NEW ENTRANCE FOR WABASH CENTER

A new entrance into the Wabash Center has been installed. The replacement entrance alleviates traffic congestion with a wider stairway and doorway. The older door located on the north-center side of the building was a hindrance to people moving in or out during the busy Polar Express event.

CHARTER TRAINS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Through the year the museum has operated “Charter Trains” with tour groups arriving from surrounding states. The passengers not only enjoyed a pleasant train ride, but were entertained by Julie Hardee and Sheriff Dan whom was in search of the “Klondike Kid”. A tour of the display cars would follow. This traffic is increasing as the word about the MRM is spread far and wide and new traffic is being developed.

NEW EQUIPMENT FOR POWER CAR

Above: New storage water tanks have been installed in power car CN 15421 replacing the aging tanks which provide water for steam heat.

Below: A new gen-set is being lowered through a roof hatch to set inside the power car. The new generator will provide power for the air conditioning, lights, heat and power for the train consist.
**MAINLINE BALLASTED AND TAMPED**

The mainline has received extensive upgrading with the application of new ballast and the track aligned and tamped between County Road and downtown Monticello. The work was contracted with a railroad construction company and completed within a couple of weeks.

![Image of ballast loading](image1)

The ballast was loaded onto a hi-rail dump truck then spread over the mainline for tamping and surfacing.

![Image of tamping](image2)

The Tie Tamper raised and cross-leveled the track by tamping the ballast under the ties.

![Image of Ballast Regulator](image3)

The Ballast Regulator creates a cloud of dust as it slopes the edge for drainage and dresses the top of the ties with a rotating “broom”.

**BRUSH CUTTING COMPLETED**

The brush along the right of way can always present a hazard to a passenger possibly getting “bush-wacked” or blocked visibility at a crossing. To prevent incidents of this nature, a contractor with hi-rail brush cutters were utilized to cut back the brush and trees along the right of way between White Heath and Monticello. With the upgrade track work and “cleared” right of way, the museum has the appearance of a class one railroad!

![Image of hi-rail brush cutter](image4)

The hi-rail brush cutter attacks a tree close to the right of way.

![Image of mobile crane](image5)

The museum’s mobile crane has a brush-cutting attachment and was used to cut back the brush closed to the right of way and track.

**2019 SCHEDULED EVENTS**

**REGULAR SCHEDULE**

**The Polar Express™**

Read along with the story as the train makes its round-trip journey to the North Pole.

Friday, November 15; Saturday, November 16; Sunday, November 17; Friday, November 22; Saturday, November 23; Sunday, November 24; Friday, November 29; Saturday, November 30; Sunday, December 1; Friday, December 6; Saturday, December 7; Sunday, December 8.

**Lunch with Santa on the Train –**

Enjoy a visit with Santa Claus while eating a kid-friendly sack lunch. This event is hosted by the Monticello Chamber of Commerce.

Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8.

*THE POLAR EXPRESS REQUIRES QUITE A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE IT SUCCESSFUL. WON’T YOU CONSIDER MAKING TIME TO HELP WITH THIS EXTENSIVE AND INTENSIVE OPERATION?*