

Olde Towne Depot celebrates one year

Special to The Clinton Courier

Since its grand opening one year ago, the Olde Towne Depot has seen over 4,100 visitors come through its doors. The facility has been host to almost two hundred events, and the calendar continues to be filled with rentals through 2019. Depot staff say children visit time and time again to enjoy the model railroad display, and Clintonians and visitors alike have gained a deep appreciation for the Clinton community's rich history.

Along with rentals, the Depot has hosted several events. Last summer, Off the Rails Summer Camp welcomed a small group of children to take part in hands-on activities and learn from a variety of guest speakers. The campers learned about trains around the globe and those right in their backyards. A pumpkin patch and Christmas tree farm helped kick off the holiday season as visitors had the chance to pick out their own seasonal decorations. The two-day Polar Express Pajama Party in December gave participants the chance to enjoy the movie with hot chocolate and snacks at the Depot, and holiday festivities continued with train rides and Christmas crafts at the Depot the following weekend.

The Olde Towne Depot hopes to be-



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come a place of nostalgia and tradition for Clinton families. Each of the children's events held in 2018 will be held again in 2019, with additional offerings and more local partnerships.

Depot staff are quick to point out that the Depot is not just for kids.

In January, The Detectives Comedy Dinner Theatre entertained guests with a show full of laughs. With some adult humor and the option to "bring your own beverage," attendees said the event made for a fun late-night-out with friends.

In addition to the dinner theatre, the Olde Towne Depot housed a temporary exhibit for Women's History Month in March. "Move Over, Sir! Women

Working on the Railroad" highlighted women's contributions to the railroad. From the Civil War to The Great Depression, World War II to the Civil Rights Movement, women have been influential in sustaining and expanding railroads.

The Depot plans to host more temporary exhibits in the future, including an upcoming exhibit later this month. Clintonians can visit the Olde Towne Depot from April 16-20 to view an art exhibit by students in the Mississippi College art department.

In addition to numerous new displays inside the building, Clintonians will soon see Turner the Train offering rides at various public events. Turner the

Train, a large tractor-driven land train, was built by Independent Metal Craft in Clinton. Turner the Train is named for Louis Turner, who laid the bricks on Olde Towne's brick streets.

With many new displays, including pull up banners featuring Charles Caldwell and Sarah Dickey, a vintage wall telephone, donated artwork and more, staff say the Olde Towne Depot is ever evolving. Recurring events like the Reading Railroad and Olde Towne Rail Club meetings welcome both new and familiar faces. Staff say the Olde Towne Depot is looking forward to serving the community for another year.

For more information about Depot events, call 601-924-5472.

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ENRICHMENT CLUBS & CAMPS

Santa Science

Science Class is coming to town... this semester! In his sleigh are tons of exciting, hands-on science experiments, including building a model of a rocket, testing different materials, and even more! This week of excitement and fun will be sure to get your little ones excited!

A Week at the Spa

Spa day is... relaxing! Relax, unwind, and learn the best way to be relaxing on your own! This week of relaxation and fun will be sure to get your little ones excited!

"Whizz"ing World

Adventure all day long! We invite you to explore the "Whizz" world of science, technology, and more! This week of excitement and fun will be sure to get your little ones excited!

Robotics: Game On!

Robotics! Robots! Get to the point where you can build a robot that can do anything! This week of excitement and fun will be sure to get your little ones excited!

Camp Dates

June 3-7 Eastside Elementary Clinton, MS Robotics: Game On (K-6) A Week at the Spa (K-6)	June 10-14 Eastside Elementary Clinton, MS Santa Science (K-3) Whizzing World (3-6)	July 22-26 Red Caboose Building Madison, MS A Week at the Spa (K-6) Santa Science (K-3) Whizzing World (3-6)
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Camp Pricing

Register before May 1 Register after May 1	Whole Day (M-F) \$280 per week \$330 per week	Half Day (M-Th) \$140 per week \$150 per week
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