

## LOCAL

# Thomas the Tank Engine™ to visit the Texas State Railroad



Courtesy Photo

Thomas the Train will appear in Rusk this weekend.

Rusk, TX – Peep! Peep! Thomas the Tank Engine is set to roll into Texas for the Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour. The event, which takes place October 17, 18, 19 and 24, 25, 26, 2008, will be hosted by the Texas State Railroad and presented by HIT Entertainment and sponsored by the LEGO Group.

For more than six decades, children have been captivated with the tales of Thomas the Tank Engine. Pulling out of the station for its 13th consecutive ride on the rails, the Day Out With

Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour will visit more than 45 cities in the United States and Canada. Day Out With Thomas is the only place for families to take a ride with a 15-ton replica of everybody's favorite #1 engine, Thomas the Tank Engine, and enjoy Thomas-themed activities at the Imagination Station, including stamps, temporary tattoos and hands-on arts and crafts. Each year the tour grows, traveling to new destinations, adding new activities and welcoming new visitors.

Thomas the Tank

Engine, star of Thomas & Friends™, on PBS KIDS® and PBS KIDS SproutSM will be kicking off his Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour in March and is expected to welcome more than 1 million passengers through December. During the Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour, children will be provided with a "Great Discovery Tour Map," that guides them through the various event activities. At the last stop, each child will receive a free gift. Activities include:

A 30-minute ride with Thomas the Tank Engine

The opportunity to meet Sir Topham Hatt™, Controller of the Railway

A Thomas & Friends Imagination Station; featuring stamps, temporary tattoos, hands-on arts and crafts activities and coloring sheets.

Storytelling, video viewing and live music.

Fans will rally to nominate Thomas to the "National Toy Hall of Fame" when he will enlist the help of his friends on a brand-new adventure - his journey to the National Toy Hall of Fame®. All attendees can add their name to the petition. The National Toy Hall of Fame, at the Strong National Museum of Play®, in Rochester, NY,

recognizes toys that have achieved Icon Status, having enjoyed popularity over multiple generations. By signing a petition at any of the 2008 Day Out with Thomas Events, fans can help Thomas make tracks to The National Toy Hall of Fame.

The tour provides a unique, interactive family experience at every station, offering a variety of entertaining activities that reflect the local flavor of each stop. At the Texas State Railroad activities will include: Bounce houses, miniature horses, hayride, balloon animals, gold dig & bubbles.

The approximately 30-minute train ride with Thomas the Tank Engine will depart every 45 minutes, rain

or shine, with departure times at 10:00am through 3:15pm on Fridays & Sundays and 10:00 am through 4:00 pm on Saturdays. Tickets for the Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour are \$18 plus tax for ages two and up.

Tickets are on sale now by calling toll-free 866.468.7630 or logging onto [www.ticketweb.com/thomas](http://www.ticketweb.com/thomas). For more information and directions contact the Texas State Railroad at 1-888-987-2461 or visit [www.TexasStateRR.com](http://www.TexasStateRR.com).

For general information or to find a Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour event near you, visit, [www.thomasandfriends.com](http://www.thomasandfriends.com).

## ETMC breaks ground on major expansion project near Lake



Courtesy photo

This artist rendering shows the \$9 million expansion project ETMC is undertaking.

East Texas Medical Center has started construction on a \$9 million facility near Lake Palestine to provide state-of-the-art fitness and outpatient rehabilitation services, as well as a new and expanded physician clinic.

The ETMC Regional Healthcare System purchased the land, located at FM 344 and Highway 155 in Flint, several years ago to prepare for growth in southern Smith County, according to CEO/President Elmer G. Ellis. "The communities in the Lake Palestine area have really exploded in growth over the past several years, and this expansion will help us better serve the needs of East Texans and bring healthcare closer to home," Ellis said.

The 25,000 square foot healthcare facility features a striking contemporary design with a wall of glass extending three stories high. (See attached

renderings.)

ETMC Lake Palestine will include a physician clinic with extended-hour urgent care. ETMC First Physician Dr. Gary Babbitt, Dr. C. Renee Bean and other physicians will practice at the new clinic. Dr. Babbitt has been serving area residents since 1991. Dr. Babbitt and Dr. Bean currently offer services in a temporary building on the site of the new facility.

ETMC also plans to offer imaging services, such as a CT scan, digital mammography,

X-ray and diagnostic testing. Other services will include physical therapy, cardiac rehab and possibly a sleep lab. The building is also expandable for future growth needs.

"ETMC Lake Palestine will not only help people when they are sick but also encourage a healthy lifestyle with the addition of our Olympic Center,"

Ellis said. The two-story fitness facility will include a swimming pool for both free-style activities and rehabilitation, as well as modern exercise equipment, aerobics and other group exercise classes and a suspended indoor walking track that overlooks the fitness floor.

The ETMC Olympic Center will also feature degree/certified fitness staff, fitness assessments and exercise prescriptions. The cardio equipment has I-pod capability with individual TV monitors on the equipment. ETMC will also offer cardiac rehab with specialized classes and instructors as well as physical therapy and other types of rehab.

The construction should be completed in late 2009. ETMC will offer more information on memberships to this Olympic Center in the coming months.

### Effective October 21, 2008 EMERALD BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

#### CHANGES to the Emerald Bay Municipal Utility District Water and Sewer Service Rules and Regulations:

Adding to existing Sec. 1.03, **Definitions**, two more subparts, viz:

(a) A **New Member** means a person(s) who has applied for membership, and who has been accepted by Emerald Bay Club, Inc. and Emerald Bay Homeowners Association, and who is in the process of purchasing real property within the Emerald Bay Municipal Utility District.

(b) A **Current Member** means a person(s) who is already a member in good standing of the Emerald Bay Club, Inc. and Emerald Bay Homeowners Association, and a current water and wastewater service subscriber of the Emerald Bay Municipal Utility District. A current member must own real property within the boundaries of the Emerald Bay Municipal Utility District.

Adding a new section, Sec. 2.16, styled "Terminations of Water and/or Wastewater service" with three subparts, viz:

(a) When any applicant for new water service, new wastewater service, transfer of water and/or wastewater service, District required plumbing inspection, requested TRCC building inspection, whether the service is commercial or residential, makes application for any (1) one service or a combination of any of the services, the District will grant temporary water and/or wastewater service to the applicant. In the case of *transfer of service*, the Customer Service Inspection (CSI Inspection) and Backflow Test and Maintenance Reports are required to be completed and on file at the District office within (30) thirty days of application for permanent service to continue. In the case of *new construction or major renovation* valued at over \$10,000.00, reasonable time will be granted up to (1) year from the date of application for the completion of all required District Plumbing and requested Texas Residential Construction Commission (TRCC) Inspection Reports, Customer Service Inspection Reports, Backflow Test and Maintenance Reports, and Water and Wastewater "TAP" Location Sketches. If additional time is required the applicant may request a time extension from the board of directors of the Emerald Bay Municipal Utility District.

(b) The District reserves the right to terminate water and/or waste water service in the event that any applicant for service fails to pay all currently required fees and charges or fails to complete and submit to the District office 155 La Salle Drive, Bullard, Texas 75757, all required District Plumbing and Texas Residential Construction Commission Inspection Reports; Customer Service Inspection Reports; Backflow Test and Maintenance Reports; Water and Wastewater "TAP" Location Sketches; and, Water Service Agreements and Sanitary Sewer Service Agreements."

(c) The District reserves the right to terminate water and/or waste water service in the event that any Property Owner, New Member or Current Member, as defined in Sec. 1.03, **Definitions**, of the "Emerald Bay Municipal Utility District Water and Sewer Service Rules and Regulations," fails to enter into a Water Service Agreement and/or Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement with the District as required by Sec. 2.02(b), **Application for Services**. Sec. 2.08(a)(3),(4), **Unauthorized Use of Water and Wastewater Systems**, of the "Emerald Bay Municipal Utility District Water and Sewer Service Rules and Regulations."

Adding to **Schedule "A", "FEES AND CHARGES"**, an introductory statement, viz:

Note: Failure to make application prior to the start of construction of new residences or substantial repairs or renovations of \$10,000 or more involving water and/or sanitary sewer plumbing will result in a 50% penalty being assessed with respect to all required fees and escrow costs, and, furthermore, such failure could delay water and wastewater service activation.

**NOTE:** A complete version of these Rules and Regulations is available for review by contacting the District at 903-825-6960 or at its website [www.emerald-bay-tx.gov](http://www.emerald-bay-tx.gov). These provisions of the Rules will become effective October 21, 2008.

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