

# Silvis News



## The Quiet Giant

At the north end of town sits an enormous building constructed in 1903 full of rail road history.

This spring I was granted unprecedented access to National Railway Equipment Company also know as NRE. The visual delights I experienced would make the modest of train enthusiast mouth water with excitement.

Guiding my personal hour and a half long tour was the operations manager, Pat Murphy. Inside the halls of this massive six plus acre facility once occupied by the Rock Island lines as a equipment repair facility. I soon became overwhelmed with the visual treats of locomotive heaven. From the outside you may consider, this must be where locomotives come to die. Contrary, rebirth is about to begin for these old iron horses.

National Railway Equipment is the largest employee-owned locomotive repair and refurbishing company in North America.

NRE purchased the Silvis facility in 1990, and their corporate headquarters is located in Mt. Vernon, IL. NRE has several repair and specialty shop locations throughout the United States including Silvis, IL; Milwaukee, WI; Houma, LA; Paducah, KY; Calgary, AB; with satellite offices in Australia, Croatia, Africa, India, and the UK.

NRE's reach spans the globe, and the list of services are seemingly endless. From complete locomotive refurbishing, black box recording systems, dynamic braking controls, and the list goes on and on.

Murphy explained, "the locomotive industry is going through a cycle, and NRE has recently emerged out of a two year low." For several years the market looked to new locomotives, although lacking any substantial government incentives recently. Buyers are looking towards the used market as a cost saving measure.

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“Visual treats of locomotive heaven”





thousand to an half a million dollars, and that's with today's technology packed inside". Furthermore, he elaborated, many of the newer and much larger locomotives are too heavy for many of the nations aging tracks. Additional track upgrades are also a must to run the newer and much heavier locomotives. Overall, purchasing an older revamped locomotive built for the most current track conditions adds to the benefit of

no matter if its refurbished or purchased new, but some owners are attempting to stretch an additional two years" says Murphy.

As the market swings towards used locomotives within the past year business is picking up and NRE is looking to expand their work force. "We currently have 63 employees" says Murphy, and "we are looking to expand that number considerably. We are looking for general labors, electricians, pipe fitters and welders. People that want to come to work, and make decent pay with great benefits."

For further information about NRE please visit [www.nre.com](http://www.nre.com)

By Matt Carter

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"Nearly four million dollars is the going rate for a new locomotive, says Murphy. "On the other hand, a rebuilt unit would run in the neighborhood of one hundred

What is the life expectancy of new versus used? "Ten years is the general rule. The life of a locomotive is generally ten years before a complete overhaul is due



## Let's Ride !

Did you know Silvis has a full service bicycle repair and sales shop? Timothy and Loree Phlypo opened Let's Ride on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and their customer base has been growing ever since. In 1972 Tim started riding. Over the years his passion grew into first a job then his own business. Continuous riding has helped him recover from a few hip replacements, bicycles are his life.

Whether you are looking for a bicycle, bicycle accessories, or bicycle repair you can find it all right here in town. Let's Ride is located at 89 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The full service shop includes tune-ups, details, and all things tires. Tim even carries bicycle clothing. So if your biking needs are beginner, advanced, or anywhere in between he has you covered. For a full list of services and prices go to [www.letsrideinc.com](http://www.letsrideinc.com).

Let's Ride promotes safe riding. Some of Tim's safety tips include bells, lights, bright colors, helmets, and always being prepared for the unexpected.

The best part of visiting Let's Ride is the knowledgeable and friendly owners. Tim and Loree invite you to stop by to look around or ask questions anytime.

You can find them hard at work Monday-Friday 10:00-5:30 and Saturday 10:00-2:00. So as Tim says, "Stop in and Let's Ride!"

By Laci Weber

**"Spring is here and we are making deals on over 80 bikes in stock"**







# Cooperative Effort Helps Beautify the Downtown

Silvis Main Street, the City of Silvis, Silvis Garden Club and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue business owners worked together last summer to enhance the look of the downtown.



Silvis Main Street and the City bought 8 huge cement planters last spring. The Silvis Garden Club purchased soil, donated and planted over 80 plants. While Silvis Garden Club fertilized and deadheaded all the plants, the most important job was done by the First Avenue business owners who agreed to water the planters daily. It couldn't have been possible without the downtown businesses commitment to help.

We would like to recognize their efforts: Brian at **Avenue Tap**, Jose & Maria at **El Pueblo Mexican Grill**, **Silvis Library** youth group, employees at **San Luis Food Market**, employees at **QC Custom Tees**, Flora Cantu of **Salon El Molino**, employees at **Quad City Bar and Stool**, and Travis of **Water World Aquatics**. Thank you!

*By Kathy Hall*





# McGehee Center Rental



McGehee center can be rented for \$25 per hour with a minimum 2 hour rental. \$100 deposit is required and non-profit organizations are waved the deposit. Rental hours are from 8am-10pm seven days a week, 365 days a year. Cash is required for the deposit and hourly rate. Proof of Silvis residency is required. Rent of the center includes 70-75 table and chairs, 42 cup coffee pot, chaffing pans, refrigerator, garbage cans and liners. Reservations must be made in person at the city clerks office.



## Silvis Garden Club



Opening day for the Silvis Garden Club greenhouse is April 21st at 9am. The greenhouse is located at 651 1st Ave. North. Greenhouse hours for the spring of 2018: Tuesday-Saturday 9am-1pm, Sunday 1pm-4pm, closed on Monday.

Aprils edition is brought you by caring residents of Silvis in coordination with the Silvis Arts Council

## City wide hydrant flushing April 2nd thru 20th

