

# Suburban Life

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CHILDREN'S

## Spring Activities



Spring break doesn't have to be dullsville for children and their parents.

There are plenty of fun-filled activities available. A visit to the Detroit Zoo or to Henry Ford Museum might just fill the bill. Some low-cost or free activities are offered even closer to home.

Most museums and other attractions will be closed on Easter Sunday, March 31. Information is subject to change, so making a phone call before heading out is a good idea.

### DETROIT ZOO

The zoo is at 8150 W. 10 Mile, at Woodward in Royal Oak. Regular winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. The zoo will also be open the Monday and Tuesday following Easter, April 1-2.

Thomas Schneider, curator of birds, will teach techniques of bird watching 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 13, at the docent trailer.

Visitors will spend time with a zookeeper, learning firsthand what goes into caring for animals, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 20, at the docent trailer. For information on either session, call (313) 541-5717.

Free parking is available. Admission price is \$5 for those ages 13 and older, \$3.50 for senior citizens age 62 and older, \$2.50 for children ages 5-12. (Prices are effective through Tuesday, April 30.) Admission is free for children under age 5 and for Detroit Zoological Society members.

Group rates are available (ad-

mission price is \$2 for students, senior citizens and children, \$3 for adults, \$7.50 for a family. For group reservations or general information, call (313) 995-5439.

### HENRY FORD MUSEUM

Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village are at Oakwood Boulevard and Village Road in Dearborn, west of the Southfield Freeway (M-36) and south of Michigan Avenue (U.S. 12). Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

The historic buildings at Greenfield Village recently reopened to the public following a winter hiatus. A "Milestone Memories" weekend, Friday through Sunday, April 12-14, will explore how Americans have observed rites of passage such as birth, coming of age, marriage and death.

Farmhands on the Firestone Farm are looking forward to springtime activities, including planting season and the birth of lambs in April. "Spring Farm Days" are scheduled for Friday through Sunday, April 26-28.

Spring also signals the resumption of a variety of rides and tours. Visitors can tour the village in horse-drawn carriages, enjoy a ride on a steam-powered locomotive or ride a carousel beginning Monday, April 15.

Indoor activities are planned at the museum. The "Americans on Vacation" exhibit will continue through Labor Day. It tells the story of how vacationing became a symbol of the

24, (except Friday and Saturday). The event is cosponsored by Bais Chabad centers of West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills.

Visitors will receive a baker's hat, a piece of matzah (unleavened bread) and a pamphlet describing the celebration of Passover and the reason for the holiday foods. Each child will prepare his/her own matzah and bake it.

Reservations are required and there is a charge. For information, call (313) 661-1000 Ext. 269.

The center's "Discovery Room: A Jewish Experience" will be open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. New exhibits include those on four holidays — Passover, Lag B'Omer, Israel Independence Day and Shavuoth. There is no charge.

### DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Detroit Historical Museum is at 5401 Woodward, at Kirby in Detroit. Regular hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

"The Great History Adventure: A Child's Introduction to Local History" will be held 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at the museum. The program will combine music, movement and storytelling to teach Detroit's history. Price is \$2 per child. Tickets are limited, and advance reservations are required. For reservations, call Lori Naples, (313) 453-1419.

A workshop on "Cabal Natural Egg Decorating" will be 1:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 30. Participants ages 6 and older will decorate eggs just as early Detroiters did, using everyday foods. Price is \$2, and advance registration is required.

A "Pysanky Egg Workshop" will be 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 30. Participants age 12 and older will decorate eggs in the traditional Slavic way, using beeswax and dyes. Registration price is \$5, and participants are asked to bring a bag lunch. To register for the workshops, call Walter Weaver, (313) 478-1212.

The museum's Wrigley Hall features The Detroit Antique Toy Museum Gallery. "Collectors in Toyland" opened to the public in December. It houses toys from the Lawrence Scraps-Wilkinson Collection and the Detroit Historical Department's own collection.

Free parking is available in the museum lot. For information, call (313) 453-1805.

### LIVING SCIENCE

The Living Science Foundation will offer fun-filled activities during spring break. LSF headquarters are at 40400 Grand River, Suite 17, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook in Novi.

"Spring Discovery Days" are planned Monday through Friday, April 1-5, at LSF headquarters. Each day will have a different theme, and topics to be explored will include marine biology, prehistoric life, horsemanship and animal care. Sessions will be held 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m. and are for children ages 5-12. Price is \$30 per session. For registration information, call (313) 478-1999.

An "Animal Safari Camp" will be held Sunday through Friday, April 1-5, at several locations. Parties plan will "visit" a different region of the world to learn about animals, plants and the region's history and culture.

Campers should wear comfortable indoor/outdoor clothing and bring a lunch. Snacks will be provided. Sessions, for children ages 5-12, will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For registration information, call the Living Science Foundation, (313) 478-1999, or

Northville Community Recreation, (313) 439-0203, Troy Adult and Community Education, (313) 879-7582; Chippewa Valley Community Education, (313) 286-7638. Price is \$40 per day or \$185 for all five days where available.

A "Science Alive Spring Day Camp" will be offered Monday through Friday, April 1-5, by the LSF and Mercy Center. Each day will highlight a different area, including "Life on Earth Day" Monday, "Nature's Laws Day" Wednesday, "Where in the World Day" Thursday, and "Backbone Biology Day" Friday.

Sessions are for children ages 5-12 and will be offered 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration should be completed through the Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile, Gate 4-Door A, Farmington Hills, Mich. 48336. For information, call (313) 473-1015.

Extended day care will be available through Mercy Center at an additional charge. Campers should wear comfortable indoor/outdoor clothing and bring a sack lunch. Snacks and materials will be provided.

### ART INSTITUTE

The Detroit Institute of Arts is at 5200 Woodward in Detroit. Regular hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. The DIA is closed for major holidays. Admission is free, although donations are welcome.

A Detroit Public Schools exhibi-



tion is scheduled to open Sunday, April 14, and continue through mid-May. The exhibition will feature works in all media by student artists in kindergarten through high school.

Detroit Youththeatre performances are offered on the DIA Theatre October through May. Tickets are available by mail (\$200 Woodward, Detroit, Mich. 48202) or in person at the DIA ticket office 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Most tickets are priced at \$5. Group rates and season tickets are available.

Regular performance times are 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Other than for Wiggle Club performances, children under age 5 won't be admitted. Children under age 12 should be accompanied by a person over age 18.

Upcoming scheduled performances are "The Ugly Duckling," presented by The California Theatre Center Saturday, March 30, through Saturday, April 6, a spring break Wiggle Club show for youngsters age 3 and older, "Jekyll and Hyde," a musical presented by New York's Theatreworks USA, Saturday, April 13, for students age 8 and older, "The Dinosaur Show," presented by The Paul Messer Puppets from Kansas City, Mo., Saturday, April 20, for children age 5 and older, and the musical "Roses," from Toronto's Children's Hour Productions, Saturday, April 27, a Wiggle Club production for those age 3 and older. For information, call the ticket office, (313) 833-2323.

## Closer to home...

### GYMNASTICS

Thursday, March 21, Farmington YMCA has some openings in its preschool and youth gymnastics programs. The program is open to those from 2 to 14 years. Inquiries taken by Jean Warren, 553-4020.

### EASTER BUNNY

Thursday-Saturday, March 21-30: Children can visit and have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Grand Court, Laurel Park Place, Six Mile east of the I-275 expressway, Livonia. Treats for all children who stop to visit.

### SPRING BAZAAR

Friday, March 22, Spring Bazaar for the entire family, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center, 11 Mile east of Middlebelt through Gate 4. Bazaar offers white elephants, a bake sale, arts and crafts for sale. No admission charge.

### EASTER HUNT

Saturday, March 23, Easter Hunt sponsored by Farmington Area Jaycees for all area youths begins at 10 a.m. in Heritage Park, with free drawings for prizes and treats for all winners. No charge. Entrances to the park is on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile. Hunt date is Saturday, March 30.

### STORY STARTERS

Monday-Saturday, April 1-26, "Story Starters" are posted in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile east of Farmington Road, for children in grades one to six to complete on forms available in the library. Two winners in each grade category will be announced May 18.

### NAME THAT BOOK

Monday-Saturday, April 1-26, "Name That Book" contest for children in grades 1-6 must match the right 4 words with the right question form available in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile east of Farmington Road. Two winners from each grade category will be announced April 22.

### SPRING BREAK

Monday-Friday, April 1-5, Spring Break activities offered by Farmington YMCA for youngsters from kindergarten through fifth grade: indoor, outdoor and gym games, arts, crafts are planned. Enrollment is limited. All participants must be enrolled by March 27. For registration and inquiries call the Y, 553-4020.

### BEGIN TO SWIM

Monday-Friday, April 1-5, "Begin to Swim" is a five-day crash course for boys and girls 6 to 12, in the mornings in Farmington YMCA Farmington Road and 12 Mile. Inquiries taken by Jean Warren 553-4020.

### ADVENTURE GAMING

Thursdays, April 4 and 11 and May 2, Adventure Gaming. The Quest Continues! For all over 12 years who are interested in playing Dungeons and Dragons and other role playing games, 6-9 p.m. each day in Farmington Branch Library, State and Liberty streets. No charge. Newcomers are invited to check in with the librarian on duty at the reference desk.

### SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Tuesdays, April 9 and 16, "Spring Has Sprung" activities program for 4 and 5-year-olds and their parent or caretaker, begins at 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day in Farmington Branch Library, 12 Mile east of Farmington Road. Registration is not required. No charge.

### PENCILS, PAPER, PAINT

Wednesdays, April 10 and 17, "Pencils, Paper, Paint and Stuff," for children 4 and 5 years old and their parent or caretaker, begins at 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile east of Farmington Road. Registration is not required. No charge.



ance reservations required. For group rate information, call (313) 399-7001. For general information, call (313) 398-0900.

### INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

The Cranbrook Institute of Science is at 500 Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is closed major holidays.

Astronomy programs are presented in the domed planetarium. Price is \$1 plus museum admission. Laser light shows are also presented in the planetarium. Price is \$1.50 plus museum admission.

National Astronomy Day will be celebrated noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 20, followed by evening observing. Participants will view erupting solar prominences on the sun and get behind the eyepiece of a telescope. Astronomer Richard Hill of the Warner Swasey Observatory in Arizona will speak, and participants will meet Jack Horckheimer, star of PBS's "Star Hunter."

An Earth Day celebration is planned 1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, April 21. The event, for preschoolers through elementary school-age children and adults, will include tree planting on the Cranbrook grounds and a water activity at Nature Place. Price is \$4 for members, \$5 for non-members.

Astronaut/scientist Anthony W. England will discuss his SpaceLab 2 mission 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 15,

in a lecture co-sponsored by the Catalpa Amateur Radio Society. The program is for middle school students through adults. Price is \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members.

An evening with Jack Horckheimer, star of PBS's "Star Hunter," will be held 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18. Horckheimer is also executive director of the Miami Space Transit Planetarium in Florida. The program, for middle school students through adults, is being presented in conjunction with the Warren Astronomical Society. Price is \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members.

Thursday afternoon classes are offered for children ages 4-7. Registration can be completed by mail or by phone, (313) 645-3230. Classes will include "Signs of Spring" for children ages 4-5, to be held 4-5 p.m. April 11, 18, 25, and May 2; and "Pond Life" for children ages 6-7, to be held 4-5 p.m. April 11, 25, May 2 and 9. Price for classes is \$19 for members, \$21 for non-members.

Several career exploration programs are planned, including a "Girls and Science" program 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 27, presented in conjunction with the Birmingham branch, American Association of University Women. The "Yes, You Can" program is for middle school girls, and parents are invited to participate. The program will have an environmental focus. Price is \$5 per person (advance registration required).

Regular Institute of Science admission price is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students ages 3-12 and for senior citizens, free for children under 3 and for members. For information, call (313) 645-3230.

### HANDS-ON MUSEUM

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 219 E. Huron, offers many exhibits to help visitors learn about science and other subjects. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

The museum offers classes and workshops, weekend demonstrations and special events. A "Puppet Muppets" program for children ages 5-6 is planned 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 30. Participants will make puppets and write and produce an original play. Price is \$10.

A "Jelly Bean Burger Math" program on measuring for children ages 7-8 will be held 10 a.m. to noon Sunday, March 30. Price is \$10. A "Gorillas" program for students ages 9-11 is planned 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 30. Price is \$10.

A "Hot Stuff" program for children ages 5-6 is planned 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 6. Through hands-on activities, participants will learn how matter conducts heat and how heat changes matter. Price is \$10.

A "Primitive Art" program for children ages 7-8 will be held 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 6. Price is \$10.

An "Optical Illusions" program for students ages 9-11 is planned 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 6. Price is \$10.

Many other workshops will be offered. The museum also offers "Adventures in Science" sessions for preschoolers. Children ages 4-5 will enjoy hands-on activities and take-home projects. Price is \$30 for four sessions.

Upcoming sessions include "Planet Earth," Wednesday, April 3-24, and Thursdays, April 4-25. Advance registration is required for workshops and classes.