

# Record 1,800 tour KM Historical Museum during popular toys, games and trains show

Kings Mountain Historical Museum just concluded their twelfth annual Toys, Games & TRAINS exhibit. Over the years, the exhibit has become a holiday tradition for many families throughout the region.

This year, a record number of over 1,800 visitors enjoyed the exhibit and the Museum's signature holiday events free of charge. Each year the exhibit draws in a growing number of "regulars" – the faithful children that come day after day to see the trains during the seven weeks they are on display.

For some kids, they just can't get enough of the trains.

The members of the Piedmont S Gaugers, the club that sets up the train display each year, are excited about his trend and hope that many of these children will maintain their interest so they can carry on the model railroading hobby for future generations. Most of the club members developed their love of model trains at a very young age, and find



Young Owen Romesberg learns how to operate the trains with "Uncle Bill," a member of the Piedmont S-Gaugers model train club.

it extremely rewarding to share their passion and expertise with budding train enthusiasts young and old.

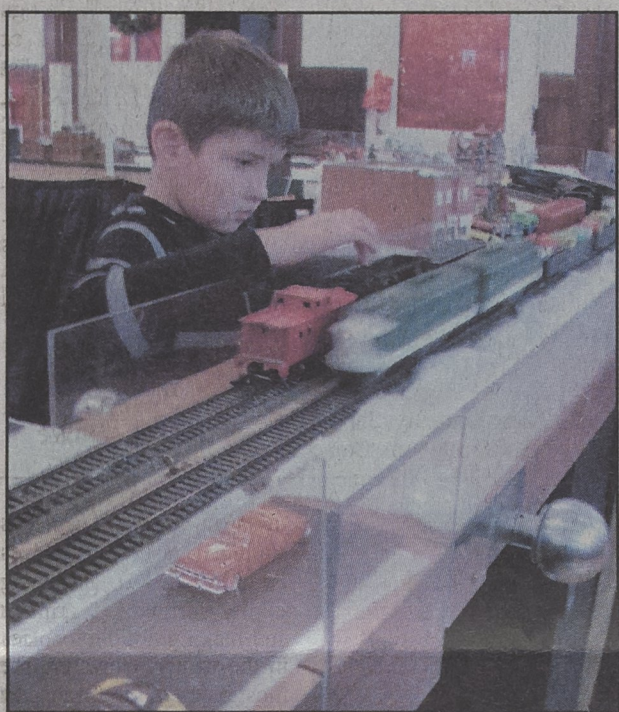
Bill Ware, a local member of the club and the Show Coordinator for this display – affectionately known by the children as "Mr. Bill" or "Uncle Bill" – often lets the regulars come inside the track so they can learn how to operate the trains for themselves hands-on. Bill's father and uncle bought him his first train set and started

teaching him the tricks of the trade when he was 2 years old, sparking a love for trains he's carried with him throughout his lifetime.

Owen Romesberg, age 2, visits the Museum almost daily during the train exhibit. After his parents taught him that when the "OPEN" flag is out in front of the museum, that means the exhibit is open, he sweetly asked Museum staff members, "can you please just leave the flag out all the time?"

Another regular to the train display is little Caleb Wright, who loves to see all the different trains the club members bring to run, but is by far the most elated when he sees Thomas the Tank Engine chugging down the track towards him. Knowing that Thomas is Caleb's favorite, the club members will bring Thomas out to surprise Caleb when he comes to visit.

Other regulars to the train exhibit include Wesley Rayfield, who comes to the Museum nearly every day after school lets out, and J.J. Cult, who, for several years now, has been squeezing visits to the trains into his busy school and after-



Hayden Gleason

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## OBITUARIES

### Doris Vinesett

SHELBY - Doris Earwood Vinesett, 79, of Maple Springs Church Rd., died Thurs., Jan. 1, 2015, at Peak Resources of Shelby. Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Monday at Flint Hill Baptist Church. The family received friends on Sunday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Clay-Barnette Funeral Home, and other times at the home of her son, Cliff, 744 Skinner Road, Shelby. Burial is at Cleveland Memorial Park

### Rosie Lee Smith

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Rosie Lee Smith, age 95, resident of Kings Mountain, NC went to be with the Lord on January 3, 2015 at Cleveland Pines, Shelby, NC. A graveside service was at Mountain Rest Cemetery, Tuesday, January 6, at 2 p.m., with Rev. Robbie Moore officiating. Family visited with friends immediately following the service in the cemetery. Interment is at Mountain Rest Cemetery, Kings Mountain.

### Charles Strickland

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Charles Earl Strickland, 78, died Sun., Dec. 28, 2014, at Brian Center of Gastonia. Funeral services were held 3 p.m. Sunday at Clay-Barnette Funeral Home Chapel of Kings Mountain. The family received friends one hour prior to the service, at the funeral home.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home

## Rhema Ministry Giveaways Tuesday, Jan. 13

Rhema Outreach Ministry will hold giveaways on January 13th from 1-5 p.m., no later, that includes food, clothing and some toys at 624 East King Street in Kings Mountain, the former florist shop location.

## Jumping: into new year with fitness goals

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their own individual exercise routines.

Susan already hits her home treadmill about once a day. Mike is an avid outdoor walker.

She's looking to add Zumba and possibly water aerobics. He wants to add free weights to his walking and to work on his endurance.

On Monday, the cheerful couple was getting a tour of the Y from Daron Dwyer, who aimed to "help them reach those goals and inspire them to make some new ones."

Kevin Osborne, Vice President of the Cleveland County YMCA and the director of the Kings Mountain facility, said he's seen the usual new year's surge in new members.

"We've gotten 10 new members in just the first four days of the year," he said. "New Year. New You" – that's the saying. Of course, if you stick with it, you'll see results. It takes a couple of times to create a habit."

Longtime Y member Jim Tessnear agrees. Jan. 1 didn't represent the start of new exercise goals for

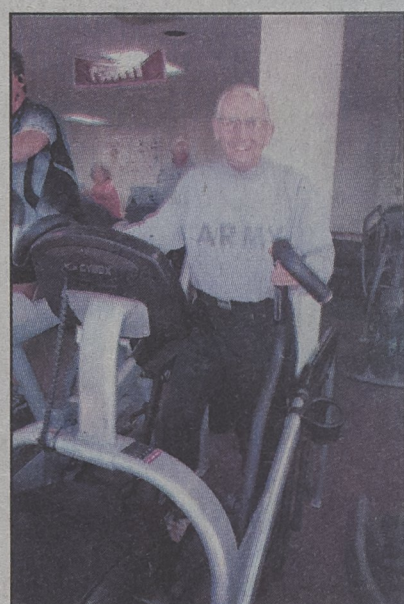
him, though. The 67-year-old Duke Energy retiree and Army veteran has been a four-times-a-week regular at the Kings Mountain YMCA since joining in 2000. He also regular hits local roads on his Fuji touring bicycle for 10 to 12 mile runs, although he concedes he backs off of those rides during the colder months.

"Exercise is work, but you get results," said the trim and smiling Tessnear, who maintains a meticulous workout diary to track his progress with weights and other machines month over month and year over year.

Some this January are seeing themselves start completely over – a kind of 0-60 run at going from out of shape to in shape.

"It's been too long, and I have no excuse," said 38-year-old Joseph Martinello, a plumber who lives in Oak Grove and works in Shelby.

Martinello, an ex-jog-



Jim Tessnear hits the elliptical machine at the Y on Monday afternoon.

ger and weight-lifter said he's planning to use a day off Thursday to check out CrossFit in Kings Mountain, which incorporates endurance and weight training with group classes and teamwork to burn fat and build muscle.

"I used to do all that stuff pretty much every day and I was, because of daily exercise or whatever, just eating better and feeling better. I've made 2015 my catch-up year. I need to lose about 30 pounds."

## Jobs: expansions top 2015 city goals



City Manager Marilyn Sellers and Mayor Rick Murphrey, above, look over the construction work at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center expansion. The improvements are expected to be completed during the second quarter of new year 2015.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

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around the building which will mean that exercisers

can walk inside the building as well as outside the building when construction is completed.

A new 100% handicap accessible playground will open later this month beside the KM Family YMCA and adjacent to the Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Playground and is the first such facility in the county.

The city will take bids for the big water plant expansion and rehabilitation project with target date for completion in December 2015 and will see completion of the new 36 inch water line from Moss Lake to town in December 2015. These projects are made possible via a \$34 million dollar loan from the state. The 20 year loan is interest free to the city.

Kings Mountain Energy Center off Dixon School Road is expected to begin construction by NTE Energy in the second quarter of the new year with groundbreaking slated for April 1. During the 34 month construction period, a total of 300 construction jobs will be available.

Cleveland County is on track to have a new health department building in 2016 which will also house the county's Department of Social Services.

Cleveland County's shooting range is set to begin construction soon as bids were finalized at the recent commissioner meeting. Late spring is the projected opening date for the 3-D archery course, a 250-yard rifle and 50-yard pistol and shotgun range.



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