
NEWS RELEASE

Louisiana
Department of State



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STEAM ENGINE RESTORATION RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
AT SHREVEPORT WATER WORKS MUSEUM

Secretary of State Jay Dardenne is announcing the commissioning of the electric rim drive on one of the vintage crank-and-flywheel steam engines at the Shreveport Water Works Museum located at the McNeill Street Pumping Station. First Assistant Secretary of State Tom Schedler and museum staff will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the occasion at the museum on Friday, April 11 at noon.

A team of volunteers has constructed and installed an electric motor drive system, called a rim drive, which has animated one of the large crank-and-flywheel steam engines. The flywheel on the steam engine is 13 feet 6 inches in diameter and turns at three revolutions per minute with the rim drive. The engine is restored to its original operating appearance with all linkages, drive shafts and flyball governor functioning. General Motors in Shreveport and the McNeill Street Pumping Station Preservation Society funded the restoration project.

The McNeill Street Pumping Station, built in 1887, was the nation's last operating steam-powered water works when steam engines were retired in 1980. In addition, three of the steam engines at the museum are considered to be some of the oldest examples of their type. The water works was also one of the first places in the nation to practice filtration and chlorination.

The public is invited to view the restored steam engine during an open house on Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free and the building is wheelchair accessible.

For more information about the Shreveport Water Works Museum, visit our Web site at <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/museums> or call 318-221-3388.

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