

March 2024

## West Ohio Community Action Partnership

### TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE APRIL 8, 2024



The Allen County Sheriff's Office is spreading awareness that Allen County is expected to have a mass of influx of visitors for the April 8th total solar eclipse. The best thing that residents can do is to prepare now and plan ahead.

#### TRAFFIC WILL INCREASE

Expect significant traffic delays. Reschedule appointments that can be rescheduled. Be sure to have a full tank of fuel. If you do not have to travel or commute, consider staying home. If you must travel- have water and snacks with you. Let your family know that you may be hours late returning home that evening.

#### CELLULAR SERVICE WILL LIKELY BE INTERRUPTED

With the expected increase in our population, cell service is likely to be interrupted from as early as April 7th into April 9th. Plan on cell phone calls, texts, hotspots, and some credit card readers not working properly, if at all. WiFi routers are not expected to be interrupted, but could be. Have a communication plan in place with your family and children. Calls and texts to 911 will have top priority from cell providers.

#### ESSENTIAL ITEMS

Plan ahead for a delay in supplies by stocking up with a week's worth of essentials. Don't wait to purchase items such as groceries, toiletries, fuel, medications, and pet supplies. Have some cash for any unforeseen purchases or emergencies, as credit card readers may experience interruptions.

#### OTHER ITEMS TO PLAN FOR

Be sure your pets are secure. The influx of traffic increases the chance of your pet getting struck. Check on your neighbors, especially if cell service is lost. Plan to view the eclipse safely. Use proper eye protection such as solar viewing glasses that comply with the ISO 12312-2 international standard.

Keep up to date with more tips and information by following The Allen County EMA and Allen County Sheriff's Office on Social Media

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OUR AGENCY  
WILL BE CLOSED  
APRIL 8, 2024

## Come join our WOCAP team for a new, exciting and rewarding career

Work in a fast-paced, growing organization, while receiving a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

- Competitive Wages
- Medical, Dental, Vision Insurance
- 13 Paid Holidays
- 5 Personal Days
- Sick Leave
- Vacation Leave
- Weekends Off
- EAP Program
- Paid Tuition
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness

## HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

If you are interested in any of our job opportunities, please complete the online application on our website & send a resume to:

WOCAP  
(WEST OHIO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP)  
540 S Central Ave  
Lima, Ohio 45804  
Attn: Human Resource Coordinator

(419) 227-2586

[www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org)

Click on Employment Opportunities & then select Job Openings from the drop-down

Please Note: We are no longer requiring the COVID-19 Vaccine

## Nuclear Remembrance Day

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**  
**2:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Location: 1107 N. Main St., Unit 110,**  
**Celina, OH 45822**

**Hosted by: Ohio Ralik Ratak Aid**  
**(Robinson Lee & Francis John)**

This event remembers the significant and life changing event that occurred on March 1, 1946, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. All are invited to this annual event to learn more about the people of the Marshall Islands, especially those who were affected by the nuclear testing carried out by the United States government in 1946. The event will provide everyone an opportunity to learn more about the culture and history of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

## Home Based Family Day

In February, the Home Based families enjoyed a day together painting on canvas and being entertained by a puppet show from the teachers. Each family received book baskets that parents took home to read with their children.



## Tiffany Wright

We are sad to announce that Tiffany Wright has finished her term as a member of our board. Tiffany was appointed by the board in January 2011 and has served on the WOCAP board for a total of 13 years. In April of 2014, Tiffany was elected to serve as Vice-President to the board, and did so for five years before being elected as the Board President in May of 2019. Tiffany has served as President for her last 5 years on the board. We will miss her knowledge, expertise and leadership, but we are grateful for her time dedicated to our agency and members of our community.



## HOUSING DEPARTMENT

### Fair Housing

Providing information, training & educational materials to community

Please call Housing Specialist for more information  
Allen & Mercer Counties

### Financial Management

Education on aspects that affect financial security

Please call  
419-227-2586 Ext. 105 if interested

## BOOKS

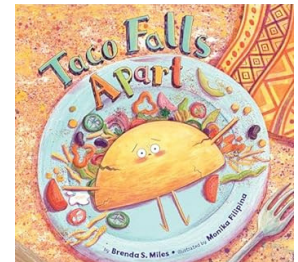
### I Can Eat A Rainbow

is a book for young children to learn, in simple terms, how important it is to incorporate fruits and vegetables into their diet. It is a bright and colorful book that will keep your children engaged and entertained along the way, complete with a rainbow of fruits and vegetables of their own to color!



### Taco Falls Apart

gets kids thinking about how their thoughts shape feelings and behavior. Friendly and funny, this evidence-based science-informed book skillfully presents a fundamental concept of cognitive-behavior psychology in a way kids can understand — how the interplay between thoughts, feelings, and behavior shape who we are and how we experience everything.



## BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to all of our staff  
celebrating in March

- 1 - Amy Wannemacher
- 1 - Wendy Zomer-Thornton
- 9 - Christine Magoto
- 11 - Mr. Kim Upshaw
- 26 - Kim Bruns

## CALENDAR

- 8th - Home Based Family Day
- 21st - Policy Council Meeting
- 15th - Home Based Family Day
- 22nd - No EHS/HS/ODE Classes  
(Agency Training 12-4pm)
- 27th - Board Meeting
- 29th - Agency Closed (Good Friday)

## HEAP WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM

Now - March 31, 2024

To Schedule An Appointment, Call 419-516-0063

Helps Income-Eligible Ohioans that are threatened with a disconnection, have been disconnected, need to establish new service, need to pay to transfer service, have PIPP default, need to pay first PIPP, or have 25% (or less) supply of bulk fuel in their tank maintain their utility service

### Who Is Eligible?

- Households at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Facing disconnection
- Have been disconnected
- Have less than a 25% supply of bulk fuel in their tank

### Required Documents?

- Income for primary applicant and all the household members 18 years of age or older
- Social Security numbers for primary applicant & all household members
- Most recent utility bills
- Proof of citizenship for all household members



# Head Start celebrates Valentine's Day

## CENTRAL G



## HOWARD B



## ST. MATTHEWS



## UNITY



## CENTRAL D SPIRIT WEEK





# Father Daughter Dance



# Winter Family Engagement

Thank you to all of the families who attended, as well as our staff and other local partners who made it such a great event for everyone.



## EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE

Our goal is to prepare your child for their next stepping stone of education whether it is Head Start or Kindergarten. Regular Attendance is an important part of your child's educational, social, and emotional development. When children are absent from school they are missing out on a lot of educational and social opportunities. We would like to thank those parents who assure their child is attending school every day. In the month of January, we had 51 children with Perfect Attendance.

Way to Go Parents!

**Central A**  
Karliah B.

**Central B**  
Jalani C.  
Sawyer S.  
Island W.

**EHS-Home Based (GG)**  
Willow T.  
Robert Warren

**EHS-Home Based (JJ)**  
Star'Ajaha A.  
Dionna G.  
James K.

**EHS-Home Based (WW)**  
Chazarae A.  
Emberly K.

**Lima Sr. I**  
Dylan B-T.  
Trevontay G.  
Ariel T.

**Smart Start**  
Maasai S.  
Mamie S.

**Little Rascals B**  
Jaylen W.

**Shawnee Infants**  
Kane H.

**Shawnee Terrific 2's**  
Ava J.

**The Children's Place**  
Bry'el P.

**Allen East**  
True D.

**Central D**  
Barry L.  
Serena S.

**Central G**  
Kassidy A.

**ELC-Howard B**  
Brynleigh S.

**ELC-O'Neal A**  
Treasure G.  
Zahra R.

**ELC-O'Neal B**  
Star'Ajaha A.

**HS Home Based (KC)**

Adelynn B.  
Justice G.  
Makaila G.  
Tanner K.  
Olivia K.  
Meena S.  
Emma T.  
Illana W.

**Market St. I**  
Kyson H.  
Harper M.  
Variah R.

**Market St. II**  
Braxton F.

**Philippian**  
Luca M.

**St. Matthew's**  
Jasper Warden

Did you know that Head Start is hiring? Do you know anyone interested in being employed with the wonderful Head Start Program? Do you think you would be interested?

I highly recommend you stop or call in and ask questions or apply. We need people that want to be involved and educate the minds of our little ones. To be a classroom teacher you need your CDA, but to be a Co-Teacher, you can start as long as your CDA is obtained within 18 months of being hired. There are many other employment opportunities in the agency.

View job descriptions & apply online: [www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org)

**PARENT TO PARENT**

**HEAD START IS HIRING**

**SUBMITTED BY  
MICHELLE PEAKE-WARREN,  
HEAD START PARENT**

## Board of Trustees - 2023

Representatives must be One Third Private Business, One Third Public Entity, and One Third Low-Income

Josh Unterbrink (Private) (Vice President)  
Activate Allen County

Mayor Sharetta Smith (Public)  
City of Lima

Natalie Bice (Private) (Treasurer)  
J. M. Green & Associates

Connie Dershem (Low-Income)  
Allen Co Council on Aging

Susan Hord (Private)  
Rhodes State College

Ann Miles (Public)  
Lima City Schools

Janae Lane (Low-Income)  
Policy Council Representative

Elizabeth Muether (Private)  
Mercer County District Library

Hellen Douglas (Low-Income)  
Family Promise

Jerome O'Neal (Public)  
Allen County Commissioner Appointee

Shannon Tyler (Private)  
Premier Bank

Warner Roach (Private)  
City of Lima

Shelly Vaughn (Public)  
Mercer Co. Commissioners Appointee

Linda Chartrand (Private)  
Retired

Homer Burnett (Low-Income)  
C.A.L.L. Ministries

James Mehaffie (Public)  
City of Delphos Appointee

Anna Schnippel (Low-Income)  
MET Housing Board-Auglaize Co.

Amy Freymuth (Public)  
Auglaize Co Commissioner Appointee



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