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See a three-engine train at Railroad Daze

By Mark Lawton

mlawton@pioneerlocal.com

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Visitors to Railroad Daze this year will have a chance to see a locomotive with three engines, the Gen-Set owned by the Indiana Harbor Belt Railway.

"They can save fuel," said Donald Fulmer, an organizer of Railroad Daze which is set this year for June 7-10 in downtown Franklin Park.

Seventeen years ago the Franklin Park Merchants Association was looking for a fourth event to join Octoberfest, Christmas on the Avenue and the Car Show and Street Dance.

Fulmer had worked for the Indiana Harbor Belt railroad as a yardmaster and conductor. He was also the unofficial liaison between the rail yard and the village.

He suggested an event that would celebrate trains.

"We put it before the board and everybody liked the idea, Fulmer said. "I told them maybe we could get a better relationship between railways and people of the town."

That first year Fulmer arranged for $1 million in liability insurance so the railroads would be covered in case someone got hurt while climbing through one of the seven engines or passenger cars.

This year there will be 14 locomotives, passenger cars or cabooses scheduled for display from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 9.

Those include:

Two new locomotives and the 1995 Heritage locomotive from Union Pacific

A remanufactured GP40 locomotive from the Indiana Harbor Belt Railway along with a caboose

An E9 passenger locomotive from the Canadian National along with expensive passenger cars built in the 1920s. "The president of the railroad rides one around," Fulmer said.

"Little Obie," an engine, flatbed and caboose that will run sans track. Rides will be offered.

Metra and Amtrak will both contribute cars and a Engineer Dan Wolf will bring his miniature train down from

Milwaukee to supply free rides for kids.