

# Haverford's May Flower Project brings burst of springtime to township

## Ridley YMCA Swim Coach named YMCA-USA Coach of the Year

By [PEG DEGRASSA](#) | [pdegrassa@delconewsnetwork.com](mailto:pdegrassa@delconewsnetwork.com) | The Delaware County Daily Times  
May 1, 2024 at 7:00 AM EDT



The Haverford Middle School Art Club teacher and students who created a burst of flowery spring in the windows at the Haverford YMCA this week include, from left, Janiene Kwoczak, Kaelynn Lopez-Pollard, Sarah Schwam, Kylie Shelton, Asya Badi, Saron Admasu, Emme Tilley, Madisyn Boozer, Patrick Daniel, Laura Bollinger, Sharlene Jiang and Kate Neidrauer. (COURTESY OF DISCOVER HAVERFORD)

HAVERFORD — Spring flowers abound in Haverford Township storefronts this season as Discover Haverford's May Flower Project is underway.


The project matches township businesses with local artists who paint colorful floral displays on the outside of storefront windows. Painting began last weekend and continues through the weekend of May 4-5. Over 20 businesses are participating.

This is the third year for the popular May Flower Project that aims to enhance Haverford Township's business districts.

"It is wonderful to see the transformation once the windows have been painted," notes Discover Haverford Executive Director Jeanne Angell. "Thanks to sponsors Plant Roots and Visit Delco for helping to make this program possible and brightening up our town."

Plant Roots owner, Gina Ranieri, coordinates the project for Discover Haverford and she loves the attention the May Flower Project brings to local businesses.

"I think the biggest benefit is that it draws those people who are passing through our township to the businesses here because all of a sudden they notice a shop they never did before."

Skip in 1s  Continue watching Little League:  
Big swings by Hill, Harfst lead Newtown-Edgmont over  
Ridley Area after the ad





Young artist Evelyn DiPatri paints flowers onto the windows of Infinity Fitness on Eagle Road in Havertown this week, as part of Haverford's May Flower Project. (COURTESY OF DISCOVER HAVERFORD)

Some shops that were painted last weekend include Katz Pharmacy, Infinity Fitness, Hendren House, Charles B. Gans Plumbing & Heating and the Haverford YMCA.

Haverford Middle School art teacher Janiene Kwoczak and a dozen of her Art Club students painted eight large window panes at the YMCA. She said they were excited about the opportunity and “the students had a blast!”

Artist Jackie Greco has been a volunteer painter in previous years, and says she looks forward to participating each year. Painting outside of Sweets on Darby, she said, “My neighbor drives through Havertown daily and she says it makes her day to see the painted windows!”

A dozen more Haverford Township businesses will have their windows painted over the course of next weekend. Photos of all the windows will be posted, once the project is complete, at <http://www.discoverhaverford.org>.

Discover Haverford, a 501c3 nonprofit founded in 2010, is a partnership between Haverford Township, business and property owners and township residents.

It fosters economic growth in Haverford Township by supporting local businesses, promoting Haverford Township as a destination, hosting events such as the Havertown Holiday Festival, the Dining Club, Haverfood Festival, and Shop Small Saturday, and revitalizing

the township's business districts and public spaces through the installation of planters, gardens, fountains, benches, and signage.

Crozer Chester Medical Center honored by Delco Victim Assistance Center

Crozer Chester Medical Center recently received the 2024 Founders Award from the Delaware County Victim Assistance Center (DCVAC) at DCVAC's 50th anniversary celebration event in Springfield.

The hospital was recognized for establishing a pool of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) who have shown extraordinary compassion and dedication to their patients during a particularly vulnerable time.

The Founders Award is named for the visionary women who founded Delaware County Women Against Rape, which has become DCVAC.

It is presented annually to someone who has made a major contribution to DCVAC, either a single event or a lifetime of significant efforts. According to the center, Crozer Chester Medical Center was the first hospital 50 years ago that invited DCVAC in to accompany and support victims of sexual assault through forensic examination.

Erik Nelson, swim coach at the Ridley Area YMCA, has been selected as the 2024 YMCAUSA Swimming Coach of the Year. (COURTESY OF YMCA)

Ridley YMCA swim coach selected as YMCA-USA Coach of the Year

Erik Nelson, swim coach at the Ridley Area YMCA, has been named the 2024 YMCA-USA Swimming Coach of the Year.

Nelson is the Association Competitive Aquatics Director and has coached the YMCA Rays since 1995.

He has built the program from a small developing team into a national YMCA power with multiple national champions and national YMCA record holders. The competitive success of the team is an offshoot of Erik's greater priority to nurture the holistic development of swimmers at all levels.

Nelson uses the YMCA's core values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility as the cornerstone of the program and models those values in his leadership. According to the Ridley YMCA, he is recognized for making every child feel special, regardless of outcomes in the pool.

Nelson is also committed to the broader YMCA swimming community, serving on the YMCA Coaches Association Executive Committee and the Penn-Del League board. He has been a mentor to other coaches and always makes himself available to lend a hand or ideas to make the sport better for athletes and coaches alike.

For more information on the Ridley YMCA swimming program, visit <http://cyedc.org>.

## St. Joseph Parish holds bus trip to Cape May

St. Joseph Church, 500 Woodlawn Ave., Collingdale, is currently reserving seats for a bus trip to Cape May, N.J., on Thursday, Aug. 15 for the Blessing of the Waters. Bus will leave at 8:45 a.m. following the 8 a.m. Mass and arrive at the Cape May Lighthouse Park for the blessing.

Everyone will have the option to stay there at the beach until 2 p.m. or continue with the bus to the Cape May Travel Center on Lafayette Street to enjoy lunch and shopping on their own at the Cape May Mall.

Those at the beach will be picked up by the bus at 2 p.m. to go to the town to shop and eat on their own.

The bus will depart Cape May at 3:30 p.m. and arrive back at St. Joseph's Church at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$65, which includes bus fare, snack and bottled water on the bus. To reserve a seat, contact Mary Carney at 610-362-1177.

## Nile Swim Club book discussed at Delco Historical Society event

The Delaware County Historical Society and the Media Arts Council are co-hosting a book event at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 2 at the Campbell AME Church, 33 W. Third St., Media.

Professor Robert Kodosky of West Chester University will speak about his book, "The Nile Swim Club at Yeadon: A History."

The history of the Nile Swim Club in Yeadon is a story of perseverance that highlights an important part of Black history in Delaware County. Kodosky will share the history and legacy of the Nile Swim Club and the vibrant landmark it remains today.

Guests from the Nile Swim Club will also be in attendance. The event is free.

For more information, visit

<https://www.mediaartscouncil.org/calendar/the-nile-swimclub-of-yeadon-a-history>.

Archbishop Perez to celebrate annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

The Most Reverend Nelson Pérez, archbishop of Philadelphia, will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the annual Archdiocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 4 at Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, 18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia.

The Mass is celebrated for married couples within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Newlywed couples, as well as those who have been married for 5, 10, 25, 50, or more years are encouraged to attend this special celebration of married life. Friends and family are also encouraged to attend with the special couples.

To register, visit



<https://form.jotform.com/230443950527152>. The Mass will be streamed live via at [Facebook.com/ArchPhila](https://www.facebook.com/ArchPhila) and <https://vimeo.com/event/2470138>. For more information about the Wedding Anniversary Mass, visit <http://www.phillycatholiclife.org>.

## Aston Lions Club to hold cash bingo

Aston Township Lions Club will have bingo at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 5 at the Aston Community Center on Concord Road in Aston. Doors will open at noon.

Tickets are \$20, and will feature cash prizes, raffles and door prizes.

Refreshments will be available for purchase and everyone must be 18 years old to play. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed.

The Aston Lions will be honoring their police officer of the year, firefighter, EMT and crossing guard at Mt. Hope's Habbersett Hall on Thursday, May 2.

## Library celebrates May The Fourth Be With You on May 4

Swarthmore Public Library is calling all Star Wars fans to its May The Fourth Be With You event on Saturday, May 4 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Library, 121 Park Ave., Swarthmore.

A long time ago in many adults' childhood, way back in the '70s and '80s, there were Star Wars toys.

Adults are welcome to come and celebrate with a viewing of the documentary "The Plastic Galaxy," followed by a show-and-tell. Participants are welcome to bring up to five of their favorite Star Wars memorabilia items to share with the group.

To register, go to:

<https://delcolibraries.libcal.com/event/12214953>.

Expungement clinic planned in Aldan

State Rep. Heather Boyd will hold an expungement clinic on Tuesday, May 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at McBlain Community Center, 210 Shisler Ave. in Aldan.

Representatives from Legal Aid of Southeastern PA will be on hand to explain the process and set eligible attendees on the path to an expungement or pardon.

Those interested should call Boyd's office at 484-200-1563 to register and find out what they'll need to bring. Only Pennsylvania arrests are eligible.

Those wishing to have a record expunged must have no current criminal charges or be serving probation. Many misdemeanors may be sealed if seven years have passed.

*Readers can send community news and photos to Peg DeGrassa at [pdegrassa@21st-centurymedia.com](mailto:pdegrassa@21st-centurymedia.com). Typed press releases, please.*