

## ALL ABOARD



Staff photos by Ric Dugan

Visitors check out the vendors on East Potomac Street in downtown Brunswick on Sunday during Brunswick Railroad Days.

# Craft and food vendors fill downtown Brunswick for annual Railroad Days



Natalie Tadesse and her son Niko Tadesse watch trains go around the tracks of a model train display at the Brunswick American Legion Post 96 on Sunday at Brunswick Railroad Days. They live in Adamstown.

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Vendors selling food and handmade crafts lined the streets of downtown Brunswick this weekend in the city's annual celebration of its history and local talent.

Brunswick Railroad Days, which took place Saturday and Sunday, saw nearly 4,000 visitors on the first day alone, according to event coordinator Lauren Craker.

With more than 120 vendors, a larger food variety and various bands playing live music, this year's event had one of the largest turnouts ever, said Craker, who has been involved with the event for eight years.

Craker said she could not have planned such an event without other city departments and the downtown local businesses "that have helped contribute and just help make this festival shine."

At one booth, Jessica Kegel sold handmade engraved wood products and soy coconut candles in recycled glass containers.

Kegel runs the small business

(See **BRUNSWICK A10**)



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(BRUNSWICK from A1)

Fate and Folly with her husband, and this was their second year participating in Railroad Days.

The event is profitable and provides great marketing opportunities for their business, Kegel said.

Kegel currently works as a biostatistician but hopes to grow Fate and Folly to become a full-time small business owner.

She enjoys the live music, meeting customers and connecting with fellow vendors.

Brunswick resident Terri Bonesteel wandered through the vendor booths on Sunday with her 11-year-old daughter, Lizzie Rhoades. They have attended the annual event for more than a decade and recommend it to others.

Rhoades said she enjoys looking at the handmade crafts, especially the stuffed animals. Her grandfather volunteers at the Brunswick Heritage Museum, so the pair visited him as well.

"You see everybody you know, and it's usually a gorgeous weekend," Bonesteel said.

Todd Garvis and Kim Lazarow, who live in downtown Brunswick, also enjoyed the event Sunday.

"We just really like to see the activity in downtown Brunswick," Lazarow said. "We're all about Brunswick growing, and it's changed a lot over the last few years."

The couple, which has lived in the town for five years, now owns the historic house that was built by Dr. Arlington Horine. Horine is a former Brunswick mayor and operated a drug store and soda shop in the building.

Horine's great grandchildren, Debbie Grooms, 70, Gemma Moren, 61, and Rob Dowlinge, 55, attended the event on Sunday.

Horine's descendants, whose mother was born in the Brunswick house, said on Sunday their mother died last year. They visited the town for last year's Railroad Days and stayed at the house in her memory.

Garvis and Lazarow, who operate short-term rentals in the house, said they blocked off reservations this weekend for the Horine family to stay for the annual event.

Grooms said she enjoyed visiting Brunswick to see the evolution of the town and the building since they visited as children.

"I like coming back just to see the building, and to know that our family was walking around in there, and it's neat," Dowlinge said.

They have sent many of their family artifacts to the Brunswick Heritage Museum for preservation.

The siblings said they enjoy reconnecting with their roots, connecting with the friendly residents and admiring the town's trains.



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**Benjamin Grant, left, and Renee Grutzik look over books at the Brunswick Library Book Sale on Sunday at Brunswick Railroad Days. They came from Charlottesville, Virginia, for the event.**



**Beth Hancock of Glen Burnie paints a Maryland crab shell at her vendor's tent.**