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All Aboard For Holiday Train Display



The Train Guys of Elizabethtown recently honored the family of the late Paul Grubb Sr. of Grubb Supply with a commemorative car, part of the Elizabethtown Area Business Train. Receiving the car were family members (from left) Jean Herr, Lavonne Grubb, and Mary Fairbanks.

By Krista Hurley

A regional tradition will return to the area when the Train Guys of Elizabethtown bring their Holiday Train Display to the Elizabethtown Public Library, 10 S. Market St. The Train Guys have compiled their toy train collections to make the display a memorable experience for all who stop by.

“People are definitely looking forward to it,” said Train Guys representative Craig Coble. He recalled that the 2010 display was record-setting, with more than 4,000 total visitors throughout the month of December. “It’s turned out to be a regional event,” he stated, noting that

individuals and families travel from outside of the immediate area to view the setup.

This year's display, which will be set up in the lower level of the library, will open to the public on Thursday, Dec. 1. People of all ages are welcome to view the display from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays through the end of December, with the exception of Saturday, Dec. 24, when the library - and thus the display - will be closed. It will also be open at various special times, such as from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, during Elizabethtown's New Year's Eve celebration, Let E-town Ring!

During Elizabethtown's Holiday Parade on Friday, Dec. 2, the display will be open from 5 to 8 p.m., but only to individuals and families who have pre-purchased tickets for a minimum donation. According to Coble, a limited number of tickets are available for each 30-minute time slot. Anyone who wishes to view the display that evening must obtain tickets in advance from the library's circulation desk by Dec. 1.

Coble noted that people who view the display this year will find plenty to enjoy. The setup will include both O-gauge and G-gauge trains that weave in and around impressive scenery, such as a new canal area and old favorites, such as town layouts. One favorite component of the interactive display will return, as the young and young at heart will be encouraged to push buttons on the display. "We anticipate having about 50 buttons this year that will start trains and operate accessories," Coble said.

In addition to leaving the library with train-related memories, people may also depart the building with train-related items. Replicas of the newest addition to the Train Guys' Elizabethtown Area Business Train, which is a Grubb Supply Coal Hopper car, will be for sale exclusively at the library, Coble pointed out. For more information on purchasing the newest car, readers should call the library at 367-7467.

Display visitors may also enter a drawing for several train sets. Winners will be selected on Thursday, Dec. 22, so "they can have the train set in their hands by Christmas Day," Coble explained.

Private showings of the setup are available by appointment for a fee. To learn more about these appointments, interested individuals should contact library outreach services coordinator Bethleen Bradford at 367-7467, ext. 28.

The Holiday Train Display is a fundraiser for the library, and all who stop by to view the setup will be asked to make a donation. Also, sponsorship opportunities are available, with more information gleaned by contacting Bradford. Additional details on the display may be obtained by visiting www.etownpubliclibrary.org or calling the library.

“We love the Christmas season here at Elizabethtown Public Library, largely because of the atmosphere created by the Train Guys and their Holiday Train Display,” Bradford said.

Anyone who would like details on the Train Guys, including how to join, may call Coble at 367-4731.

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