

FOSTORIA RAILPARK UPDATE

Nov 3 2023

Greetings to all



I am overdue in sending out this info--here is the most recent info on Fostoria and rail-related information.

November 5, 2023 is the 10th anniversary for the Fostoria Iron Triangle Rail Park dedication. It was a cold day ten years ago and we assume it will be just about the same. The small event will begin at the rail park at 1:00 p.m. The B&O Caboose will be open during the dedication if you wish to visit our caboose. After the short program, you are invited to come to the LE&W Depot, 128 W. North Street. We will have soup, cookies, coffee, and a little wine for all to enjoy. Please plan to attend if you can.

There has been a lot of discussion regarding the restrooms at the Rail Park. The City of Fostoria has the restrooms open from 8a-8p. After that time, it is a hit and miss for now. After the security upgrade on cameras, etc. this problem will be solved. More info on this later in the update.

Those of you who view Virtual Railfan, have you noticed a change in the cameras? FRPS has installed electricity at the caboose and was then able to move the two cameras more centrally located in the park. We have also installed security lights on the east and west sides of the caboose, therefore providing an advantage to the camera's lighting.

Update on the Rail Park Security system-- With MANY generous people, FRPS was able to have almost \$7,000. to be used for the updated security system. Please remember this is a City park and FRPS does what we can, however, the City of Fostoria is the owner and we work with them on all projects. The Fostoria Police Dept. has been extremely generous to set up a complete security system. PC Net Tech, Fostoria, is where the system will come from. FPD (Fostoria Police Dept) will personally install the cameras, one on each side of the platform restroom building, two underneath the platform roof (one east and one west on the NKP tracks) which eventually you will be able to view. There will be two additional cameras on a light pole just west of the caboose, one camera will be facing the caboose and the other camera will be directed to the parking lot. These cameras will have night vision and audio capability.

REGARDING THE RESTROOMS ----- A system will involve having a password to open the restroom doors after the general 8a-8p hours. There will be key pads installed and you will have to enter your own private 5-digit password. Passwords will be given to you IF you are a FRPS member. Please realize if you are presently a FRPS member, you will have to advise us so we can give you your ONE-TIME password. FRPS will register your password with the FPD. Please do not expect this to be instantly done, please give us time to get your passcode to the FPD as this is NOT first on their list of important jobs !!!!!!! They are a Police Dept. You will have to register through FRPS for this service. The FRPS phone number is my personal number (419-435-1781). I do have a snarky message, if you don't leave a message, you will NOT be called back.

The key pads have NOT been installed yet, please be patient. We all believe this new system will allow the FPD to know who is in the restrooms and if damage is done, they can view the camera footage live or on tape as they will have 24/7 access from their Dispatch area.

Again, a HUGE thank you to all who donated to the Rail Park Security fund. FRPS and the City of Fostoria appreciates your generosity !!!!!

THIS IS IMPORTANT--- IF you see something at the Rail Park, please contact the FPD at 419-435-8573, their non-emergency number, 911 if it is an emergency. IF you are watching the cameras, don't hesitate to contact FPD. You are the eyes of the Rail Park.

FRPS will keep you updated on when the new system is installed and complete.

Santa at the Depot is just around the corner for the 16th season. Santa and Mrs. Santa will arrive on Tuesday, November 28. Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-7pm and Saturdays noon-2 from November 28- December 21. Donations for viewing our 35+ Christmas trees (10 are 9-10 ft. tall) are always accepted. We are planning to have MOST of the decorating completed by November 15 for the Rail Park anniversary celebration.

If you would like to have an extremely-decorated location for your Holiday party, please contact FRPS through this email or call 419-435-1781 and leave a message. Someone will contact you. Some dates have already been reserved.

Are you interested in Santa's Wine & Cheese at the Depot? The two dates are Friday and/or Saturday, December 8 and 9th. Hours are 7-10 pm with a great buffet along with wine tasting. A silent auction of items will also be available.

Proceeds for both Santa at the Depot and Santa's Wine & Cheese benefit FRPS. We have made improvements at the LE&W Depot by having foam insulation blown into the depot walls. No more frozen pipes due to the tremendous west winds that hit the depot.

Our next Depot project is to reinforce the deteriorating "foundation" under the depot. This project and replacing the concrete railroad platform will exceed \$125,000. This is a 2024 project. Actual costs have not been determined as pricing seems to continue to grow.

This is a good time to also keep you updated on the Town Street Overpass. The City of Fostoria, ORDC, CSX, Norfolk-Southern, ODOT and others are all involved in this project. FRPS owns the old Davis & Newcomer building located at 420 Columbus Avenue. This building is completely surrounded by railroad tracks and will be demolished as it is in the way for the Town Street overpass. FRPS will be able to use the sale of this building to further OUR projects. FYI--part of Columbus Ave. , the rail grade crossings east of the rail park will be eliminated as well as the Town Street rail-grade crossing. No horns will be needed. The City of Fostoria will hold a community meeting to provide more information. This project provides those living in the residential

Iron Triangle to travel out of the area with no need to worry about a train blocking a crossing.

FRPS will be painting our 1966 B&O Caboose in 2024. Recent vandalism had occurred, with the culprits captured through VR cameras. Now that we have electricity to the caboose, we can have better security.

Also planned for the Spring, 2024, two 30-amp electric units will be installed at the Rail Park. These will be placed in the 5-bay parking lot for RV's and busses. NO charge for the electric, however we do not wish for anyone to consider living there for an extended period of time (should we even have to mention that??). Those in the RV / Camper will be providing security at the Rail Park by just being there. Vandals usually don't want to have anyone see what they are doing. This is courtesy of FRPS through memberships and donations--we care.

Please realize the Rail Park upgrades were accomplished with MANY people being involved. 213 South Main Street, the Fostoria Municipal Building, appreciated rail fans.

Have a great weekend.

Ellen