

Children's Museum on track for fun

Model train exhibit expands to include model trains



Photos courtesy of museum visitor Damien Sands & museum exhibits volunteer Earl Lewis

HO-train exhibit at Children's Museum in Utica. The museum has expanded exhibit by adding Lionel trains.

By ZURI BRANNEN Observer-Dispatch Posted Feb 10, 2011 @ 05:15 PM

UTICA — Get onboard with the fun at The Children's Museum. Just in time for the upcoming school break, museum has expanded its model train collection to include a new Lionel Train exhibit, which has new trains, portraits, as well as foot pedals to allow kids to operate the trains.

The museum, at 311 Main St., cut the ribbon on the exhibit. The trains were donated by Steve Mowers and Sam Crisino, who helped put the exhibit together. "This is where I get to play with trains and not get yelled at," said museum volunteer Leif Willson, who also worked on laying tracks and wires. "It's actually a hobby. It's more than having trains under the tree on Christmas. The first thing people want to see is the trains," Willson said. The museum recently opened an exhibit of HO model trains.

"I think it's awesome. My kids enjoyed it. It's just huge, and that's what makes the train set," said Damien Sands, who was visiting from Nassau, Bahamas, with his wife and two sons. Sands and his family are quite familiar with the Utica area, especially the museum. "The museum is one of the main places we visit for a good time and history," he said.

And coming up at the museum:

- **Field trips:** For the first time, **the museum will be collaborating with the Adirondack Scenic Railroad** to offer day long 4 ½ hour field trips for school groups, child care centers, senior & tour groups, that will include interacting with exhibits on all four floors of the children's museum (including the transportation floor), lunch, than a train ride to the Erie Canal, the Utica Marsh, and back with a brief program by the Adirondack Railroad that will be tailored to a specific grade level.
- **Oneida County Sheriff's Deputy Peter Servello** will be setting up a room designed to teach children how to be safe within their communities, learning how to make 911 calls, the rules and importance of bike and gun safety; learn about stranger danger and bullying self defense; they will be able to participate in a Child I.D. program that includes fingerprinting and photography. "I always wanted to do something like this to give back to the community and teach public safety," Servello said.
- **Superhero Room** where Marc Tucci shows children how to be their own "superheroes."

For more information about any of the programs, call 724-6129, or visit **www.museum4kids.net**.