



The Chesapeake Dispatcher



Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Inc.
Museum Telephone (410) 257-3892

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May 2008



Message From the President

By Janet Bates

There are many interesting items in this Museum newsletter, so I am going to be brief. As I wind down this interim presidency, I wish to say how much I have enjoyed working and being with our Board of Directors. Also it is nice to have younger persons doing so much for the Museum. Kristen Scott and Hilary Dailey come to mind immediately. In this Museum year Hilary provided a fine author for a book signing at the Annual Holiday Open House party, and Kristen spearheaded the bus trip in March that followed the original CBR roadbed. Both were highly successful and enjoyed by all those who attended.

Several events are planned for the coming year, the Family Fun Days, hopefully a trip to the B&O Museum in Baltimore, another book signing at the Holiday Open House and the bus trip to be repeated in the fall. Lots to look forward to.

My sincere thanks to the Board, who over the years have become my friends, and to all the members who have helped make the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum what it is today.

The Brave Adventurers

By Kristen Scott

Gathered outside of the Chesapeake Beach Train Station on Saturday, April 5th, at 9:00am, a group of passengers were waiting, no, not for a train, but for a bus. This year, the First Official Heritage Tour was offered to this group of brave adventurers.

The Heritage Tour explores the historic right of way starting at the Museum up to Seat Pleasant, the last stop of the Chesapeake Beach Railway in Maryland. (Or the first depending on which way you are headed).

The Friends of the CBRM were pleasantly surprised by how much interest



Left: Hilary Dailey, Kristen Scott, John Riedesel and Harriet Stout, committee members that arranged the Heritage Tour. (Not pictured Janet Bates)

Bottom left: Don Creveling explains the history of Mt. Calvert to an interested tour group.

was generated in the Heritage Tour. Calls from as far away as Florida came in, wanting to join in the fun. In fact, so many people called asking to come on the bus trip, the Friends are adding another Heritage Tour in the fall. (cont. on page 4)

Inside Story: The view from inside the Chapel at the United States Air Force Academy. The cross is made from a WWII bomber. Turn the page for the complete story.



Message From the Curator

By Harriet Stout

The Museum is facing a time of change, and as we face these changes it is important that we know firmly where and who we are. Facing change is a lot like facing a walk in the woods, especially if these woods are "lovely, dark and deep." We may enter the woods with a clear idea of where we are going and when we will get there, but along the way we may become lost or sidetracked from our goal. We may even decide that the place we came from is better and more obtainable than the place we are heading, and so turn back. There are many paths and many final stopping places. We take along the special things from our past: our skills and knowledge, our ambitions and hopes, our dreams and desires. These tools make our goal real at the end of our journey. Lastly, we must not forget to take the most important thing. A few good friends should join us for the journey; these friends will share the questions and by doing so will help us find the answers and the way to our final goal.

A Journey Into The Past: Part III

By Larry Brown

This month we will continue my journey to the past at the 2006 LCCA Convention. The third day took my wife and me to just outside Colorado Springs to visit the United States Air Force Academy. There were many great sites there, but the most famous is the Chapel. The Chapel is breath-taking, unbelievable, indescribable, but hopefully conveyed by the article's pictures. The cross is made from a WWII bomber (see *front page*). Of course there were airplanes everywhere, including a B-52 bomber that flew over Vietnam.

The rest of the day was spent in the mountains as we traveled to Pike's Peak. The trip to the 14,110 foot summit was made on the 8.9 mile long Pike's Peak Cog Railway. The last three miles are all above the timberline with nothing but rocks and bighorn sheep. We could not figure out what the sheep were finding to eat there. The round trip took about three hours and fifteen minutes. The stop at the summit was about forty minutes. Most people would begin to feel the effects of the high altitude (slight nausea, headache) if they spent a longer time.

What is a "Cog" Railway? Conventional railroads use the friction of wheels upon

the rails, called "adhesion", to provide locomotive power. A cog or rack railroad uses a gear, "cog wheel", meshing into a special rack rail (mounted in the middle between the outer rails) to climb much steeper grades than those possi-



Traveling to the summit of Pike's Peak, the railway is the highest in North America.

ble with a standard adhesion railroad. An adhesion railroad can only climb grades of 4 to 6%, with very short sections of up to 9%. A "rack" railroad can climb grades of up to 48%, depending upon the type of rack system employed. It is like a zipper on a coat, except the zipper releases after a small length of travel. In 1889, the Manitou & Pike's Peak Railway Company was founded and track construction began in earnest to the top. On the afternoon of June 30th, 1891, the first passenger train,

carrying a church choir from Denver, made it to the summit.

The view from the summit is beautiful. To the east stretches the Great Plains out beyond the border of Colorado and Kansas. To the south, the Sangre de Christo (Blood of Christ) Range stretches south to New Mexico. On the western horizon lies the Continental Divide. To the southwest at the base of Pike's Peak, sits the old mining towns of Cripple Creek and Victor. To the northeast you can see the skyscrapers of downtown Denver. The majesty of this site led Katharine Lee Bates to write the words for "America the Beautiful", which is memorialized on the summit.



Above: Larry Brown and his wife, Doris at the summit of Pike's Peak by the "America the Beautiful" memorial. The view of the Great Plains from this spot helped inspire the words to this beloved song.



Left: Chapel at the United States Air Force Academy just north of Colorado Springs, Co. The Air Force Academy is the largest tourist draw in Colorado.

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Editor: Kristen Scott

Contributors: Janet Bates, Larry Brown, Hilary Dailey, Corrine Moore, Betty MacDonald, John Riedesel, Kristen Scott, Harriet Stout

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The Railroad Lantern: *Shining the Light on Volunteers*

By Hilary Dailey

If you've been to the Calvert County Library, Twin Beaches Branch in the past few years, you've more than likely crossed paths with Cindy Parker. Cindy, who now runs the Outreach Van for the county, is a pleasant and trustworthy soul, always ready to help people of all ages, especially families and children. While Cindy was working at the library here in Chesapeake Beach, she was designated as the children's librarian for the weekly family story times, often 'ooh-ing' and 'ahh-ing' along with the kids as she read them fantastic tales about everything from apples to zebras! As she became more involved with the job, she thought it would be a good idea to expand the program and take families who frequented her story times on 'field trips' around town to show them local treasures situated right in their backyard. For several summers, she led families to stops such as Kellam's Field, Chesapeake Beach Town Hall and our beloved Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, engaging them in her stories along the way; "Curious George Goes to the Beach" here, "Thomas the Tank Engine" there.

Early in her Twin Beaches library career, in 2004, Cindy was on hand to



Cindy Parker, our resident storyteller, at the Haunted Boardwalk in North Beach

help out with the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum's Christmastime event, a reading of "The Polar Express." With a big smile and a warm heart, she kept everyone's cup filled with cocoa on that chilly winter night. This past holiday season, Cindy took on the challenge of being 'head storyteller' for our "Polar Express" event, weaving images of trains and toys and Santa together in a wonderful telling of this classic tale.

Through this involvement in our now annual "Polar Express" event, and because her husband, Joe Parker, has wanted to be more involved in the community for some time now, the Parkers recently decided to become more involved in our beloved Museum. Joe serves as Station Master on weekends and frequently, Cindy joins him. While at the museum, Cindy enjoys taking visiting families and children around the outer perimeter of the building, pointing out the interpretive material available and helping them imagine what Chesapeake Beach used to look like in the early 1900s through her storytelling talents. Cindy's other favorite kind of museum visitor is a person from another country who either speaks very little, or even no English at all. To some volunteers, this type of visitor might be daunting or even frustrating to deal with, but to Cindy, it's a chance to once again use her way with words and gestures to share the story of the Chesapeake Beach Railway and Town with someone who would otherwise never know the rich history of our community. Truly, the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum has a gem in Cindy Parker, we appreciate all her hard work, and welcome her and her husband to the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum Volunteer family!

The Loveless and Finlon Education Center

The Museum over the years has become synonymous with two names, Bernie Loveless and Mildred Finlon. They were tireless and beloved leaders of the Museum. Their endless enthusiasm encouraged other people to volunteer their talents to the Museum. Their love for the unique stories of the Railway and the Amusement Park is why we have the Museum and the remnants of the Dolores.

The Dolores is a parlor car that brought passengers from Washington, DC to Chesapeake Beach to visit the Resort. It is the only rolling stock left. To help preserve our past, we are restoring the Dolores. While much work has been

done on it in the past, it is a never ending battle to keep the Dolores from falling into decay. Not only do we wish to restore the parlor car but inside we are creating the Loveless and Finlon Education Center to honor Bernie's and Mildred's spirit and strength of character that made the Museum possible.

The Center will bring the community together by offering a gathering place for residents and visitors to meet and learn about our history and help preserve one of the only tangible pieces of evidence left of our unique history.

When filling out your membership envelope this spring, please become a part

of the story of the Loveless and Finlon Education Center. The Friends are hoping to raise at least \$10,000 to put towards the project.

If you donate at least \$20.00, you will be listed in the Newsletter, along with other honorees. Additionally, with donations of \$100.00 or more you receive an award certificate. And donations above \$350.00 will receive the honoree mention in the Newsletter, a certificate and a name plaque on Museum grounds recognizing your achievement. Your donation will ensure that the Dolores will continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

A Newspaper Boy Remembers

By John Riedesel

I grew up in the late Forties and Fifties just a few blocks from the roundhouse and yards of the East Washington Railway, the remnant of what had once been the Chesapeake Beach Railway. The East Washington was only about three miles long. Its scant revenue came from serving a couple of industries in the Seat Pleasant area as well as transferring coal hoppers from the B&O's Alexandria Branch in Deanwood to the PEPCO plant on Benning Road.

When I was eleven years old, I had a paper route of about 40 customers in the Maryland Park community. I delivered the Washington Daily News, a six-day-a-week, afternoon tabloid that sold for three cents a copy. Every week, starting on Thursday, I had to collect 18 cents from each of my customers. It was a good growing experience for a young lad learning about the larger world beyond his neighborhood, and it gave me a bit of spending money—

about three dollars a week, not bad for a kid in 1949.

Part of my route went down 67th Avenue, which ran alongside the railroad

It was a good growing experience for a young lad learning about the larger world beyond his neighborhood...

yard; and one of my customers was a Mr. Marquess, who lived on railroad property in a converted passenger car. I now believe he was Eversfield Marquess, who is mentioned in Ames Williams' book, The Chesapeake Beach Railway, as a fireman and brakeman as far back as CBRY days; but I didn't know that at the time. To this eleven-year-old he was a big, gruff, hairy, and scary man. And not only that, he had a little, yappy dog that would gladly take a chunk out of my leg.

Mr. Marquess' dwelling was up a hill from the street, and his yard was fenced; so I didn't have to worry about the dog on delivery days. He could only bark at me through the fence. Mr. Marquess had a paper box rigged up on a wire so the when I put the paper in the box down near the gate, he could just reel it up the hill to his porch. That suited me fine. I didn't have to deal with him or his yappy dog—not until Thursdays, when it was time to collect. On those days, I would look all around for the dog, then very quietly open the gate and climb the path to his porch and railroad car home. At the first knock on the door the dog would come charging out from under the porch, growling and looking for a chance to sink his bared teeth into my ankle. That indignity was followed by Mr. Marquess' gruff and scary demeanor as I collected my 18 cents. Needless to say, most of the time he got his paper for free!

The Brave Adventurers: Continued



Saturday was a beautiful day, with the forecasted rain staying away. While there were some bumpy roads, everyone

was pleased with the day's outing. Starting at the Museum, the bus went to Bay Front Park, where the train station was originally supposed to be built. From there, the group followed the right-of-way down Chesapeake Beach Rd (Rt. 260) through Owings and crossed over Rt. 4 to Pindell Rd.

At Pindell Rd, we stretched our legs as we examined the remains of the Pindell Station and warehouse. Other stops in Upper Marlboro soon followed as we weaved our way down Brown Station Rd until finally we reached Seat Pleasant. By this time everyone was more

than ready for lunch. Along the way, special narrator, John Riedesel entertained the group with stories about the railroad and from his own youth growing up in Seat Pleasant.

Lunch was provided at Mt. Calvert, a beautiful historic home overlooking the causeway where the Chesapeake Beach Railway crossed the Patuxent River.

One member of the tour remarked, "Mt. Calvert was a wonderful surprise and perfect place for picnic lunch." Don Creveling, an archeologist for Patuxent River Park gave the group a tour and told the story behind the history of Mt. Calvert. We arrived back at the Museum in the late afternoon, tired but happy, a good time had by all.

Joanie Kilmon, past president of the Friends of the CBRM was the driving force behind this idea. We also thank

Janet Bates, Hilary Dailey, John Riedesel, Kristen Scott and Harriet Stout for their tireless efforts to make the Heritage Tour such a resounding success. We also especially thank Mr. Creveling, and Mr. Herbert Dowell, our bus driver, who added his own memories about the Railway to the Tour. We also can not forget the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium and the Friends membership for making this possible.

Upper Left: Harriet Stout, Chuck MacDonald, Mary Thulin, Sven Thulin and Jan Ritter at the P.G. Board of Education at the right of way.

Below: Everyone enjoys lunch at Mt. Calvert



Spring is in the Air

By Corrine E. Moore

Please mark your calendar and join us for the Museum's Annual Spring Family Fun Day which will be held on May 18, 2008, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Through the efforts of our new Events Specialist, Kelly Peake, and our new Education Director/Publicity Manager, Dana Watkinson, we are going to expand, enhance, and enliven this year's program with new features by having the event at two locations; Kellam's Ball Field in Chesapeake Beach as well as at the Museum.

The ball field will host our exciting entertainment provided to us by Fantasy World of Prince Frederick. There will be an Amusement Park/Carousel slide, a trackless train to ride, and games that will include a zero gravity chamber, an inflatable double shot and a kiddie striker. In addition, Cookie D. Clown will

be providing face painting for the children. At the ball field, we will be giving tickets out for our GRAND PRIZE DRAWING at 4 p.m. at the Museum. **New** memberships for The Friends received at the park that day, will be given five courtesy tickets.



Image of the Harry Potter Hogwarts Express Lionel Train to be raffled off at the Spring Family Fun Day.

At the Museum, there will be a coloring book and paper train cut-out to take home. There will also be miniature wooden trains, courtesy of Wal-Mart, to color while at the Museum. In addition, Abigail Francisco, one of our board

members, will have her dance troupe perform at the Museum and will be raffling off two tickets for an upcoming performance of her dance troupe.

We are excited to announce that the GRAND PRIZE DRAWING will be a Harry Potter-Hogwarts Express Lionel Train (retail \$300) donated by Lionel L.L.C. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of Lionel and their commitment to our children's programs.

We wish to dedicate this day to our former Education Director/Publicity Manager, Mary Ellen Curran. Mary Ellen had the foresight to bring different ideas to the Museum during her tenure, and initiated the successful Family Fun Days that we continue to enjoy. We salute Mary Ellen and wish her well in her new endeavors.

Bay Breeze Summer Concerts

By Betty MacDonald

Our Concert Coordinator, Betty MacDonald, with the assistance of Larry Brown and Corrine Moore, has arranged a varied and innovative group of performers for the 2008 Bay Breeze Summer Concerts.

On Thursday, June 12th, the concerts begin with the U.S. Navy Band's nationally acclaimed premier country music ensemble, *Country Current*. This is a perennial favorite of presidents, past and present, appearing right here in Chesapeake Beach!

The *Tempered Brass* consisting of 5 musicians will be appearing for the second time on Thursday July 10th performing their "Summertime Favorites" program consisting of jazz, marches, show tunes and popular music. You do not want to miss this one.

The ever-popular bluegrass band, the *Dixie Ramblers*, will return once again in their regular time spot on Thursday, August 14th. This group is under direction of Mike Phipps and never fails to



Country Current, the U.S. Navy Band's country music ensemble kick starts the concert season.

attract a large crowd of enthusiastic fans.

The series concludes on Thursday, September 11th with the return by popular demand of the *Cocuzzi Quartet* featuring tenor sax, keyboard, drums, bass and more. Whether it's swinging jazz, the blues, or jazz standards expect an entertaining, exciting and refreshing evening from an outstanding group of musicians.

In summary:

June 12—Country Current

July 10—Tempered Brass

August 14—Dixie Ramblers

September 11—Cocuzzi Quartet

All concerts are outdoors on the museum porch starting at 7:30 PM and are free to the public. Concerts are made possible with the cooperation of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and through our generous membership.



Concert goes from last season enjoy music on the porch on a beautiful summer day.

Treasures of Holland Point

By Kristen Scott

On Saturday, March 29th friends, family and neighbors came together at the Holland Point Civic Center to celebrate this community's history. Through the collaborative efforts of Janet Bates, Joy Baker and Alice Birney, this community's past, started in the early 1920's comes alive in their book *Holland Point*.

The book is a treasure trove of vintage pictures and stories, telling how Holland Point began and has changed and grown over the years. Janet Bates, current president of the Friends of Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum is a longtime resident of Holland Point. She also served as director of the Holland Point Citizens Association.

Janet remembers being a little girl and riding on the train with her grandmother to stay the summers in Holland Point.

Back then Holland Point was known as North Beach Park. However the community was developed from Holland Point Farm and after fifty years, the community took back its historic name.

Families would pitch tents on their lots before their beach cottages were built. Today, luxury homes surround the original beach cottages. The sense of community and fellowship amongst the neighbors still

Janet Bates, Joy Baker and Alice Birney at the book signing.

thrives today as there are now fourth generations of the founding families still residing in Holland Point!



Museum Grants

By Harriet Stout

Over the winter months work has continued on the Dolores project through the support of funding from the Commissioners of Calvert County and the Southern Maryland Heritage Areas grant program.

Zell Olson, master carpenter for the B & O Museum, visited and examined the Dolores and gave us a detailed condition report. Zell is one of the few people in the country to have experience in restoring a car similar to ours. He gave us a much more positive report than we had expected, and he felt that the work done previously on the Dolores had definitely been of great value in its preservation to date.



Side view of the Dolores from parking lot..

During the winter we applied for more funds for the Dolores project through the Southern Maryland Heritage Area grant program for Fiscal Year 2009. We have asked for \$35,000 to help fund the final stages of preserving the car and then creating an educational

space in the interior. This state program requires the recipient of the grant to provide matching funds, and the County Commissioners have been generous in providing backing for this grant. Funds will also be made available through the Friends of the CBRM.

Another grant from the Maryland Historical Trust has provided funding for a consultant to help us create a long range plan for the Museum. We have had several meetings to review our past successes and brainstorm ideas for our future. The ideas presented have been exciting and worthwhile. We are still finalizing with more meetings scheduled to complete the process.

New Logo

By Kristen Scott

You may have noticed the Friend's new logo on the front page of our newsletter. This beautiful artwork is courtesy of Maceo Leatherwood.



Maceo and his wife, Wilma Leidig, have been wonderful friends to the Museum. It is his designs that grace the Dolores windows during the Christmas season and now we have a wonderful new logo.

Maceo is a local artist with a love for carousel animals, which drew him to the Museum in the first place. We thank Maceo for all his efforts on our behalf and look for our new logo to appear in some new and different places!

Chesapeake Tracks

Come chug along with Chesapeake Tracks! This monthly e-mail will keep you up to date with the latest activities and events happening at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum. It will arrive in your mailbox around the 15th of the month. If you would like to keep in the know, send an e-mail to krescott@aol.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.



Membership Dues

We are reinstating sending membership envelopes twice yearly with the Chesapeake Dispatcher Newsletter. Last year we tried sending only one membership form in the fall. However, our memberships last year went down.

The membership dues you pay allow us to support the Museum and different programs throughout the year, such as the Polar Express, the Heritage Tour and the Bay Breeze Concerts. Thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at one of these programs soon!

Meet Kelly Peake

The Museum has the good fortune to have the talents of Kelly Peake focusing on the special events for children this year. She is working to present a fun and exciting new Spring and Fall Family Fun Days. She comes to us with a background of work in childcare centers and special events planning. She is also a very talented amateur photographer. She works part-time as a pharmacy technician, and hopes to work towards being a professional photographer some day. She is also a busy mom with two delightful girls and a new baby on the way.

Welcome Dana Watkinson

The Museum welcomes Dana Watkinson as our new Director of Education. She comes to us with a wonderful background in publicity. She has already put together a number of outstanding flyers for our spring and summer activities. She has taken on the task of doing the publicity for the Spring Family Fun Day. She worked briefly at National Colonial Farm in Accokeek and volunteered for a time at the Calvert Marine Museum. She has also done a lot of community related work as a volunteer. She is currently working on a BA degree in early childhood development while raising three children, and she hopes someday to work full time in a children's museum.

Golf Shootout

Unlike the previous golf shootout, October 5th, 2007 was a perfect day for the Charles C Bates Memorial Golf shootout. It was the 6th year for the tournament and it was a grand turnout. Good fellowship, food and prizes added up to a fine time. Again we were able to continue our commitment to our Museum, Beach Elementary and Traceys Elementary. Many thanks go to the organizers, helpers, and of course, the players.

Altogether it was a wonderful day, enjoyed by us all. Charles "Butch" Bates was treasurer for the Museum until his death in 2002.



Picture of Charles "Butch" Bates used as the logo for the tournament taken in 1954 at a pro-am in Staunton, Virginia. Courtesy of Janet Bates

Annual Friends Meeting

Come Friends and join us on the porch! This year our annual Friends meeting falls on Monday. Since this is a workday we have pushed the meeting time back. Please join us June 9th at 6pm for refreshment and pizza. This year we will be electing Board members among other items of business. The Museum will also be unveiling it's *Celebrate Summer* exhibit that day for it's Founder's Day celebration.

Planes, Trains & ... Oxen?

Our special *Celebrate Summer 2008* Exhibit will focus on the history of transportation in the Beaches in the



early 20th century. We tell the story of the railway and the steamships in our permanent exhibit, but there are many other stories to share. One of the curators' favorite photographs is of a boy standing with his bicycle in front of a 1920's period bus. There are also

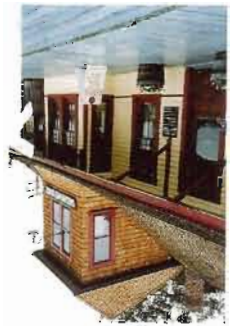


few photos of early aero planes that visited the Beaches in those days.

We ask if you have interesting artifacts, photographs, and/or documents related to this topic, please contact the Museum. Photos of people traveling by any means, photos of boats, bicycles, trucks, airplanes, oxcarts, or any form of transportation of the late 19th and early 20th century are welcome. This includes parts of transportation items such as pieces of harness, automobile headlamps, driving clothing or any transportation object might be valuable in telling the story.

Please contact the curator at 410-257-3892 if you have something that would be of interest.

This summer exhibit will give us the opportunity to share different and interesting stories.



Friends of the
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 1227
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CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAILWAY MUSEUM



2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information on any of the following events call the Museum at 410-257-3892

May 10th — National Train Day
May 18th — Spring Family Fun Day
June 9th — Friends Annual Meeting
June 9th — Founders Day
June 12th — Concert (*Country Current*)
June 19th — Summer Children's Program*
June 26th — Summer Children's Program*
July 10th — Concert (*Tempered Brass*)
July 17th — Summer Children's Program*
July 24th — Summer Children's Program*
July 31st — Summer Children's Program*
August 14th — Concert (*Dixie Ramblers*)

August 14th — Summer Children's Program*
September 11th — Concert (*Cocuzzi Quartet*)
October 3rd — 7th Annual C.C. Bates Golf
Tournament (for info, call 301-855-8915)
October 12th — Fall Family Fun Day
November 1st — Biannual Heritage Tour (\$) (Reservation required)
December 7th — Holiday Open House
December TBA — Polar Express Reading

Other activities such as the B&O Museum Trip and Bay-side Chats are still in the planning stages. Keep checking with the Museum or just sign up for Chesapeake Tracks!

* Children Program's are on the porch from 10am to 11:45am

(\$) - There is a fee for the program.