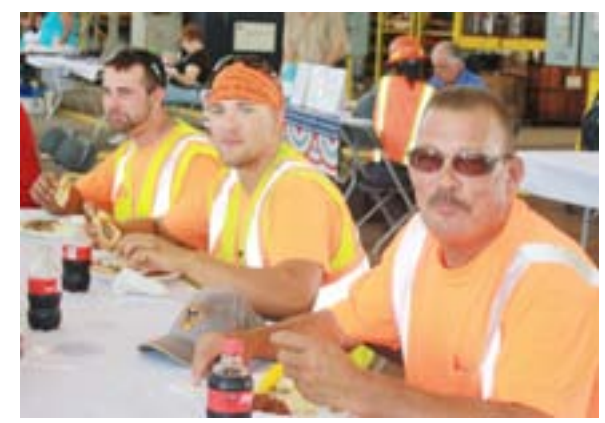
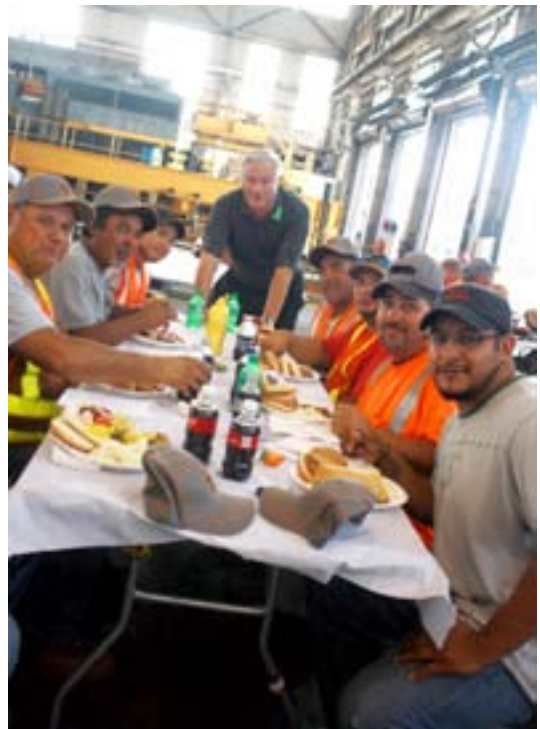




Connections



President Pat O'Brien, center, commends BRC employees on their success this year and thanks them for their daily commitment to safety.

Stage set for strong finish

Every year, the Belt Railway Company of Chicago hosts a safety barbecue to thank employees for their hard work and dedication. This year's event was a little different.

There was a buzz in the air as employees looked back with great pride on what they had accomplished. They laid a solid foundation for a strong 2011 finish.

"We've been extremely busy this year — one of the busiest yards around," said John Lucio, carman and safety committee chairman. "Everyone's keeping their head in the game, and they are committed."

An estimated 350 employees celebrated success Sept. 1 between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. They enjoyed good food and music, all the while knowing that safety doesn't end when the grill's turned off.

As fall weather sets in and employees brace for the winter weather ahead, they will be faced with new challenges.

"We all have the same goal: work safely and move cars," said Mike Romano, director of Police and Risk Management. "If we stay

committed to safety, I believe we can go the remainder of the year without a reportable injury."

Employees' commitment to safety last year certainly paid off. The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association awarded BRC a Jake Certificate for 2010. The award is given to any member railroad that finishes the calendar year with an FRA frequency rate less than or equal to the industry average.

A special thanks to everyone who volunteered at the 2011 Safety Barbecue.



From left, Safety Committee Chairmen John Lucio, carman, and Mike Romano, director of Police and Risk Management, say the BRC is on track to finish the year on a high safety note.

BRC provides essential service



It's no secret the Belt Railway Company of Chicago is a major contributor to railroad success in Chicagoland. All Class I railroads do business with the BRC and appreciate the service it provides.

"The function it performs is essential to the railroad industry and all the Class I railroads in Chicago," said Cressie Brown, CSX Transportation vice president, Service Design and Advanced Technology and BRC board member. "We enjoy

working with the BRC and look forward to future business."

Brown joined the BRC safety barbecue celebration Sept. 1. She said one doesn't have to look very hard to find determined and committed employees at BRC.

"You can see the strong commitment from their employees," she said. "They take a lot of pride in the work they do and in the history of the BRC. It shows in their success."

CSX Transportation Vice President, Service Design and Advanced Technology and BRC board member Cressie Brown says the Class I railroad enjoys doing business with the Belt Railway Company of Chicago.

Members of Chicagoland Chamber, OECD tour BRC

Belt Railway Company of Chicago hosted members of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) June 22.

Led by Lance Pressl, president of the Chicagoland Chamber, the two groups work to keep the region economically competitive.

OECD embarked on an 18-month economic assessment of Chicago, north-west Indiana and southeast Wisconsin. Representatives toured BNSF Railway and Union Pacific intermodal facilities, and visited the BRC to view its hump yard operations.

"The Belt is a great one-stop shop to experience the rail industry in Chicago, and it is in the busiest railroad hub in the United States," said Tim Coffey, general counsel,

secretary and director of Human Resources. "Our two-way hump system is unique and draws a lot of attention."

Along with Pressl, Mary Pitz, Chicagoland Chamber; Kenneth Button, OECD; Javier Sanchez Reaza, OECD; Evert-Jan Visser, OECD; Ola Goransson, OECD; and David Miller, former mayor of Toronto, toured the BRC.

"It was a diverse group with individuals from Great Britain, Sweden, Denmark, and Canada," Coffey said. "We were happy to host members of the Chicagoland Chamber and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and look forward to assisting with their mission in the future."

In a letter, Pressl expressed his gratitude to Coffey and BRC, stating, "For everyone involved, it was enriching, informative and successful, and we have you to



Visitors frequent the Belt Railway Company of Chicago because of its unique double hump operations that can be viewed from the hump tower.

thank ... we look forward to your continued support as we persist in our mission to better the region."

Coffey said Steve Hoye, director of Agency & Customer Service, was instrumental in hosting the group. He thanks all employees for presenting the BRC in a professional manner.

Mr. Utility

Name the yard job and Switchman Kevin Wern is ready and willing to work it.

"I don't mind doing a different job every day," he said. "I like it; and it keeps me on my toes."

Whether he's working a job in west yard, on the hump or as a utility man, Wern practices good situational awareness every day to ensure he's ready for every variable that comes his way.

"You have to identify the hazards of every job and adjust to the changing conditions," he said. "It's all about eliminating potential risks involved."

Wern said yard employees have adjusted well to heat and severe storms this summer.

"We deal with a lot of variables," he said. "We've had some big storms this year, and they come up fast. We have to pay attention and know storms are always a possibility."

Wern is a 17-year injury-free Belt Railway Company of Chicago employee. He said paying attention to the little details will help him go home safely to his family.

He and his wife, Jenny, have been married 20 years. He enjoys spending time with his stepdaughter, Deidre, and 10-year-old granddaughter, Alexis.



Switchman Kevin Wern

Eagle Eye Awards

One doesn't have to look far to see Belt Railway Company of Chicago employees making a difference.

They routinely make contributions that demonstrate situational awareness of their working environment and safety of co-workers. Many go the extra step and lend a hand when needed to ensure the efficiency of operations.

Above-and-beyond efforts are much appreciated by all BRC employees.

These employees were recognized for their Eagle Eye efforts:

- **Frank Meyers, Feb. 25**

While driving down 01 West for an air test, Meyers noticed hump engine 565 had broken apart, causing a separation. He immediately contacted the trainmaster and car foreman on duty.

- **Thomas Coco, March 5**

At 9 a.m., Coco noticed and reported a broken rail on 01 West Receiving. His situational awareness helped prevent an incident or derailment.

- **William Sikorra, April 3**

Sikorra prevented an incident from escalating by noticing a derailment on 15 West Receiving. His attentiveness and quick action stopped unknowing crews from shoving up 01 West approach.

- **Charles Pickett, May 12**

While working the East Hump assignment, Pickett noticed 15 East Class derailed at approximately 12:15 p.m. He quickly notified the West Hump conductor of the derailment, halting operations.

- **John Hartford, May 25**

Hartford noticed a large piece of steel under cars on track 18 at Commercial Avenue. He contacted supervision at BRC, preventing a potential incident or derailment.

- **Ed Gibson, June 4**

At approximately 3:30 p.m., Gibson noticed downed power lines as a result of a severe storm that passed through Chicago. He immediately contacted the West yardmaster, starting the chain of response. His actions prevented potential serious injury to co-workers.



GenSets a big hit, BRC secures more funding

More GenSet locomotives will make their way to Belt Railway Company of Chicago in the near future. BRC signed an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation and Village of Bedford Park, securing a grant for three more environmentally friendly locomotives.

"This is a big deal for us; a chance to upgrade our fleet at one-third of the cost,"

said Tim Coffey, general counsel, secretary and director of Human Resources.

BRC secured funding for its first three GenSet locomotives in 2010, and selected National Railway Equipment Co. as the manufacturer.

"We may use NREC again, but are looking at all of our options," Coffey said. "We hope to make a decision by Nov. 1."

Employees gave good reviews of the first three GenSets that arrived on property in spring.

"They are a

little different and take some time getting used to," said Mike Morrison, switchman. "But they are nice; the cabs are more quiet and comfortable. It's nice to see an update in technology."

GenSet locomotives run on diesel fuel like existing diesel locomotives, but use considerably less amounts of fuel because of the ability to shut off engines. This allows for fuel savings of 30 to 40 percent compared to existing diesel locomotives.

The locomotives are more environmentally friendly than traditional diesel locomotives and reduce air pollution.

"These locomotives are good for the environment, and I would like to see us get a few more," said Mike Dawson, conductor.



ABOVE: From left, Mike Dawson, conductor, and Mike Morrison, switchman, look forward to more GenSets. **RIGHT:** The BRC GenSet fleet will grow to six locomotives following an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Village of Bedford Park.

Zavala's feet firmly on BRC ground

After working high above street level for nearly 15 years, Aurelio Zavala is happy to have his feet firmly planted on Belt Railway Company of Chicago property.

"I was a bricklayer for 15 years in Chicagoland," he said. "I've worked as high as 38 stories up."

Zavala joined the BRC team Dec. 3 as a switchman. He has adjusted well to his new career and understands the importance of avoiding complacency while on the job.

"We're working with a lot of moving equipment; I need to always be aware of my surroundings," he said.

Though he's still learning about the railroad, Zavala is happy to share his knowledge with new employees.

"That's part of the job," he said. "I'm learning everything from the experienced employees here, and I need to share what I know. We all work safely together."

Zavala has many reasons to work safely, none more important than for his family. He and his wife, Aracely, have



From left, Switchmen Aurelio Zavala and Julian Olivas appreciate being part of the BRC team.

daughters Julie, 14; Nyome, 10; and Beautrice, 3. Zavala coached Nyome's

softball team this year and Julie's team last year.



Employee Assistance Program

All of us experience personal problems during our lives. While we may be able to work through many of these on our own, there are personal concerns that require outside help to find true resolution.

The Employee Assistance Program is a prepaid employer benefit that provides voluntary, confidential counseling to you and your family to help solve problems that affect your personal life and work performance. Helping you and your family maintain a healthy, balanced work and personal life is what this program is all about.

To make an appointment or to receive more information, contact EAP directly at 800-905-0994. Evening sessions are available by appointment. An online library can be accessed at www.metroeap.com. Username and password are both **beltrailyway**.

Railroad an easy choice for Olivas

After watching his father make a successful 19-year and counting career out of the railroad, Julian Olivas said it was an easy choice to join the industry.

"He's worked for the Norfolk Southern, and now works for Metra," he said. "I knew I wanted to work for the railroad."

Olivas began his career working for H&M international at an intermodal yard in Bellwood, Ill., before making his way to the Belt Railway Company of Chicago in April as a switchman.

"I've been around large equipment before, but everything seems new," Olivas said. "I'm becoming more comfortable every day."

His co-workers have made all the difference in helping him adjust to his new job.

"It's nice to know they are looking out for my safety every day," he said. "I enjoy working with all of them."

Many experienced employees have guided Olivas along the way, which he appreciates.

"I like working with different people every day," he said. "You pick up little bits from each and get to see their tricks. It's great."

A zest for his job

Trainmaster Craig Barner celebrated his 20th year of railroad service at Belt Railway Company of Chicago June 29. He's proud to say he still has the same zest for his job as he did his very first day.

"I knew railroading was in my blood the moment I set foot on the property 20 years ago," he said. "What we do here in the planning and execution has always fascinated me, and it still does."

Barner became a trainmaster in October 1998 after working as a switchman and locomotive engineer. Having worked all 20 years injury free, he leads by example and talks with crews about the importance of safe production.

"Safety is every employees' responsibility; we all are empowered to make safe choices," he said. "We talk a lot about performing a job at a safe pace and taking a step back when we need to."

Situational awareness plays a large role in employees' ability to work safely. Barner remembers that and encourages his co-workers to do the same.

"Every day I come in and think about what I'm going to do, before I do it," he said. "Then I pay attention to the things going on around me and adjust."

Barner has many reasons for working safely, none more important than his family. He and his wife, Juanita, have been married 27 years and have daughters Alisha, 25, and Anjelica, 21.

He appreciates every opportunity he's had with BRC the past 20 years, including the tuition reimbursement assistance he received to earn his bachelor's degree in accounting from Lewis University in 2004.

"The company cares about its employees' well-being," he said. "I love being a BRC employee, and I plan on being here until I retire."

Barner has collected comic books for more than 40 years and has more than 3,000 well-preserved books.



Trainmaster Craig Barner never has a tough time coming to work because he loves what he does.

Powell advances career

Kendall Powell is ready to make the most of his new assignment in the engine house.

"I'm excited for this opportunity," he said. "This is the next step in my career, and I'm ready to show my skills."

Powell began his machinist apprenticeship March 1.

Having spent the last eight years as an engine house laborer and hostler, he earned his stripes moving locomotives and readying the power for the road.

Now, the apprentice recognizes the importance of learning from experienced employees as he continues to learn about his new craft.

"There are a lot of experienced employees, and they've all been a big help," Powell said. "We have a good group here, and we enjoy coming to work."

He said though his job has changed, his dedication to working safely and reasons for doing so have never wavered. He works safely so he can spend quality time with his children Brittany, 6, and Brandon, 5. He enjoys taking them to the park and the zoo.

Prior to joining the engine house team, Powell worked at a car wash.



Machinist Apprentice Kendall Powell looks to make the most of his new opportunity.

He's long had a passion for the railroading industry, and appreciates the opportunities he's had at the Belt Railway Company of Chicago.

"I love working at the BRC," he said. "I plan on doing this for a long time."

New hires

Belt Railway Company of Chicago extends a warm welcome to all new employees who joined the team during the spring and summer. In all, 22 new employees joined various BRC departments.

Thanks to all experienced employees for mentoring new employees as they get their feet wet.

Welcome new employees:

- Paul Giebudowski, carman helper, March 7
- Dominic Jaroch, carman helper, March 7
- Brian Wolski, carman helper, March 7
- Joshua Jane, communications electrician, March 8
- John Kula, carman helper, April 1
- Christopher Alcalá, switchman, April 4
- Hugo Carrillo, trackman, April 4
- Adan Diaz, switchman, April 4
- Joseph Gallegos, switchman, April 4
- Antoni Fiorentino, switchman, April 4
- Julian Olivas, switchman, April 4
- Thomas Swade, switchman, April 4
- Frank Izzo Jr., carman helper, June 1
- Daniel Reyes, carman helper, June 1
- Andrew Rusch, carman helper, June 1
- Nick Seeman, carman helper, June 6
- Michael Aggas, switchman, June 20
- John Horne, switchman, June 20
- Drew Kipp, switchman, June 20
- Ken Rivera-Sepulveda, switchman, June 20
- Rickey Taylor II, switchman, June 20

This newsletter appears under direction of The Belt Railway of Chicago. To include information, call Joe at the newsletter office, 1845 S 11th St., Lincoln, NE 68502-2211. Phone 402-475-6397. Readers also can submit articles via email at joe@newslink.com. This material is intended to be an overview of the news of The Belt Railway of Chicago. If there are any discrepancies between this newsletter and any collective bargaining process, insurance contracts or other official documents, those documents will govern. The Belt Railway of Chicago continues to maintain and reserves the right, at any time, to alter, suspend, discontinue or terminate all plans and programs described in this newsletter. This newsletter is not an employment contract or any type of employment guarantee. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter.

Congrats!

After 37 years of railroad service, Trainman Gary Junkunc put away his steel-toed boots Sept. 2.



*Gary Junkunc,
trainman*

“I’m going to miss the people,” he said. “Many are like family to me.”

Junkunc and his wife, Peggy, plan to move to Florida.

“I don’t want to see another snowflake,” he said, “at least for a couple of years.”

Junkunc will return to the Chicago area often, as his four adult children live in the area. His son, Billy, works for the BRC Engineering Department.

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Talented and ready to learn more

Joshua Hendrickson has a talent for welding, and his co-workers know it.

“I’ve learned a few things already from him,” said Jose Jimenez, a machinist of 16 years. “He’s very talented and is an asset to the team.”

Hendrickson joined Belt Railway Company of Chicago March 1 as a machinist apprentice after working two and a half years as an automotive technician. He learned welding basics and developed a passion for it while attending Triton College.

He’s excited to put his skills to good use at the BRC.

“I’m excited to get back to what I want to be doing,” he said. “I read books about metallurgy and how to weld, and I attend expos to keep my mind sharp and keep up with the latest technology.”

Despite his background, Hendrickson realizes that learning techniques from his co-workers will help him in all aspects of his job as a machinist.

“I think the best experience comes from the people who have dedicated their life to a job,” he said. “There are things that you simply can’t learn in textbooks. The experienced group here already has helped me quite a bit.”

Jimenez said it’s been a pleasure to mentor Hendrickson and Kendall Powell in their apprenticeships. It’s been a total shop effort, as many employees take part in teaching new hires the way.

“It’s been fun working with our new apprentices,” said Karl Doyle, a machinist of 19 years. “We are passing on the knowledge that employees before us passed on to us.”



From left is Joshua Hendrickson, Jose Jimenez, Karl Doyle and Kendall Powell.