



LOCOMOTIVE LOVE... *The Maryland Central Model Railroad Club will turn the inside of this historic garage at King Farm into its meeting and model exhibition space, which will eventually be open to the public.*

Model Railroad Club Coming to King Farm

*"Maryland Central" Sets Up in Rockville;
Residents to View Train Exhibits in Future*

The trains that once roared through Rockville are about to return—just at a smaller size.

The Maryland Central Model Railroad Club (MCMRC) has made an agreement with the City that will allow the 30-member club to bring alive the five-car garage on the historic King Farm Farmstead with scale-model trains and scenery. The garage, whose train exhibitions eventually will be open for public viewing, also will have meeting space.

Utilization of the five-car garage is a first step as the City works to restore the Farmstead into a lively park. The Farmstead is the remainder of the long-time dairy farm that mostly has been transformed into the King Farm community, one of the Washington area's most innovative new mixed-

used developments.

MCMRC members mostly hail from the Maryland suburbs of Washington. The group typically meets weekly to combine their unique talents and interests for model railroading.

"There are so many aspects of the hobby and different people specialize in different aspects," said MCMRC President Tom Matty, who has been a fan of trains since he was 4. "Some are into electronics and control systems, while others like recreating scenery, building landscapes or faithfully reproducing models of diesel locomotives. Others simply like to run the trains. The synergy of all the individual pieces come together to give you a much more tremendous product."

The group has existed for nearly 50 years and has displayed its model railroads in

the Rockville Train Station, the National Capital Trolley Museum and for the last 22 years in a church in Silver Spring. Upon losing that lease agreement, they began to search for new club space.

MCMRC will lease the garage for 10 years at an annual lease rate of \$1,200 per year. The agreement was endorsed by the King Farm Farmstead Task Force, which includes several King Farm residents. The Task Force has been working on various methods of restoring the Farmstead.

MCMRC likely will pay some of its rent in "sweat equity," receiving credit for reno-



A club member works on a display in Tom Matty's home basement.

vation work done on the garage. The outside appearance of the facility will remain unchanged.

The group has begun its clean-up work and the remainder of the renovations are expected to take about a year before the group can start setting up the trains. The public likely will be able to view the trains in about two years.

For more information visit www.mcmrr.com, call 301-340-5444 or e-mail info@mcmrr.com.RR