

Northeast Texas Children's Museum

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October-December 2011

Healthcare Exhibit Update

The skeleton biker in the Texoma Healthcare Foundation exhibit has his motor! Thanks to Dr. Ben Doughty, former member of the Museum Board of Directors, and Perry Moler, a member of the staff in the Texas A&M University-Commerce Industrial Engineering Department, for making this happen.

After receiving the exhibit, the Museum was challenged to make the it operational. Getting the skeleton biker to work was the biggest challenge. The old motor had to be picked up in Sherman. It didn't work. Dr. Doughty provided a new one. Perry machined the rotating arm that fits to the motor. What would we have done without such skilled volunteers?



The children are enjoying riding the bike in front of the skeleton. When the children ride the bike, the skeleton rides his/her bike, the heart beats, and the lungs "breathe". This is a great exhibit to show the benefits of exercise.

Mark Your Calendar!

Super Saturday at the Museum will be on January 28, 2012. This is the day for your free admission to the Museum! This the way the Northeast Texas Children's Museum will say thank you to families who support the us throughout the year. Hopefully, the day will also encourage new families to visit the Museum. The Museum will be open from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Also, mark your calendars now for the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. The dance will be Saturday, February 4, 2012.



Tickets will be discounted to \$25 until January 17. Lisa Arnold is the chair of the event this year. She is an *ex-officio* Board Member representing the Commerce Chamber of Commerce. She has helped with previous Daddy-Daughter Dances and will get a lot of help from her two daughters Jacie, a junior at Commerce High School, and Rylie who is in fifth grade.

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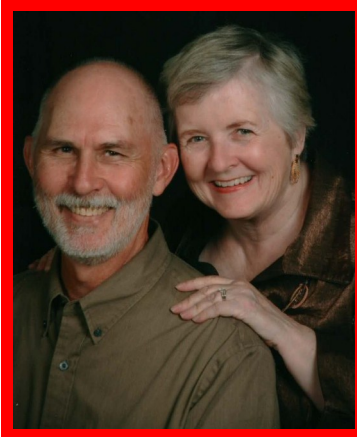
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The mission of the Northeast Texas Children's Museum is to inspire imagination, enhance creativity and build confidence in children.

Volunteer Recognition



Susan Patton grew up in Dallas and came to Commerce when she was 18. She was library aide, then librarian at Commerce Elementary School and A.C. Williams for a total of 21 years. She graduated from TAMU-C (aka East Texas State College), married Jim, who grew up in Commerce, and then spent two years at Texas



Susan & Jim Patton

A&M University in College Station until he graduated. They lived for a year in Shiprock, NM while serving in Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), a domestic version of the Peace Corps. Jim and Susan returned to Commerce in 1969. Their home here was built in 1917 by Jim's grandfather.

They have two children, son Ray Patton and daughter Marie Patton Karnes. In addition to grandchildren Sherri and Shawn Karnes, they have numerous pets and grand-pets.

Susan is a member of the PEO sisterhood and the Thalian Club. Jim and Susan are active in First United Methodist Church where they have been in the choir for 30 years. Susan enjoys handcrafts and baking, and Jim enjoys real cooking and spending quality time with his tractor. Both love reading and traveling.

Jim is retired from TAMU-Commerce where he served as the university architect. Susan retired from Commerce ISD.

Dino Math Workshops

Almost 700 students from many northeast Texas school districts attended the Dino Math Workshop. The workshop was held for 13 days in October and November. Students rotated through three stations involving measurement.



At one station, they measured their dinosaur. Then they moved to a station where they studied capacity by pouring rice into different size containers. They measured the mass of items in grams and ounces. Finally, students compared the mass of objects.

Comments from teachers were positive. Some were "Students and teachers loved these lessons!"; "I plan to use similar activities in the classroom."; "The hands-on activities kept all the students engaged."; and "This was a super introduction to our measurement study."

During the workshop, eighty-three volunteer jobs were filled. Some volunteers were the instructors each day. Other volunteers assisted the instructors. Some volunteers came for one day and as many as nine days. Volunteers came from Cooper, Pecan Gap, Campbell, and Commerce. All were complimented by the teachers for being such excellent presenters and patient with the students.



Weird Science

The Weird Science program will be offered from February 7 to March 6. Kathleen Hooten, who wrote the curriculum, will direct it again. The curriculum covers 14 TEKS for fifth grade science. Farmers Electric Cooperative has provided again provided a donation to print the student workbooks.



Healthy from Kids A to Z

“Healthy Kids from A to Z” will begin spring classes February 6, 2012 at 10:00 am. After completing the alphabet in the fall, the eight-week class will begin with the letter “A”. The class for spring will conclude March 28. Patti Peron, director of the program, will again include music, crafts, healthy foods, and healthy activities in each class.



Brunch with Santa

Santa Claus came to the Museum on December 3 for our Brunch with Santa.

“This is one of my favorite events each year,” stated Sharline Freeman.

Two hundred children, parents, grandparents, and volunteers agreed. The children had pictures made with Santa courtesy of Mike King, a pancake breakfast courtesy of Kiwanis Club, *The Night Before Christmas* read by Blake Cooper, Commerce ISD



Superintendent and music by the First Baptist Church Commerce’s children’s choir. Other volunteers included Dr. Gil Naizer and son

John, Susan Patton, Dana Ryer, Jeanette Moser, Louise Biggs, Deena Harper, Dr. Dan and Jalina Jones and daughter Aislinn, Claire and Mimi Dobbs, and Amber and Meagan Shanks.

Get Ready for the KidSteam Train!

The KidStream Train has wintered in the Roundhouse and will return to its thirty feet of track in March.



Elf on the Shelf

An elf arrived at the Children’s Museum in December. He moved around on the shelf to watch the boys and girls. Children were encouraged to search for the elf. One morning winner and one afternoon winner received a Christmas prize and a free pass to the Museum. Children found this an exciting activity and squeals of delight could be heard throughout the Museum when the elf was spied. He left at Christmas to return again next December.



Thanks to Daily Sponsors

Northeast Texas Children's Museum exists because of the generosity of our partners and donors. Each of the following made a \$200 donation to cover the cost of one day's operation of the Museum:

October 27– Jeanette Moser in memory of Winford and Katherine Dyer

November 3 – Dr. Dorothy Ingram on her birthday

“Happy Birthday, Dorothy”



December 3 – Dr. Dan and Jalinna Jones on Aislinn's 14th birthday.

“Happy Birthday, Aislinn”



December 8 – Janet and Chris Peek in memory of Robert Peek



Won't you consider a donation to the Museum this year? Every dollar counts. If you've not visited in the past few months, come back to see how the exhibits have changed. You'll be glad you did!

Donation Form

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

For: _____

Please bring this form or mail it to Northeast Texas Children's Museum at the address below.

The Director's Corner

New Board members take office in January. New members will include Joel Shanks, manager of Brookshire's Grocery in Commerce, Beckey Thompson of Commerce Veterinary Clinic, and Sandi Wallace, owner of “Plain and Fancy” in both Sulphur Springs and Commerce. Jalinna Jones will begin serving as president.



Sharline Freeman, Executive Director

Our theme birthday parties are becoming popular. The Museum furnishes paper goods for 30 people. Theme decorations include those for the following parties: Pirate, Princess, Halloween, Car, Captain America, Tangled, Green Lantern, Western, Winnie the Pooh, and Disney Mickey Mouse.

“It is great to arrive and have everything already set up, including the decorations,” said a parent.



Board Members

Sharline Freeman, Executive Director

Janice Angel

Alton L. Biggs, President

Niesje Cooper, Secretary

Chris Green

Deena Harper

John Horn

Jalinna Jones

Jeannette Moser

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Wyman Williams, Vice President

Trish Wood, Treasurer

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Julia Robinson, *Ex-Officio*