Dougherty brings new Web site

To enhance safety and keep everyone connected in Philadelphia, Frank Dougherty, Wilsmere machinist and Mechanical Department safety director, is developing a new safety Web site.

It began with a Philadelphia Terminal safety Web site with the intent of bringing people together to one place at times convenient to each person.

It has since spread to include a team site for the Baltimore Division Mechanical team. He sees an average of 25 hits per day on the mechanical site.

“Employees had difficulty finding safety information on the Gateway because it is such a large system,” he said.

Dougherty currently works to implement a divisionwide program.

“We want to make a main site for the Baltimore Division so that all safety districts will have their own site,” he said. “Now, when you go to the Baltimore Division page on Gateway, the first thing you’ll see is the safety information. You’re two clicks from the main Gateway page and you’re at our site,” he said. “It’s a great way to keep in contact.”

The Web site includes such items as a team calendar, an “Important Announcements” page, and at present, a Family Days survey to find out what events people want to see during such events.

“It saves time that would be spent trying to track people down on their hours off,” he said.

Employees also can work on Safe Return money projects through the Web site, as opposed to finding a time when all members of the committee can meet.

Subcommittees also have their own pages. Health and Wellness is one subcommittee that promotes upcoming health events and screenings through the site.

Dougherty is setting up a Job Briefings page for different industries. Here, senior employees can give insight on industries they’ve worked on before, with special tips, maps and other important information.

“With team sites, there are a million possibilities,” he said. “Each team can make it their own for their own needs. It’s a great way for a team to stay in touch.”

Employees can learn more about the new sites under “Team Sites” on Gateway, and training is available through Skillport.

Eastside garden commemorates fallen comrades

Philadelphia Eastside Yard employees have designed a memorial garden in the yard to commemorate two fallen CSXT employees.

Conductor Tom Oliphant and Albany Division Signal Maintainer John Pichalski were fatally injured on the job.

“The garden is a memorial for the two, as well as a safety reminder,” said Frank Dougherty, Wilsmere machinist and Mechanical Department safety director. “We want people to see how, in an instant, things can change. In these cases, entire families’ lives were changed.”

The garden, maintained by Philadelphia Terminal employees, is full of mums — yellows, pinks and reds. In the center is a sculpture designed by Dougherty and Brad Jeffreys, carman, which ties together the railroad crafts. It is constructed of a rail, a draw head and knuckle, a portion of a highway-grade crossing arm and a lantern.

“It’s a good reminder to us that they were part of the railroad and gives us something to think about,” Jeffreys said.

There also will eventually be a plaque commemorating Oliphant and Pichalski.

Work on the garden began in May and was completed Sept. 24, which marked the anniversary of Oliphant’s death.

“The company has been great to let us do something on our own for them,” Dougherty said.

Employees can see the garden and the sculpture as they enter through the tunnel and look to the right, or upon exiting the yard through the tunnel.