

# THE BELDEN NEWS

Fall 2023

## Product Spotlight: Mora Cerámicas

Introducing Mora Cerámicas! Our NEW internationally inspired, innovative, through-the-body thin and full brick for modern, effortlessly bold architecture. Crafted in Illescas, south of Madrid, Mora Cerámicas is a superior product line made from ultra-fine clay and identified by its contemporary clean lines, blended color palette, and satin-like finish. Available stock in two different sizes, thin and full brick, and hues ranging from snow white to metallic black, the versatility of this product offers a new way for architects and designers to plan for an optimal and cost-efficient design.



Known for its top-quality building materials and evolution of the best through-the-body color brick manufactured in Spain, Mora offers the market's whitest, grayest, and blackest bricks. The new series offered by The Belden Brick Company combines today's color trends with versatility and value in eight colors: Black Sapphire, Blanco, Cibeles, Clinker Gray, Manhattan, Nero, Silver Gray, and Red Stoneware - a traditional red clay.

Keep your eyes on your emails! We've launched our new eNewsletter you'll love getting in your inbox. Add [info@beldenbrick.com](mailto:info@beldenbrick.com) to your approved email senders' list, so you won't miss out.



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### Upcoming Holidays:

**Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday**  
**Thursday, November 24, 2023**  
**Friday, November 25, 2023**

**Closed for the Christmas Holiday**  
**Monday, December 25, 2023**

**Closed for the New Year's Day Holiday**  
**Monday, January 1, 2024**

### The Belden Brick Company

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## FROM THE **PRESIDENT'S DESK**

The two questions we often receive lately are, "When will we receive our brick?" and "What is the price?" Despite the high demand for brick, we can't always keep up with the desired pace. There are a few reasons for this interruption. First, we have a significant backlog of orders thanks to the dedication of our customers selling our product. Second, our inventory, the brick in the yard ready to ship or package, has decreased over the past couple of years, and finally, our production rates have been unable to keep up for various reasons. The good news is that we have been working on several projects that will help us better keep up with demand for the long term.

Some notable projects include the new setting equipment at Plant 3, automation at Plant 4, Plant 6 kiln maintenance, and the relighting of the third kiln at Plant 8.

The demand for molded brick has been impressive, prompting the purchase of new setting equipment to increase Plant 3's productivity while reducing labor time. That project, along with a revamped dryer, will improve the plant long term but will cause a brief shutdown in April of 2024. I'm also happy to announce the automation project at Plant 4 is underway and is progressing as planned. Additionally, we are taking advantage of this opportunity to repair the iconic Finzer Brothers stack and underground tunnels. The ventilation stacks have been fixed and capped a few times in the past; currently, we are restoring the "F" section in the Finzer family name. During the last year, Plant 6 faced the need to close two of its three kilns for maintenance temporarily, each lasting several weeks. The third kiln is set for shutdown and repair in early 2024. These kilns have been operational non-stop for more than ten years, making these slowdowns rare. Nevertheless, the refurbished kilns have shown noticeable improvements in efficiency and quality.

We are currently working on multiple projects at Plant 8 with the goal of relighting the third kiln. These projects will allow us to provide an even more comprehensive range of styles and sizes. Our revolutionary decorating line at Plant 8 has enabled us to create an exciting range of new product styles that we are eager to share. Our innovation and expertise have been combined to create products that are not only of exceptional quality but also have stunning designs. One of our noteworthy projects in development is the Gemini Series, which features two-toned colors that blend seamlessly in a randomized pattern. We are also excited to introduce our Luminescent Series, combining the color pallet of our Clay Coated Series with a glinting sheen on the surface. Plant 8 is busy with more research and development, but we will share more details later.

We appreciate your patience during any temporary slowdowns as we work to improve and find new ways to exceed your expectations. Together, we will continue to be the Standard of Comparison and achieve great things. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Bradley H. Belden  
President, The Belden Brick Company





# 33rd Annual Belden Golf Outing

The 33rd Annual Belden Golf outing is in the books. On July 15, 2023, The Belden tour of golfers embarked on the Zoar Golf Course. 46 Golfers were divided up and the adventure began. After all of the turf was demolished, we had some results. The first Place Team of Mark Frank, Tom MacDonald, Kelly Schrock and Adam Shapaka fired a 15 under par to claim the trophy. Two teams came in tied at 14 under Par. The second-place team was decided by using the progression of the hardest handicap holes on the scorecard. We enjoyed a catered BBQ lunch provided by Sammy Sues BBQ and we had lots of Prizes to give away. No one went home empty-handed. We want to thank The Belden Brick Company for supporting this long-standing tradition, allowing friends and guests of Belden employees to participate in helping the event. With the laughs and smiles at the event we can consider the day a success!

Thank You to those employees who volunteered to help with the day's events and to David Myers for securing the wonderful prizes that we were able to give away. Also, to Tabitha Alleshouse (Shapes), Rick Slayman (Plant 6), Cori Patterson (administration), Jeff Schrock (Improvements Manager), and Joe Antonelli - a Zoar employee who was a tremendous help with all of the general setup work. Joe is also Cori Patterson's DAD!! He's a handful but a great guy!



Winners of the day

## First Place L-R

Tom McDonald (Guest)  
Mark Frank (Retired)  
Kelly Schrock (Gas Dept)  
Adam Shapaka (Guest)



## 2nd Place L-R

John Belden (Retired)  
Harry Allman (Retired)  
Brody Hammersley (Guest, Son)  
Steve Hammersley (Plant 8, Dad)  
Brian Belden (Corporate)



## 3rd Place (12 under) L-R

Jeff Graham (Retired)  
Ted Metcalf (Caterer, Sammy Sues Dad)  
Nathan Staley (Guest)  
Justin Merryman (Guest)

## Closest to the Pin Awards

Scott Gerber (Plant 6) \$100 gift card  
Mark Frank (retired) \$100 Gift card  
Brody Hammersley (guest) \$200 gift card

## Longest Drive

Justin Merryman (guest) Cleveland Guardians Tickets  
Tom McDonald (guest) \$100 Gift card  
Longest Putt was made by Ted Miller (retired) \$100 gift card



# 2023 Retirees

## **Jerry Farnsworth**

Jerry Farnsworth started working for The Belden Brick Company at Plant 8 in 1981 on the soft mud sorting line. He transferred to Plant 4 one year later where he drove a lift truck, picked samples, and set up benchmark panels for the Benchmark Committee's review. In 2007 Jerry was promoted to Packaging Supervisor, the position from which he is now retiring. Jerry has been indispensable to Plant 4 and made a memorable duo with Superintendent Tom.



Pictured Left to Right: Jerry Farnsworth, Rex Arnold, Harry Shull, Fred Raber

## **Rex Arnold**

Rex Arnold began working for The Belden Brick Company at Plant 4 in the summers of 1975-1976. He started full-time the following summer, hacking brick until 1980. At that time Rex joined the maintenance department, from which he is now retiring. Rex possesses many of the skills that have kept the "Last True Brickyard in America" running.

## **Fred Raber**

Fred Raber started working for The Belden Brick Company at Plant 4 in 1969 in the Drawing Department. He transferred to the Setting Department sometime before December 1973. Fred left Belden for a brief period of time and returned in April 1974, where he began driving a lift truck. 49 years later Fred is retiring as one of the most skilled loading lift truck drivers in Belden Brick history.

## **Harry Shull**

Harry Shull started working at The Belden Brick Company at Plant 8 in 1973 in the Packaging Department on an evening shift, four nights a week. This work lasted 4 months. In June 1974, Harry filled in on day work at Plant 4 wherever needed. After a few weeks, Harry filled an opening in the Setting Department, where he worked full-time until 1985. Harry then became a maintenance and production worker in the factory and grinding area. In 2001 Harry became Production Supervisor. In 2004 Harry was promoted to Assistant Superintendent. From 2004 until his recent retirement, Harry has supervised the Setting Department, checked kilns with the Superintendent, and overseen Production again. Harry has unfailingly done whatever the company needed and asked of him. It is also safe to say that Harry Shull knows as much, if not more, about brick extrusion than any employee in Belden Brick's history.



# 2023 Retirees

## David Arnold

David started his career at Plant 8 in the packaging Dept in 1977, working his way up to Monorail Operator. In 1979 he left Belden to try to turn his hobby of working on cars into a career. After working his way up to Mr. Goodwrench, with the nickname of Chuckles and majority owner of A and H Autobody, he decided to return to Belden. He worked in the Pit Dept from 1983 to 1994. He then moved to Plant 9 as an afternoon Kiln Fireman from 1994 to 2013. As Plant 9 was winding down he made the big move to Plant 3 to join the Maintenance crew. He was a great fit for the Plant 3 family and retired on October 14, 2022. He returned for 6 weeks to help the plant out this spring by running the sand room. Cheers, and many Silver Bullets on your journey into retirement.



## Jeff Lane

Jeff Lane started his career at Belden Brick on November 5, 2004, at Plant 8 as a scrubber technician. On June 18, 2012, he made the move to Plant 3 to work as a Fireman. As well as being a great dependable Kiln Fireman, his skills as a carpenter and lots of farm knowledge were put to use during shutdowns. He used these skills helping with the kiln repairs and many plant projects. He retired from the Plant 3 family on December 30, 2022. Thanks, and Good Luck Jeff.



## Rick Hicks

Rick Hicks started working for The Belden Brick Company at Plant 8 on June 1, 1976 on the new monorail #4. Four of the 5 original monorail crew members have and/or will retire from Belden Brick. This is unlikely to ever happen again.

Rick worked in Plant 8 Packaging Area as a Pieceworker, Machine Operator, Maintenance Man, Lift Truck Driver, and Monorail Supervisor. He was asked in May 1981 to work with Kenny Limbacher to assemble the new Plant 3 monorail, and ended up staying at Plant 3 in the Maintenance Department. Rick took over as Plant Superintendent from Ed Honabarger in February 2004, and retired from Plant 3 August 4, 2023.



## Scott Troyer

Congratulations to Scott Troyer on a well-deserved retirement after 44 years. Scott began working at Plant 8 in soft mud in July 1979. He has been a key member of the Central Maintenance team for the last few decades. Scott has managed the sand recycler, crushed limestone, and brick chips, welded and fabricated, and done anything the company has asked of him. Thank you for setting a great example of hard work and dedication for the rest of us, Scott!



Scott Troyer (left) with Shop Manager John Armstrong (right)

# Promotions

## Tom Smith – Plant 3

Please join me in congratulating Tom Smith on being promoted to Plant 3 Superintendent. He is only Plant 3's third superintendent in over 40 years. I'm sure Tom will keep Plant 3's great tradition going, as well as oversee improvements in the future.





A Job Well Done

# Employee Anniversaries 2023

## **45 YEARS**

Edwin Troyer  
Rick Moore  
Mark Miller  
William Knight  
John Bowers

## **40 YEARS**

Robert Belden  
Kevin Stocker  
Rick Gerber  
Thomas Van Fossen  
Douglas Mutschelknaus  
Bart Frankhauser  
Kelly Schrock

## **35 YEARS**

Loyal Schlabach  
Jason Harman

## **25 YEARS**

Steve Hammersley  
Joey Drescher  
John Armstrong  
Randy Frutig  
David Widder  
Wesley Miller

## **20 YEARS**

Brian Shull  
Jason Raber

## **15 YEARS**

Teresa Smith  
Kevin Immel

## **10 YEARS**

James Piteo  
Frank Alleshouse  
William Murray  
Ethan Wherley  
Delbert Mullet

## **5 YEARS**

Benjamin Tristano  
Samuel Smith  
Michael Armstrong  
Chad Smith  
Aaron Bachtel  
David Myers  
Mary Beatty  
Shane Harvey  
Steven Schlabach  
Pamela Camburn  
Daniel Metzger  
Tabitha Alleshouse  
Trevor Donaldson  
Catherine Murphy  
Jerry Jones  
Angela Fowler  
Christopher Parson  
Darrell Armbrust  
Roger Myers  
Luis Hernandez  
Jose Reyes  
T Zahner  
Alberto Ramirez  
Matthew Tristano  
Enrique Perez Rodriguez  
Brandon Hunt  
Isaiah Perez