

## **GARDEN SPOT VILLAGE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB ANNOUNCES 2011 OPEN HOUSE DATES**

*2011 schedule includes Monday hours after Christmas and New Year's weekends*

**NEW HOLLAND, Pa. — Oct. 27, 2011** — When the air get crisp and the sun sets earlier, you can bet that the members of the Garden Spot Village Train Club are preparing for 2,000 or so visitors they expect this holiday season.

The club invites area families and train enthusiasts to their annual open house, which will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, and on Mon., Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

“With Christmas and New Year’s falling on a Sunday this year, we decided to open on Monday instead of Saturday on those weekends,” said Harry Black, one of about 20 Train Club members, all of whom share the title “vice president” and who donate their time, money and equipment to work on the trains for their own enjoyment and to entertain others.

The community’s train room features an O-gauge display as well as an HO-gauge layout with more than 600 feet of main line track. Begun in 2005, the HO-gauge layout is still a work in progress. The group spent much of the summer on the behind-the-scenes work that makes the display come alive.

“We automated all the HO turnouts and built a large display board showing the turnout positions,” Black said. “That helps the movement of rolling stock in the new yard layout.”

Regular visitors will notice that the engine turntable in the switching yard is now operational and can position engines in a 12-stall roundhouse. Red and green lights over each door indicate whether the stall is occupied.

“One of our members who’s talented with electrical work customized that for us,” Black said.

In the freight yard, the club is working on a water reservoir to supply the towers discharging water into the waiting engine tenders. A nearby factory area is also in the final stages of completion.

Club members have added detail to “Thomasville,” which provides a backdrop for Thomas the Tank Engine. People walk the streets. An ice cream truck sits at the curb, ready for the waiting children. A hillside overlooking the town features a park and houses reminiscent of San Francisco’s famous “painted ladies.”

While the displays are open, the club will also hold a sale of model train components and back issues of model train magazines at bargain prices.

Garden Spot Village is located at 433 S. Kinzer Ave. Admission is free; donations are accepted. For information and directions, call 717-355-6000.

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*Thomas the Tank Engine will be among the highlights of the model train display at Garden Spot Village, 433 S. Kinzer Ave., New Holland, during the holiday season. The train room is open to the public from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 26, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17, as well as Mon., Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.*



*An ice cream vendor dispenses goodies in the town of Thomasville, one of the exquisitely detailed scenes. The train room will be open to the public from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 26, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17, as well as Mon., Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.*