

Hop at the Hunt set for Saturday

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Written by Shaundra Sorenson

15,000 candy-filled eggs await youngsters at the iconic Lake Oswego event



REVIEW FILE PHOTO: VERN UYETAKE - Four fields will be divided by age group Saturday for the main event at Hop at the Hunt, where children can scramble for 15,000 colorful eggs.

And so it begins: 15,000 eggs have been stuffed with candy and the occasional special prize and are currently being hidden throughout the grounds of the historic Lake Oswego Hunt Club.

On Saturday, they'll all be fair game for the thousands of children and parents who will scramble for the colorful eggs in the iconic Hop at the Hunt, which is set to begin at 11 a.m.

"Some prizes are too large to fit into the eggs, so there's a prize tent for kids to pick up those special gifts," says Katie Brower, who is helping to organize the popular event.

Four fields at the Hunt Club will be divided by age group: toddlers, kids between 4 and 5, kids between 6 and 7, and those who are 8 years or older. There will also be pony rides, face painting, a fire truck and a police cruiser. And a visit from the Easter bunny, of course.



SUBMITTED PHOTO - No egg hunt would be complete without a visit from the Easter bunny. The Hop at the Hunt is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday at the Lake Oswego Hunt Club.

City Manager Scott Lazenby and Lake Oswego School Superintendent Heather Beck will serve as celebrity egg-tossers. For \$5, anyone can purchase a raffle ticket for the chance to toss with them.

Admission to the Hop is free, but the event is a fundraiser and donations will be accepted at the gate. Proceeds will go toward repairing the Hunt Club's barn roof and to Hope Community Church's Hope Sparrow Services, which works with local agencies to provide support to local families in need.

"As an historic landmark, the Hunt Club of Lake Oswego has served this community and those within it for years. And as the facility ages with time, the buildings need repair," says Brower, who is a co-owner of Lucid Dog Training and a member of this year's Leadership Lake Oswego class. "Similarly, there are many who feel financial strain due to difficult economic times, and Hope Sparrow Services provides that support to families in our community."



SUBMITTED PHOTO - Lake Oswego Hunt Manager Katie Purdy introduces Otis the pony to adoring children at last years Hop at the Hunt. Otis will be at this years event, too.

Leadership Lake Oswego has taken the lead in planning this year's event on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. In addition to the chamber, community partners include The Lake Oswego Review and the City of Lake Oswego.

"This year's Leadership LO group wanted to create or support a local cause, and teaming up with the Hunt Club and Hope Sparrow Services has been serendipitous to our goals," Brower says. "As the wheels began turning, we quickly realized the potential reach that our efforts toward this event could have."

Those efforts have already raised \$5,450 from a number of sponsors, including Babica Hen Cafe, Banner Bank, Club Sport, Cushman & Wakefield, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, jh2 design, Kumon Math & Reading of Lake Grove, Pacific West Bank, Baja Fresh, Jeff Ellsworth and Charlie Harrell of Buckley Law P.C., First Citizens Bank, Deno's Pizzeria, Bittner & Hahs P.C., School of Rock Lake Oswego, Kamind IT, Tutor Doctor, Betsy's Pet Sitting Service, Ed Popkin and Blue Moon Coffee.

"Students at local high schools have volunteered to stuff eggs and other chamber members have donated time to pick up candy," Brower says. "It's been a true group project, and everything is coming together beautifully for Saturday's event."

Lake Oswego Hunt is located at 2725 Iron Mountain Blvd. in Lake Oswego. For more information, go to HopeOswego.com or call 503-636-0674.