

So Egg-citing!

Lots of fun activities for Easter

By Susan Bloom • For NJ PRESS MEDIA

Though Easter Sunday isn't until April 24, a variety of organizations around LBI are offering fun activities for kids and families over the coming week to celebrate spring and the arrival of the Easter Bunny.

INDOOR EGG HUNT AT GRACE CALVARY CHURCH (SHIP BOTTOM): At 7 p.m. today, the church will celebrate its fourth annual indoor egg hunt. Free of charge and open to the public, children up to 7 years old will enjoy a traditional egg hunt, while children 8 and older will enjoy a scavenger hunt for candy and toy-filled Easter eggs. Before and after the egg and scavenger hunts, families can enjoy complimentary snacks and beverages, crafts tables and the opportunity to take pictures with the Easter Bunny.

"Everyone is welcome to this family-friendly event," said Ship Bottom resident and church volunteer Caroline Unger. "We just want people to come and make themselves at home."

The indoor egg hunt will take place rain or shine. Grace Calvary Church is at 1902 Long Beach Blvd. in Ship Bottom. For more information, call 609-494-7777 or visit www.gracecalvary.net.

EASTER CRAFTS CELEBRATION AT THE LONG BEACH ISLAND BRANCH OF THE OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY IN SURF CITY: From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. April 21, children in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to celebrate Easter by making fun holiday-inspired crafts with the branch's children's librarian, Carly Shilling. Taking place in the children's department of the library, all materials will be provided, and the event will be "a fun and relaxed way for kids and families to celebrate the holiday," said branch manager Linda Feaster.

The Long Beach Island library is at 217 S. Central Ave. in Surf City. For more information, call 609-494-2480 or visit <http://theoceancountylibrary.org/branches/LBI/lbi.htm>.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA AT STAFFORD TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT IN MANAHAWKIN: From 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, the Stafford Township Recreation Department will host its annual Easter egg hunt on the ballfields of the Doc Cramer

Sports Complex in Manahawkin.

A tradition for more than 30 years, the hunt involves the scattering of more than 15,000 eggs on the field for some 400 kids to collect.

"This year's Eggstravaganza is not a timed event or a hunt," said Recreation Supervisor Jen McBrien. "This year, kids can pick up eggs on any of the fields and bring them to the Easter Bunny in exchange for a goody bag. Eggs will be scattered throughout the ballfields, so it's a relaxed event, no need to rush."

In addition to the opportunity to take a picture with the Easter Bunny, kids and families also can enjoy trackless train rides and a visit from Freckles the Clown. Snacks will be available for sale.

"It's been a very cute event to watch because the kids get so excited," McBrien said. "Overall, we hope everyone will come hang out, take pictures, enjoy a family day and take advantage of the gorgeous spring weather."

The event is free of charge and the rain date is April 22.

The Doc Cramer Sports Complex is at 400 Doc Cramer Blvd. in Manahawkin. For more information, call Stafford Township Recreation at 609-597-1000, ext. 8557, 8573, or 8578, or visit <http://twp.stafford.nj.us/departments/recreation/special-events>.



Above: Families enjoy a train ride at a past Easter Eggstravaganza at Doc Cramer ballfields in Manahawkin. Right: Carson Pallotta, 5, of Manahawkin and Andie McBrien, 5, of Waretown surround the Easter Bunny, played by Kieran McBrien of Waretown, at last year's Easter Eggstravaganza. (PHOTOS: COURTESY JEN MCBRIEN/ STAFFORD TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT)

