12 schools. She warned that without action students nationwide could be locked out of their virtual classrooms.

**ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY**

Estill County (KY) exemplifies the challenges many underserved communities face. “Grandkids are being raised by their grandparents by the hundreds . . . . Seven out of ten kids qualify for free lunch at school. Only 7.3 percent of homes have broadband access,” said Lesa Ledford of the Estill County Public Library. Getting more people online in her community means more opportunities for residents to access education, entrepreneurship, and employment—all essential to achieving social mobility. When informed her library would receive a grant that includes internet enabled hotspots, funding for financial literacy programming, and more she said, “This grant will change lives.”
ADVOCACY IN ACTION

The pandemic created many financial challenges for libraries, and library supporters mobilized to advocate for continued library funding. Their efforts resulted in an enthusiastic response from a public eager to support libraries, especially at the polls.

In more than 100 library-related referenda across 27 states, more than 90 percent of voters supported the library. In Ohio, 31 of 32 referenda passed, while in Michigan, 18 of 20 met with approval.

Public libraries reaped the benefits. In Antioch, Illinois, residents decided to issue $9.6 million in bonds to upgrade the village’s public library. The Riverside (IL) Public Library passed a referendum that overwhelmingly supported a bond issue for a new storytime and multipurpose room, a common area for children and youth services, a teen room, and an area for middle schoolers, along with an upgraded public meeting room. In Arizona, an education funding measure passed that could raise as much as $827 million a year, with a portion of the funding earmarked for school librarians.

College libraries benefited at the polls as well. Measure Y passed in Glendora, California, allowing Citrus Community College District to issue $298 million in general obligation bonds that generated $16.3 million annually for projects, including the replacement of an existing library.

DEMONSTRATING THE VALUE OF LIBRARIES

Advocates developed new and effective strategies to highlight the value of libraries and library staff. Academic librarians gathered data that made the case to university administrators for prioritizing library workers’ employment security. In particular, they used metrics to demonstrate the long-term costs associated with furloughs or layoffs.

United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association (ALA), offered free webinars to promote ways that foundations and Friends of the Library groups could support their libraries during COVID-19. They offered advice on how to approach advocacy during a time of crisis, how to craft messages for success, and how to stay engaged with supporters and the community during the pandemic.

One librarian who kept in touch with her community during the pandemic was Michelle Jeske, Denver city librarian and president of ALA’s Public Library Association. In October, Jeske wrote a “Dear Library Community” letter that pointed out the ways the library had served the community since it closed its doors seven months before. She wrote, “This pandemic has changed almost everything about all of our lives and has been challenging for all of us. We know the community relies on us for resources, services, programs, and safe spaces. Please know that your library is still here for you, just in different ways.”

The pandemic called attention to the need for self-advocacy on the part of library workers. In her column in American Libraries magazine, Meredith Farkas, faculty librarian at Portland (OR) Community College, wrote, “I know many library workers who are fierce advocates for their patrons but are far more reticent when speaking up for their own well-being.” She wrote about the valuable training provided by the Library Freedom Institute, founded by librarian and internet activist Alison Macrina with the support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and pointed out the importance of strong online communities to promote collective action and self-advocacy.

FUNDRAISING IN UNUSUAL TIMES

Public measures were supplemented by volunteer fundraising efforts, which continued unabated although COVID-19 had forestalled such fundraising staples as book sales. The King County (WA) Library System Foundation adapted by running a virtual giving campaign that used such tactics as email campaigns and social media posts, as well as the more traditional direct mail. The campaign generated $110,000.
Although most library buildings closed as communities went into lockdown, library workers devised innovative outreach strategies to meet the needs of their many constituencies. From analog letters and alternate realities to birds and boats, librarians showcased their innovation under some of the most challenging circumstances.

The Lewis and Clark Library in Helena, Montana, for example, reached out to seniors in isolation at assisted living facilities, helping children to send cards, postcards, drawings, and words of encouragement to residents as part of its “Mail to Our Seniors” program. A virtual karaoke event organized by Madison County (KY) Public Library, was music to the ears of those at a local assisted living community.

One librarian leveraged the popular video game Animal Crossing: New Horizons to engage players via this virtual community. In the game, players move to a deserted island, construct buildings and infrastructure, and create their own furniture and decorations. Players across the world can then visit each other’s islands. When Tina Chenoweth logged on to start construction on her island, the young adult services manager at the Baxter-Patrick James Island branch of Charleston County (SC) Public Library chose to construct a library, complete with a children’s room. The library’s patrons responded enthusiastically, visiting the island and donating virtual items to the space.

While Chenoweth used a virtual space to build her library, Johnson Elementary School Librarian Rebecca Flowers and woodworker Kevin Cwaline created a library out of the natural habitat of their backyard in Charlottesville, Virginia. Inspired by a Norwegian café–themed birdfeeder that went viral the year before, the Bird Library pre-dated the pandemic but found grateful audiences while people were in quarantine. It features handmade, bird-sized bookshelves and a circulation desk strewn with birdseed.

Academic libraries are known for supporting students during stressful academic stretches. When finals moved online, Florida State University Libraries made its end-of-semester stress busters digital. Students could participate in an online escape room, play quarantine bingo, or learn how to tie-dye at home.
School Libraries Bridge the Distance

School libraries quickly pivoted their instructional roles when students moved to online learning. Calvert County (MD) Public Schools, for one, transitioned many pre-COVID-19 activities, such as the Amazing Race scavenger hunt and National History Day online, to Zoom.

School libraries became incubators for innovative programming ideas and key resources that engaged both students and teachers, bridging the distance between the living room and the classroom. They offered access to tech tools that allowed users to create or access video content, communicate via digital discussion platforms, and stay on top of assignments and class information via texts.

Author visits, another favorite in-person activity, also went digital. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, school librarian Amanda Jones didn’t let building closures stop her from giving students the gift of meeting the people behind the books they love. “It’s always an amazing experience to witness the wonder in students’ faces when they get to ask their favorite authors questions about a book they’ve read,” she said. Students, authors, and teachers came together for Zoom discussions about the writing process, upcoming books, and pop culture with writers of young adult and middle-grade books.

Unexpected Escapes

Even those libraries that returned to in-person programming devised socially distant ways to offer their pre-COVID-19 activities. McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, created a no-touch escape room in an outside corridor, enabling participants to solve puzzles using their phones and making chalk drawings on the walls.

BYOB took on a new meaning when Russell Library in Middletown, Connecticut, adapted their book club program to facilitate social distancing in the great outdoors—and asked their patrons to bring their own boats. Book Yak on a Kayak featured selections focused on kayaking and canoeing. The boaters wore masks for the event, but they couldn’t mask their enthusiasm—without the library’s innovative spirit, their book club would have been canceled.

Online Storytimes Go Mainstream

Perhaps the most ubiquitous program pivot necessitated by the pandemic involved digital storytimes. Libraries across the country took their beloved read-alouds online, often with help from some famous faces—authors, actors, musicians, and even a former President and First Lady of the United States. The Chicago Public Library’s “Live from the Library” Facebook series featured Chicagoans Barack and Michelle Obama as guest readers to bring to life The Word Collector, written and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds.

Michelle Obama shared her thoughts about the importance of the library in her life. “I remember my first trip to the library and how important I felt,” she reflected. “My library card was a key that unlocked a world of knowledge and experiences.”

Michelle and Barack Obama as guest readers for Chicago Public Library's “Live from the Library” Facebook series.
Libraries in 2020 saw a significant shift in borrowing habits as e-book usage soared. OverDrive, a major distributor of e-books, audiobooks, and streaming video to libraries, reported that its clients worldwide collectively loaned out more than 289 million e-books, a 40 percent increase from 2019. The company attributed this shift to the pandemic. After all, no-contact e-book lending is the perfect way to get content from a safe social distance.

Digital book borrowing reached record highs, with readers in 102 public library systems each checking out 1 million or more e-books. Twenty-nine of those systems hit that mark for the first time.

With buildings closed to the public, libraries accelerated or adopted plans to issue digital library card (“eCard”) offerings. Sarasota County (FL) Libraries, for example, were able to create and launch their eCard within a few weeks of branches being closed to the public.

In March, with eighty-six locations closed to the public, the Los Angeles County Library offered temporary digital library cards, valid for ninety days. The cards enabled access to all of the library’s digital offerings—e-books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, TV, homework help, and online classes.

Faced with the challenge of celebrating Library Card Sign-up Month in September, librarians at the Gail Borden Public Library District in Elgin, Illinois, decided to turn the annual campaign into a way to honor Hometown Heroes who worked on the front lines during the COVID-19 outbreak. The library collected their photos and added superhero capes and face shields to the images. The heroes, along with “Secret Superhero Words,” were posted on the front windows or entrances of local businesses that were participating in a socially distanced scavenger hunt in which each Superhero Word directed people to such virtual library services as “eAudiobooks” or “streaming.”
Librarians also performed heroic deeds in making sure community members in need had access to resources. Jayanti Addleman, director of library services at the Hayward (CA) Public Library, worked with staff to streamline the process for registering for a library card online, paying particular attention to eliminating barriers for undocumented individuals. She also oversaw the distribution of hundreds of tablets, hotspots, and other devices to help bridge the digital divide. Moreover, she secured funding for a new bookmobile to meet the needs of those residents who lacked transportation and could not take advantage of curbside pickup.

**Curbside Pickup and Curbing Late Fees**

With buildings closed or users uneasy entering them, curbside pickup became popular, and libraries got creative promoting this service that is more often associated with retail shopping. Donning a cowboy hat and aviator sunglasses and adopting the persona of Curbside Larry, Harris County (TX) Public Library’s Program Production Specialist John Schaffer delivered a pitch in the style of a bombastic used car salesman, touting the library’s curbside services in a video that attracted more than 50,000 views on YouTube, as well as mentions in *Texas Monthly* and *Southern Living*.

Even before the pandemic, libraries were going fine-free. Library fines “present an economic barrier to access of library materials and services,” according to an American Library Association resolution adopted in 2019, and the pandemic urged many districts to action. Since March, 91 of the Urban Libraries Council’s roughly 160 member libraries have opted to go fine-free.

**Safe Handling of Library Materials**

The pandemic raised questions about the safety of library materials, and answering them was key to regaining trust in the age-old practice of borrowing books. It was uncharted territory for conservators, who lacked historical information on sanitizing materials. They were also faced with conflicting information about how long the coronavirus would persist on library books and video cases.

As the pandemic continued throughout 2020, many libraries adopted a quarantining protocol of seventy-two hours for returned materials. While necessary to prevent disease contamination, these protocols in academic libraries exacerbated wait times for pricey textbooks.

The REALM project conducted eight phased tests over the course of 2020 to understand how the virus spreads, its survival on materials and surfaces, and the effectiveness of various prevention and decontamination measures. (See page 10 of this report for more information.)
Learning in the Age of Coronavirus

In 2020, one-room schoolhouses returned—not the nineteenth-century buildings with wood-burning stoves, but home classrooms with personal computers, laptops, and tablets loaded with apps and remote instruction software.

With distance learning, school librarians still fulfilled all five of their roles as instructional partners, teachers, leaders, information specialists, and program administrators. Their unique skillsets proved invaluable to teachers and students as schools worked to provide continuity through the disruptions of a lockdown.

The school library extended itself into the home, providing virtual hours via webcam conferences, email, phone, and instant messaging. Librarians continued to foster reading development with virtual book clubs, storytimes, and read-alouds. Even gaming and makerspace activities evolved as virtual learning programs.

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) conducted several surveys that documented the valuable work of school librarians during the school closures of 2020. In an April survey, most respondents said they had expanded access to online resources for students, extended check-out periods (noting that books would be due when school opened again), and offered virtual assistance.

Throughout 2020, AASL found, school librarians and school libraries were contributing to their communities no matter the conditions. In subsequent surveys, school librarians spoke of playing many roles during pandemic learning conditions (PDF), whether for remote learning, hybrid, or in-person instruction. Adaptations included encouraging e-book checkouts, taking bookcarts to classrooms for in-class checkouts, and co-teaching with classroom teachers.

School librarians brimmed with such innovative concepts for meaningful instruction as pandemic journals. Steve Tetreault, a school librarian from the Holmdel Township (NJ) School District, taught a cross-disciplinary unit in English and social studies that involved middle-school students writing about their pandemic experiences as an exercise in self-directed learning.

Academic and Public Libraries Get Creative

The University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries embraced community partnerships to widen the reach of their activities. Peer coaches—students mentoring classmates
in research skills and technology—worked with the local literacy organization Gemini Ink to promote the Big Texas Read online book club. They spread the word throughout the academic community and provided technology support to Texas authors.

College students accustomed to using academic libraries as quiet places to study alone or in groups needed encouragement to remain engaged as classes moved online and libraries closed. Librarians at Frostburg (MD) State University continued to provide services virtually.

Wayne State University Libraries in Detroit created an orientation video for freshmen who had not yet visited campus in person due to the pandemic. Student Success Librarian Veronica Bielat explained that the video was intended to help students feel comfortable in a new environment during an uncertain time. The video, she said, “sort of takes that fear away.”

In public libraries, children’s librarians embraced new technologies to enrich the remote learning experience. Liza Purdy, senior children’s librarian for the Santa Clarita (CA) Public Libraries, wrote, “Everything I did as a librarian needed to go through some form of technology in order to reach the public that I so desperately missed, loved, and wanted to serve.” Experimenting with her phone and computer and using green screens, she developed rich content that included stop-animation music videos.

The West Vancouver (BC) Library in Canada used Zoom to offer programs on augmented reality and artificial intelligence. Children identified some of the emotions they were experiencing by using augmented reality to create their own emojis. They also collaborated on a song using Chrome Music Lab’s Song Maker online tool.

Book clubs have adapted to the pandemic by going virtual. The Zoom room has replaced the living room as the arena for spirited literary discussions. Libraries like Santa Maria (CA) Public Library, which hosted monthly in-person book clubs for years, started the Book Club Over the Phone program. The Rochester (MN) Public Library has been hosting video book discussions over Zoom and WebEx.

School librarians are also getting into the book club act. Kristen Mogavero, a library media specialist at New York City’s John F. Kennedy High School, has been hosting Zoom meetings to discuss books with students and teachers. Community members can vote for future book selections on the school’s social media channel.
The outbreak of COVID-19 exacerbated structural inequities in access to high-speed internet, resulting in a crisis with widespread ramifications in many communities of color.

In an article in American Libraries magazine, “Ending Information Redlining,” American Library Association (ALA) Executive Director Tracie D. Hall wrote, “The persistence of the coronavirus pandemic continues to expose the degree to which societal inequities are inextricably linked.”

The fallout from “information redlining,” the systematic denial of equitable access to information, affects everything from education and employment to health and housing and results in an inequitable justice system and high incarceration rates.

Hall cites figures from a Deutsche Bank study (PDF) showing that 76 percent of the nation’s Black residents and 62 percent of Latinx residents are slated to be shut out of or underprepared for 86 percent of US jobs by 2045. She wrote, “They are experiencing a ‘racial tech gap’ that threatens their future economic mobility.”

TWIN SCOURGES: THE PANDEMIC AND SYSTEMIC RACISM

During the global pandemic, the United States also came face to face with its history of systemic racism. An inflection point was the killing of George Floyd by police on May 25 in Minneapolis.

Shortly thereafter, the ALA Executive Board called on the library community to participate in protests and other
forms of activism, promote and create antiracist media content, engage actively in local policy development, exercise the right to vote, or run for office to be a voice for historically disenfranchised groups in a statement condemning violence and racism towards Black people and all people of color.

Public libraries across the country met the moment with a focus on antiracism work. Confronting the issue for many meant acknowledging the fact that during the twentieth century, many libraries, both in the North and South, were often segregated facilities. John Lewis, the late US Congressman from Georgia, once recalled, “When I was 16 years old, some of my brothers and sisters and cousins [were] going down to the public library trying to get public library cards. We were told the library was for whites only, not for coloreds.”

The Oakland (CA) Public Library responded to the murders of Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and others with resource lists on topics like institutional racism; protest, social movements, and community solutions; police conduct, race, and the justice system; and talking to kids about racism and justice.

**EXAMINING RACISM AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND**

School librarians recognized the pivotal role they played in supporting students reeling from the twin traumas of the pandemic and racism. Writing in the summer of 2020, American Association of School Librarians president and lead school librarian for the Westwood High School Library Information Center in Blythewood, South Carolina, Kathy Carroll said, “Our students have lived through a global pandemic, national protests, societal shifts, and possible untold personal turmoil since we all were last together. Along with formal teaching and learning, our students will need to talk and we will need to listen. Some of those conversations may be difficult or even a little uncomfortable,

**A CALL TO ACTION FOR LIBRARY WORKERS**

ALA’s Public Library Association issued a call to action for public library workers to address racism. It urged them to study, amplify, and align with the policy demands of the Movement for Black Lives; change library security policies that punish and criminalize patron behavior; and develop and fund programs, services, and collections that center the voices and experiences of people of color and shift power to communities for co-curation and co-creation.

Resources for librarians looking to center the voices and experiences of Black library workers and the Black community proliferated. A Libraries Respond: Black Lives Matter web resource provides curated links for librarians who want to support the broader BLM movement, fight against police violence, and help the cause of racial justice.
but those types of interactions are often the ones that have the greatest impact on our students.”

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries’ racial justice efforts included developing a reading list for disrupting whiteness and decolonizing research in libraries, developed by Gender and Women’s Studies Librarian Karla J. Strand.


Friends groups also joined in the fight for racial justice. The Friends of the Saint Paul (MN) Public Library Advocacy Committee wrote a powerful public letter to the mayor, urging the city and community to “talk about, and invest in, the library” when working to refine community-first public safety, dismantle racism, pursue equity, and rebuild the workforce.

Despite a 34 percent increase in books by diverse authors . . . those books represented only 15 percent of the total number available for young people.

OVERREPRESENTED IN CHALLENGES, UNDERREPRESENTED ON THE SHELVES

ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom pointed out that books with diverse content frequently appear on its list of challenged books, including such works as the Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X and Alex Haley and Native Son by Richard Wright.

Libraries also encountered inequities in collection development, often lacking a sufficient number of books by authors and illustrators of color. The Cooperative Children’s Book Center at the University of Wisconsin–Madison showed a 34 percent increase in books by diverse authors between 2017 and 2018, but those books represented only about 15 percent of the total number of materials for young people received at the book center—this in a country where more than 39 percent of the population is non-White, and where White children no longer make up a majority in their age group.

The library profession also worked to address internal inequities in 2020. As late as 2018, just 6.8 percent of librarians identified as Black or African American, indicating a persistent lack of racial and ethnic diversity.
With the onset of the pandemic in the United States, librarians were mobilized as information first responders. “We’re really being proactive,” Lisa G. Rosenblum, executive director of King County (WA) Library System, told American Libraries magazine in March. “We’re information gatekeepers, so this hits us on a personal level,” said Rosenblum, whose library system created a webpage with facts about the virus that includes links to local resources.

Misinformation about COVID-19 was infused with xenophobia and especially Sinophobia, resulting in a surge of bigotry against Asian and Chinese people. Chinese American Librarians Association President Fu Zhuo wrote in a March 5 email, “The enemy is not Chinese or Asian people. The Chinese American Librarians Association is firmly against any types of prejudices, especially in this critical moment of fighting the COVID-19.”

In May, the Executive Board of the American Library Association (ALA) signed the Asian Pacific American Library Association’s pledge (and asked others in the library community join) to demonstrate a commitment to combating the rise in xenophobia and racism due to COVID-19.

Throughout 2020, librarians responded to misinformation about vaccines, the census, and the November election, as well as the demonization of the mainstream media as purveyors of “fake news,” by creating resources to fight disinformation. The Chicago Public Library provided an online course, “Disinformation in Social Media,” which offered guidance on how social media algorithms foster implicit biases.

The University of Louisville (KY) Libraries’ Citizen Literacy project helped students become savvy information consumers in a post-truth era. Launched to coincide with the final weeks of the 2020 election season, Citizen Literacy promotes essential information skills like algorithmic literacy, news literacy, how to evaluate expertise, how to investigate the veracity of online sources through lateral reading, and how to become an informed voter.

“‘We’re information gatekeepers, so this hits us on a personal level.’
—Lisa G. Rosenblum, Executive Director of King County (WA) Library System.

In August, the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA, launched the #LookToLibraries campaign, highlighting the role of children’s librarians in serving as “media mentors” for kids and their parents and caregivers in times of crisis. “With families facing the increased pressures of needing to balance online learning, monitoring children’s activities, and for some, working from home, we felt it important to let them know they could and
should turn to library professionals for assistance,” said ALSC President Kirby McCurtis.

The #LookToLibraries website emphasizes the role of library professionals in empowering parents and caregivers with the tools they need to develop a media plan that best addresses their family’s needs. It contains tip sheets, booklists, and resources, including the “Tough Conversations Tip Sheet (PDF),” considering the strategies of the late television host Fred Rogers in talking with children about difficult topics.

**MEDIA LITERACY MATTERS**

ALA, working with talented thought leaders across the library and media literacy sectors, created Media Literacy in the Library: A Guide for Library Practitioners (PDF) in November to aid library workers. The guide asserted that “a media-literate adult should be able to access, share, and create media across multiple formats and platforms while utilizing critical thinking skills to evaluate the purpose and potential impact of the material.”

The guide teaches library workers about filter bubbles, confirmation bias, and news deserts; gives guidance on how to answer questions about false or misleading news items in reference transactions; and supplies virtual and in-person program ideas covering topics like fact checking, cookies, internet privacy, the Freedom of Information Act, and local media.
2021 OTPL Goals
Quarterly Status Update
15-Apr-21

Customer Service & Patron Satisfaction - Improve accessibility for all patrons
- Adapt regularly scheduled programs to meet COVID-19 restrictions for example the annual haunted house and fandom fest
  Fandom Fest is May 1, 2021 with Take & Makes, outdoor, and virtual options
- Take and Make kits to be a permanent service at OTPL either as its own program or in conjunction with other programs
- Make some Take and Make programs available for homebound patrons
  In March, started some senior-focused Take & Makes, including homebound and Orion Center branch
- Do a trial of Books by Mail for the first half of 2021, evaluate, and then determine if this should be a permanent service
  Started January 2021, underway, so far so good
- Review usage for all databases to see if we are meeting the needs of our patrons
  Done, ongoing
- Allow patrons to create and submit 3D printed designs for library staff to print
  Started January 18 and ongoing
- Explore a text reminder service for programs and library updates for patrons
- Explore better options for our online calendar and room reservations platforms
- Connect with new senior living facilities and offer them a welcome pack with information about library services and programs
- Purchase an electronic assist for the bookbike and expand services offered on the Bookbike, especially with Summer Reading (Two possibilities include allowing SRP prize pickup and distributing take and make kits)
  Electronic assist purchased and being installed; Bookbike schedule in process - Karen K will take the first ride on May 1
- Connect with patrons over age 80 with library cards who may not be online or aware of library services
  Mary has been making phone calls regularly
- Add library services displays around additional businesses in the community, laundromats are one example
- Continue to build and maintain partnerships with community organizations and professional library groups to provide higher quality library services
  Ongoing, lots of learning so far with Michigan Library Association and other groups
- Research and apply for grants with the assistance of the grants committee
  Ongoing, applied for a couple so far this year
- Research new library technologies with the assistance of the emerging technology committee
  Committee prioritizing options for a library app, have had some demos, still in process
- Seasonal outdoor programming for all ages, both at the library and in the community
  Starting to pick up with spring weather!
- Add more partnerships with local businesses, including repeat partnerships to uphold current relationships, to support the local economy
  Ongoing, providing prizes to local businesses
- Increase outreach to new or expectant families
- Add/increase community-wide programming with other community organizations (such as the “road rally” program)
  - Road Rally program scheduled for summer
- When promoting at community events, align library resources with specific events
  - Coming soon - May 1 Bookbike will be at the Orion Center for the Mother’s Day Craft Fair
- Launch a seed library
  - Launches this Sunday, April 11!
- When safe, open building for patron appointments, “grab & go” with lobby checkout
  - Done, opened March 15 for Grab & Go!
- When lobby checkout is reopened, continue curbside pickup with limited hours (such as 11a to 2p and 4p to 7p)
  - Done, ongoing with curbside M-Th 11a to 2p and 5p to 7p, F-Sa 9:30a to 4:30p
- Create a strict schedule for cleaning toys and library equipment, following CDC guidelines
  - Equipment done, toys not out yet
- Use new meeting room equipment to broadcast programs assuming we have in-person programs (such as concerts, lectures, presentations, etc.)
- Brand our video, virtual, and social media content consistently, consider possible logo redesign
### Increase Literacy

- **Better align programming with our services (ie Hoopla/Kanopy with drive in movie, etc.)**
  
  Some in process with putting reading lists into Take & Makes, more to come with outdoor programs starting soon

- **Add booklists, info about Ring me a Story or Bright by Text, other promotion to take and make kit bags**
  
  Done, ongoing

- **Reimagine “Welcome baby” bags**

- **Create more intentional display areas to highlight youth collections**

- **Create digitally informative content for patrons and staff to be able to better use our online resources, using tools such as Lumen5, Movavi Video editor or Niche Academy**
  
  In the beginning stages of this, more to come

- **Add more leveling content to youth material for parents**
  
  In process, list in binder

- **Start an information literacy series on social media**
  
  In process, ongoing, did for Readaloud Day

- **Complete website update – redesign with staff committee input, consider alternate CMS if one with better Polaris integration exists**

- **Migrate Polaris server to hosted environment and stay up-to-date on Polaris upgrades**
  
  In process, to be completed later this month

- **Implement Polaris Vega Discover as new online catalog when available in second half of 2021**

- **Explore options for a mobile app**
  
  In process, still exploring

- **Create more culturally diverse programs**

- **Complete reclassification of picture book collection – new categories**
  
  Done, added Hobbies & Community

- **Offer more programming and services for different types of learners and learning environments, including homeschool families and groups**

- **Increase intentionality when planning storytimes, purposefully planning early literacy tips and tips for sensory seeking individuals**

- **Increase diversity literacy with programs and services, such as adding bookmarks in classics discussing stereotypes, more relevant book displays/booklists, including local cultural organizations**
  
  Bookmarks are in classics, others in process

- **Start dial-in programming for adult which includes stories and meditation**
  
  Done, ongoing

- **Start a yearlong reading program called 50 Books in 52 Weeks**
  
  Done, ongoing

- **Start an ongoing passive program for middle school and high school students similar to 500 Books by 5th and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten**
  
  Done, created 75 Books Before High School & 100 Books Before Graduation

- **Create more intergenerational programming**
  
  In process, Seniors and students Pen Pal program coming this summer

- **Include audiobooks in the rotating collection at the Orion Center, when the OC branch is reopened**
  
  So far, Large Print & DVDs updated - audiobooks rotating starting next week
- Revamp/adapt summer reading, being mindful of flexibility required, marketing, promo videos and consider a paper (non-screen) option (at least for kids)
  Planning well underway, moving to paper-based option for all ages
- Create a marketing video of library services sent to all schools at the beginning of the school year
- Develop recorded, scripted programs to promote to schools, streamlining our efforts
- Host school literacy nights at the library or virtually – invite teachers and staff
- Make more interactive learning areas in the library and use QR codes to link to library resources
- Teen librarian to work with LOCS to adapt to the schools needs with take and make kits, lit lunches, and individual teacher needs
  In process, already doing take and make kits
- Explore virtual browsing technology solutions
  - Train staff on creating record sets and book widgets and how to add them to our website
  - IT staff may explore using PAPI to make pulling content into website easier
**Provide better support for all staff**

- **Revise all staff job descriptions**
  - Done.

- **As library services change, retrain all staff as needed (for example, lobby services)**
  - Done, ongoing

- **Continue providing mental health and health/wellness resources**
  - Done, ongoing

- **Continue to build and grow interdepartmental programming**
  - In process, lots done and planned including: Superhero Trivia, Harry Potter Book Day, All Ages Makerspace, DIY Suncatchers, Fandom Fest, Outdoor Movies and more

- **Complete professional development to individual interests to continue to be relevant and innovative at our positions**
  - Ongoing

- **Librarians are encouraged to present at a professional conference**
  - Ongoing, some completed

- **Staff training in the makerspace for all librarians**
  - Done, ongoing

- **Teach all librarians on how to use and create with high quality equipment (for example, audio and video recordings)**
  - Done, ongoing

- **Increase understanding library-wide so patrons are well informed in a consistent manner**
  - Ongoing, weekly library services document with Monday changes helping

- **Consider creating a form to streamline program promotion**
  - Meeting with staff on this next week

- **Consider using Teams or a similar software (Slack/Discord) library wide to help improve connections within our organization and between departments**

- **Update and improve documentation for technology available to staff, including training videos when applicable**

- **Ensure all part time staff (such as hourly librarians) are just as updated on new policies and procedures as regular staff members**
  - Ongoing

- **Revamp or replace staff intranet to focus on necessary information and access**
• Capital improvements for the library building & grounds
  o Investigate hold lockers or other 24/7 materials pickup options
    Started talking to vendors
  o Renovate staff lounge
    In process
  o Replace or upgrade entry & interior doors and door hardware as needed
    In process
  o Upgrade interior lighting to LED, as needed
  o Create a permanent story walk on library grounds
  o Add outdoor Wi-Fi access points and electrical outlets to improve and extend Wi-Fi signal and sound options for patrons and staff during outdoor programming
  o Add outdoor nature learning areas and family activities – create a literacy nature walk through the woods & increase nature-based programming
  o Add an older kids in-library explore area when safe to do so
  o Decorate the makerspace at OTPL
    In process
1) Call to order @ 6:17 p.m.

2) Agenda:
   a) Surveillance camera recording retention
   b) Patron use of our WIFI for internet access while not accessing the Library’s other computer systems.

3) Call to Public – None present.

4) Discussion Items
   a) Surveillance camera recordings were previously considered “library records” and needed to be retained per policy. These records are no longer considered “library records” and may be disposed of on a shorter schedule of our choosing. There is no need to change our policy for this change.
   b) Using our WIFI solely for internet access currently requires manual agreement to comply with our terms of use policy. Due to technology changes this manual agreement is no longer required. No Policy is change is required.

5) Action Items
   a) none

6) Motions to be recommended to the Library Board.
   a) none

7) Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.
Recorded by:
James Phillips
Treasurer, Board of Trustees
Orion Township Public Library
Orion Township Public Library

Board Trustee Goals for 2021

- The trustees of the Board will be aware of local, state and federal laws having effect on libraries and library issues.

- The trustees of the Board will attend the Friends meetings periodically, for better relationship and show support of the Friends.

- The trustees of the Board, along with the Director and staff will identify the critical needs of the library for fundraising.

- The trustees of the Board will become more active with local, state, and/or federal decision makers. They will reach out to at least two of these decision makers by the end of the year.

- The trustees of the Board will work with the Director and staff to create a new strategic plan to begin January 2022. The trustees will monitor the 2021 strategic plan.

- The trustees of the Board will have a professional development discussion during each monthly meeting to educate themselves on current issues and services.

- The trustees of the Board will develop a plan for the future growth of the Library facility to meet the needs of the community.

- The trustees of the Board will review these goals quarterly.
Orion Township Public Library, Board of Trustees
Building Committee Meeting, 4/7/2021

1) Call to order @ 6:30 p.m.

2) Agenda:
   a) Staff Lounge renovations
   b) Prime entry doors replacement
   c) Ground’s maintenance.

3) Call to Public – None present.

4) Discussion Items
   a) Lounge work is in planning stage, working on floor plan for cabinets, counter tops, appliances and seating. Home Depot is working on preliminary pricing for cabinets which will be the start of a budget. Specification for the entire job including plumbing, electrical, flooring, painting and more are being developed.

   b) Front and staff “store front” entry doors replacement was discussed. Two bids are and a third is coming. $12K+ budget is anticipated.

   c) Current condition of the open, wooded and wetlands, approximately 10 acres of our 19-acre site was discussed. Falling dead trees, fire hazard, overgrown walking paths, illegal dumping, debris left by the Utility Company right of way clearing contractors were discussed. Oakland County Parks has been asked for advice on maintaining this part of the property and has agreed to a site visit. They currently partner with Polly Ann Trail, who we also have a partnership agreement with.

5) Action Items
a) None currently

6) Motions to be recommended to the Library Board.
   a) None currently

7) Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Recorded by:
James Phillips
Treasurer, Board of Trustees
Orion Township Public Library
COVID-19 causes Library to close entirely March 13
Staff worked remotely until June 8
Library started Curbside pickup June 22
Library opened to patrons by appointment only from July 20 to Nov 22
Staff positive case caused Library to close Nov 23 to Nov 29

125 No-contact home deliveries
1,287 People attending 137 outdoor programs
1,167 Patron appointments to use in-library equipment

58 Take & Make programs with 2,045 kits distributed

141,691 Digital items checked out online
172 online virtual programs with 2,178 attendance

39,394 Curbside pickup of physical items
93 Virtual notary services

40,675 Automatic renewals
435 Custom, created-to-order book bundles

Over 5,500 active cardholders saved over $3.6 million using the library in 2020!

24,533 Registered cardholders in 2020
661 total programs
12,135 total attendance

Summer Reading Program entirely online with 519 participants

21,000+ Social media reach on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter

Registered cardholders in 2020