

Station Update by Gary Farkash

Since last year when we opened up for our first season, many improvements have been made to the Museum building.

Our volunteers removed a lot of excess electrical cables that were no longer hooked up to the circuit breaker panel and filled quite a few openings in the brick walls where old fixtures were previously removed by the LIRR before they turned the building over to the Town of Oyster Bay. We had Wi-Fi installed to allow us to finally accept credit cards which increased our sales by 40% over the last year in the old visitors center. The volunteers, led by George Schlichter, fabricated and built a new 12 foot long by 8 foot wide O gauge layout and we installed new displays featuring Model Railroading scales as well as another featuring the LIRR's involvement in the NEW YORK World's Fairs of 1939/40 & 1964/65.



Also installed for this year was an artifact from the former Nassau Tower which stood almost 100 years in Mineola and was removed for the new 3rd track. We were fortunate that our friend, Danny Quinn of the LIRR knew how important this artifact was to OBRM as it featured the LONG ISLAND SUNRISE SPECIAL logo which adorned the tender of G5s #21 and was a permanent part of the North tower wall. He worked with the LIRR and 3TC, the contractors to make sure it was saved and turned over to OBRM. This tender was retired along with our #35 steam locomotive and is in our possession in the display yard.

Our biggest upgrades however, were the addition of our 2 new bathrooms and all of the new plumbing under the building. We now have running water and working facilities! No more porta potties at the Museum building.

We have to thank one of our biggest supporters, Steve Minicozzi, who donated his labor and the fixtures to build them. All that is left now is a bit more electrical work to hook up the water heater and all of the electrical fixtures such as the lights and hand driers.

Once we are given the new Certificate of Occupancy, we will open our museum doors to the public.

