

# Northeast Texas Children's Museum

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

JANUARY-MARCH 2016

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

## The Director's Corner

At this time of the year we look back and are thankful for a wonderful 2015; we look forward with anticipation to the events of 2016. We are thankful to each of you for your attendance and support. You may have volunteered, supported our Silent Auction, and/or participated in the North Texas Giving Day. Whatever your supportive role has been, we appreciate you! Visitors to the Children's Museum in 2016 have totaled 25,000. This more than triples the population of Commerce. Memberships have reached 301. The

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
2016!**

addition of new exhibits inside the museum and the completion of the Pirate Ship in the Great Outdoor Discovery Area should encourage more visitors to the Children's Museum in 2016. We have much to be thankful in 2015 and much excitement concerning our future.



**Sharline Freeman,  
Executive Director**

## Brunch with Santa

Brunch with Santa was a huge success! With almost 400 in attendance, Santa had many children to visit. After making a grand entrance through the Party Room, he took his seat in the Santa chair. Thanks again to Commerce Lil' Angels for providing the wonderful pancake breakfast. Volunteers from Commerce Lil' Angels, the Board of the Children's Museum, and supporters of the Children's Museum totaled 20. Thanks to all who worked to provide a wonderful Christmas experience for children in our area.

## Pirate Ship Update

The Dixie Turman State Farm Insurance Ship is nearing completion. No addition to the Children's Museum has created any more excitement than the Pirate Ship. The group of engineers and skilled woodsmen are building a sturdy structure that will be enjoyed for years to come.

The completion date has been postponed due to weather conditions, but we all look forward to being on the ship for the first time.



## Two New Indoor Exhibits Added

The Redline Raceway and Monkey Ball are popular additions to the exhibits inside the Children's Museum. The Redline Raceway gives children an opportunity to build a Lego car and race it down the track. Monkey Ball provides a chance for children to toss a paper ball into the basketball goal or the mouth of a monkey.

the former TAMUC Athletic Director. They were built by Charles Powell and David Zvanut, respectively.

We encourage our visitors and members to bring us ideas that we might implement in order to continue to improve and upgrade the Northeast Texas Children's Museum.



These two new exhibits were brought to our attention by Kelly Ivey, wife of

## Theme Announced for Daddy-Daughter Dance

- ★ "When You Wish Upon a Star" has been announced as the theme for the 2016 Daddy-Daughter Dance. We hope that the Daddy-Daughter Dance will be a dream come true for young girls and their dads, granddads, uncles, brothers, etc. Beckey Thompson, Board President, will chair the event for the third year, and Daniel Starks, disc jockey, will be returning for the third year to make the dance fun and "daddy friendly". They will both bring their experience to create a special time for all who attend.

The Daddy-Daughter Dance will be Saturday, February 6 from 6:30 to 9:00. Tickets will be \$30 until January 23 for a young lady and her dad, granddaddy, uncle, or brother. On January 23 the ticket price will be \$35. On February 6, the day of the Daddy-Daughter Dance, tickets will be \$40. Not included in the ticket price will be an optional professional photo which will begin at \$8.



### MUSEUM INFORMATION

**Northeast Texas Children's Museum**  
2501 Hwy 24  
Commerce, TX 75428

[www.netxcm.com](http://www.netxcm.com)  
903-886-6055

**Hours of Operation:**  
Tuesday - Saturday: 9:30 - 4:30  
Summer Hours: 10:00 - 5:00  
Closed Monday and Sunday

**Admission:** \$5.00 per person  
(Children under 2 are free)  
Memberships available

**For more information:**  
Sharon Freeman,  
Executive Director  
[director@netxcm.com](mailto:director@netxcm.com)

Elana Barotn,  
Director of Development,  
[elana@netxcm.com](mailto:elana@netxcm.com)



## Children's Health Fair

Although the Children's Museum has had many special events the last few years, the Children's Health Fair is a completely new concept for a special event. The Children's Health Fair will be January 16 from 9:30 to 11:30. There will be free admission during these two hours.

Children will receive an activity book and will be able to walk through our Mega Lung; measure their



oxygen level and pulse both before and after physical activity; see their hands under the Glo Lamp before and after washing; and receive ID cards courtesy of the Commerce Police Department. The Children's Museum is pleased to coordinate this event with Hunt Regional Healthcare. Other sponsors include Commerce Veterinary Clinic, McDaniel's Dentistry, PCA-Pediatrics, Greenville Health Clinic; and Live Oak Professional Center.

## Mother-Son Galactic Superhero Night

Following the Daddy-Daughter Dance, mothers and sons will have an opportunity to attend a special event at the Children's Museum. Superheroes from earth and beyond will be welcome. Challenging activities for the young superheroes will be part of the evening. Kathy Erwin will be in cater the superhero food, and Lonnie Plunkett will be in charge of the decorations.



### Mega Lung

Lonnie the Mega Lung met children throughout the area. Visits have been made to AC Williams in Commerce, Campbell, Wolfe City, Celeste, Lone Oak, Quinlan and Aikin. Lonnie will travel to Crocket Middle School in Paris in January. The Mega Lung has also been a part of the Cooper Home Health Fair and will be a part of the Children's Health Fair at the Children's Museum on January 16.

### Healthy Kids from A to Z

Healthy Kids from A to Z will begin the spring classes on January 13 with the letter with the letter "Q". Bettina Zvanut will again be leading the class. Thanks Hunt Regional Healthcare for your sponsorship of this successful program for preschoolers.

### Weird Science

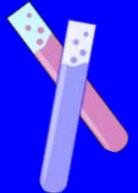
Weird Science, the fifth grade hands-on science program, supports 14 science TEKS. The program will be offered at the Children's Museum for eight days beginning February 11. The program is sponsored by Farmers Electric Coop. Students rotate through three stations. Some of the teacher comments have been:



"Great compliment to what students have been learning; students engaged in learning. Very professional staff. Thanks for a great experience."

"This is the best thing ever! Keeps all students involved. Great hands-on activities."

"My class really enjoyed all of the hands-on experiences. We really had a good learning experience."



### Volunteer Spotlight

Lonnie Plunkett has generously donated her artistic talent to special events at the Children's Museum. After teaching 20 years at Commerce ISD, her retirement brought her to our door. She volunteered to do the artwork for the

Mother Son Pirate Night in February, 2015. Last winter she offered an art class to students at AC Williams. Her donated Art Party for the Silent Auction was a very popular item. Last summer Lonnie offered a

three day art class called a World of Art. Again, the class was full. Face painting was her area at the Brunch with Santa. For our Dino Math Lonnie became a teacher's assistant. She offers her creative ideas in ways that continue to help the Children's Museum. Lonnie says, "I love volunteering at the Children's Museum. Commerce is fortunate to have such a wonderful place for children. It is my grandson Jackson's favorite place to play and learn." Lonnie is now volunteering to work on the Mother Son Galactic Superhero Night. Thanks Lonnie for all you continue to do at the Children's Museum.



Do you shop on Amazon? Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and search for the Northeast Texas Children's Museum. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price on eligible items. It's an easy way to give to the Children's Museum at no cost to you!



## Mark Your Calendar

Children's Health Fair	January 16
Daddy-Daughter Dance	February 6
Mother Son Event	February 27
Easter Egg Hunt	March 19
Bridge Event	April 4
Silent Auction	April 25

Special thanks to  
 KGVL 1400 AM/105.9 FM  
 and KSST 1230 AM for  
 helping us spread the word  
 about our events!

## Donate to the Museum

Donations to the Northeast Texas Children's Museum can be made in multiple ways. Visit our website at [www.netxcm.com](http://www.netxcm.com) to donate through PayPal. You can also come by the Museum to make a donation at any time. You may also mail your donation with the form below. Remember that every dollar helps keep our doors open!



### Board Members

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*Executive Director*  
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*Vice President*

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### Donor Form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount of Donation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If sponsoring a day, let us know the birthday, anniversary, or other date that you would like to sponsor.**

**Send to:** Northeast Texas Children's Museum  
 P. O. Box 994  
 Commerce, Texas 75429