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NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA
-May 2017-

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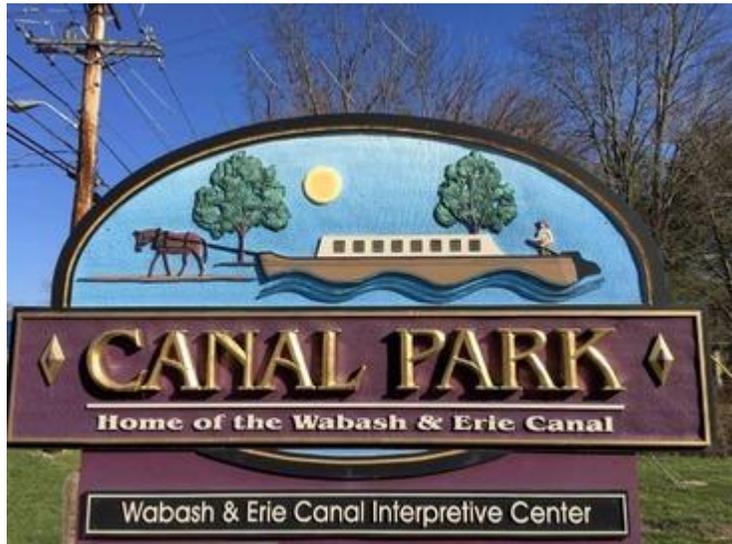
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Mon-Wed-Fri



Tom Peters, a MWF volunteer from White County, is filling cracks and holes in the old

A new season is upon us!



Canal Park has become a special place for visitors to imbibe in the history of our water-filled section of the old canal AND to enjoy the many amenities of the historic site. Delphi enjoys the only remaining section of the old Wabash & Erie Canal's man-made waterway that is publicly accessible and re-watered. This section supports a unique canal boat that performs public cruises in the ninth season of operation on weekends starting May 13th and ending Labor Day.

Documenting History

plaster of the Lutheran Church that was moved to Canal Park and stabilized in 2016. This work is part of Phase II and was a project approved by Tippecanoe Arts Federation (funding provided by North Central Health Services) involving the completion of the inside and making it ready for weddings and special meetings. It will be heated and cooled with new equipment also provided by the grant.



Progress on the new ceiling being installed makes the room seem much more like a church and when finished it will be lighted with historic looking fixtures and chairs for seating about 65 people. The Church is located across the canal in a space being planned for 1880s era buildings. It was originally a German Lutheran Church after being built and then ceased use by about 1950. It was located six blocks away on Union Street in Delphi but never used as a home. The structure was donated by Carl Treece who now lives in Kansas.

Did you know...?



Did you know you could hold your wedding party, corporate



Two friends David Kelly (left) and Tom Castaldi both volunteers are just leaving an Archives Committee meeting in the Canal Center. David is a Monticello retired history teacher who has found his niche in being the Archive Room Coordinator in his retirement life. Kelly spends at least one day a week "upstairs" in the Archive Room directing other volunteers and doing many of the data entry chores for the Canal Association's collection of artifacts. Tom on the other hand is from Fort Wayne and is the Allen County Historian but he comes to Delphi at least quarterly to host the Archive Committee as its Chairman. Both men enjoy the challenges of obtaining artifacts, and managing these archival items for the Canal.

Thank you Mary!



meeting, or birthday celebration at the Canal Center?



We offer a variety of options for each different type of event. We also have free wi-fi and can accommodate up to 300 guests!

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At our Association's forty fourth Annual Meeting several awards were presented by Vice President Vicki Sickler (right). Here she is commending long time Canal Center Reservations Coordinator Mary Crary for her dedication and service. Mary is stepping down at the end of this year. She has worked as a volunteer for over 10 years in this demanding position and has found herself at the Canal Center almost daily in the discharge of these duties. Mary spends many evening up to the late hour in monitoring wedding reception events. Wedding parties have capitalized as traditional Saturday night events for the Center since opening in 2003.

Bringing a Community Together



A special Self Defense Workshop for women and teens was held at the Canal Center as a means to develop capability to defending oneself. Here one of the instructors from One Light Self Defense Team from Chicago takes blows from a student learning the techniques of self defense. The entire team of six were here as volunteers and the workshop was free. Joanne Germond and Julia Leahy locally were involved with organizing this event. Donations from the students will be used for 'trail safety' markings and distance posts on the trails.



United Methodist Reverend Todd Ladd (front left) on a planning day is organizing the public 'Abby and Libby Memorial Walk' along the Monon Trail. Also other hosts from Camp Tecumseh YMCA facility and David McCain have been involved with this event held on May 7th. Any donations received will be used to develop 'trail safety' amenities.

Another Project!



The delivery of lumber signaled the beginning of another project in the far back section of Canal Park. Last fall Tippecanoe Arts Federation (TAF) granted money for building the depot's illusionary decking to make this 'historic transportation facility' become more enlightening to visitors.



Beginning with the job of installing the treated lumber posts the crew employed a contractor to 'drive' these posts into the hard surface. It worked in several spaces but the height of the posts and difficulty pounding wouldn't allow this machine to complete the forty some posts that needed to be placed for the deck support.



So the Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteers took on the more intensive job of 'boring' the holes in the hard surface. Many posts required much more work with manual posthole diggers and pry bars to make the holes deep enough.



Finally posts in the ground and the beginning of fastening them together with horizontal planking made the base for the deck. In time there will be paralleling 'historic iron rails' placed just to the right and covered nearly to the top with crushed stone to illustrate the location of locomotives that would be passing/stopping the depot. The depot placement/restoration was completed in 2015 after the M-W-F crew moved it 54 miles from Leiters Ford in Fulton County. The station house was an Erie Lackawanna facility built in the 1880s.

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