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► OPINION

SEE MERCURY WITH NAKED EYE IN FEBRUARY

SHOULD BE EASY TO SPOT ON FEB. 26, WRITES MARIO CARR



MARIO CARR
Column

The best time to see the planet Mercury this year will be in the early evening of Feb. 26.

That's when it will be furthest from the Sun or at its greatest elongation. Most of the year its hidden by the glare of Sun and too difficult to see. Look for it after sunset low in the south western sky. It should be easy to spot with your naked eyes or with a pair of binoculars.

Don't wait too long, if you want to see it. By early March it will once again

drop to the horizon and be too close to the Sun to be seen.

Here are February stargazing events, which are listed in the Hamilton Amateur Astronomers calendar.

Feb. 8 - Hamilton Amateur Astronomers meeting, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Hamilton Spectator, 44 Frid St. Free admission, door prizes and everybody welcome. An optional food bank donation of non-perishable goods will be collected and appreciated.

Feb. 10 - The crescent Moon is below Mars in the evening sky.

Feb. 12 - Mars is very close to the planet Uranus in the evening sky. There is also a first-quarter Moon.

Feb. 13 - The Moon is the Hyades cluster in the evening sky.

Feb. 18 - Venus is very close to Saturn at dawn.

Feb. 19 - Tonight's full Moon is also a Super Moon and largest for all 2019.

Feb. 22 - Sunlight reflecting off dust particles in the solar system, known as Zodiacal light, can be seen in the western evening sky from a dark location for the next two weeks.

Feb. 27 - The crescent Moon will be close to Jupiter at dawn.

For more information, see the Hamilton Amateur Astronomers website at www.amateurastronomy.org or call 905-627-4323. The club offers a basic astronomy course for members.

Mario Carr is the club's director of publicity and can be reached at mario-carr@cogeco.ca. Twitter: @MarioCCarr

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Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce names Only Mortgages as their Business of the Month

Thank you Halton Hills!

Debbie and Moe Forget, mortgage brokers and owners of Only Mortgages, accept their Business of the Month award for the month of February, from Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce membership services committee member Norm Paget and membership services coordinator Amy Sykes.



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