

Darwin McClary

From: Lake Orion, MI <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2024 6:31 PM
To: Darwin McClary
Subject: Lake Orion Jubilee

Name: Brian Kraniak
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Message: Darwin McClary, Lake Orion Village Manager Chris Barnett, Orion Township Supervisor Molly Malone, Executive Director, DDA Jim Newell, Managing Editor, Lake Orion Review Barb English, President, Lake Orion Lions Club To All, As a resident of Lake Orion since 2000, I have witnessed a remarkable transformation of our community, particularly in the downtown area, evolving into a vibrant dining and entertainment destination. I commend all those involved in this progress. However, as we approach the 48th year of the Lake Orion Jubilee, ongoing since 1976, I believe it is time to reevaluate this event. While the Lake Orion Lion's Club has historically organized and promoted this event with much of the proceeds benefiting local needs, I urge them, and yourselves, to consider modernizing the Jubilee to better reflect our community's current values. The year 1976 was a long time ago: culturally, socially, and in the quality of life and standards of our great community. Perhaps we should leave 1976 behind with fond memories, rather than nostalgic repetition. The current carnival-based format, in my opinion, lacks alignment with contemporary standards. I have observed subpar, potentially unsafe amusement rides, impossibly challenging games with incredibly improbable odds of winning a \$2 stuffed toy, and concerning instances of potentially illegal child labor. This approach does not resonate with the evolving ethos of our community. I was joined this past weekend at unusually crowded restaurants in Oxford, by many other Lake Orion residents that were avoiding the Jubilee in favor of giving their business to Oxford restaurants. Oxford has no similar event. St. Mary's of Orchard Lake cancelled theirs, permanently, a couple of years ago because of security concerns. I urge the Lion's Club, and our local government, to explore alternative event ideas that showcase local Lake Orion talent and resources. A music and food festival, featuring street food from our restaurants and performances by local musicians, could offer a fresh and engaging experience for residents and area visitors alike. Furthermore, incorporating family-friendly activities like kiddie rides and entertainment could enhance the event's appeal. Face painting. Fake Tattoos. Pony Rides. Silly kid-oriented magicians and clowns. All available here, in our community of amazing talent. No commissions needed to transient carnival operators with no attachment to our community. In terms of revenue generation for the Lions Club, perhaps alternative funding mechanisms, such as a temporary village tax on sales during the event weekend, could replace the existing model of cooperation with a carnival operator. This shift would not only ensure financial sustainability but also align much more closely with the community's values. You might also consider why the Lions Club, in particular, would be our local government's charity of choice. Ultimately, I believe that reimagining the Lake Orion Jubilee is essential to fostering community engagement and enhancing our collective well-being, and the desirability of Lake Orion. I encourage collaboration between the Lion's Club, local authorities, and community members to create a new Jubilee that reflects the spirit of modern Lake Orion, and current times. I appreciate the efforts of Orion Township, the Village government, and the DDA in enhancing our community. I am eager to contribute to this conversation and help shape a Jubilee that truly embodies the essence of Lake Orion in 2024 and beyond. Please carefully consider if the ends, in the form of Lions Club fundraising, are worth the means, to our community. Thank you for your kind attention. Respectfully, Brian Kraniak