



# THE FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

The Newsletter of the McNeill Street Pumping Station Preservation Society

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Winter 2021

## You're Invited

The Shreveport Railroad Museum at Shreveport Water Works Museum has been closed for remodeling for a couple of months now, but the wait to see the results is almost over. New displays have been added and old ones freshened up. Also, something that may not be all that obvious to the average visitor is that a lot of work went into upgrading the lighting.

The star attraction is a new HO-gauge train model. The model was constructed on site from scratch by expert volunteers with the railroad society and depicts the downtown Shreveport area as it was in the 1960's. It looks GREAT and you'll spend some time studying the "I remember that" scenes and being amazed at the detail of the model.

A "soft opening" of the new museum is scheduled for Sunday afternoon January 30 from 12p to 4p. Everyone is invited to come on out and have a look while you visit with other rail fans from around the area. There will be a brief program about 2pm with snacks available afterwards. Be sure to say "thanks" to volunteers Jim McClure, Jim Monk, Tom Duval, and Jason Busey for all the time, work, and expertise they donated.

We'll be looking forward to a "grand opening" in May in conjunction with National Train Day. More information on that later!



*Working on the new railroad model*

## Repairs

The building at the old Pumping Station is old! Some parts go all the way back to 1887 and the last major addition was the main pump room in 1921. If you've cared for an old building yourself, you know that things wear out and deteriorate and often need some tender-loving-care.



*Gutter left hanging by the ice*



*Broken glass & repair work. Not that easy to get to!*

The windows and gutters definitely needed some TLC after the ice storm and deep freeze last February. Thick ice accumulated in and on the gutters and roof during the event and as



*Before and after views of the formerly dilapidated entry doors*

reported in an earlier newsletter, it was not friendly to the pumphouse. The weight of the ice pulled gutters loose from the eaves in multiple sections and left them hanging. The roof was fine, but when the thaw came, the ice slid off and in certain areas it drew a bullseye on adjacent windows and proceeded to knock them out. The city came to the rescue with gutter repairs and with new window glass finally getting installed last October.

The main pump room has some impressively large double entry doors on the west side and the north side. The doors on the north side each had suffered broken joints in their boards over the years that left them sagging and unable to be latched or used. Each door is 4 feet by 9 feet and heavy, and they threatened to fall completely apart when moved, and moving DID happen on occasion when the wind would blow hard enough during a storm. The Preservation Society provided the TLC for this problem and furnished material and labor to restore the doors. Now they look great, open and close, and latch!

## **Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the membership of McNeill Street Pumping Station Preservation Society is scheduled for 5 pm on February 7 in the meeting room at the museum. The principal business will be election of directors to the board to fill expiring terms. All Preservation Society members are invited.