

[FORWARD](#) this message to a friend.

If you received this e-mail from a friend and would like to subscribe, [JOIN OUR MAILING LIST.](#)



online  
*Currents*



## NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA JULY 2017

[www.wabashanderiecanal.org](http://www.wabashanderiecanal.org)

Connect with us!

[FACEBOOK.](#)  
[TWITTER.](#)  
[INSTAGRAM.](#)

### IN THIS ISSUE!

- *It's Summer and we are still busy!*
- *Mon-Wed-Fri*
- *Record numbers*
- *New Donation*
- *New Project*
- *Flood Control*

**Mon-Wed-Fri**

### **It's Summer and we are still busy!**



A year and a half ago the Monday -Wednesday-Friday volunteer crew set this old German Lutheran Church in its spot across from main Canal Park and began the initial restoration of this 1889 frame structure in earnest. Funding for the initial moving six blocks from Union Street in Delphi was provided by a grant from Tippecanoe Arts Federation and NCHS in Lafayette.



Another special building was created in the last year inside the Pioneer Village. It is a post and beam structure built by the MWF volunteers and Peter Cooper the bucket making craftsman. Would you like to join our MWF construction crew  
Email: [dan.mccain@gmail.com](mailto:dan.mccain@gmail.com)



And the MWF crew does many maintenance jobs. Here Mac Carlisle on the ladder is repairing a light fixture on the Canal Boat Warehouse. The more buildings we have the more work we need to do and money we need to raise to keep things operational. If you are interested in helping our "operating budget" join the **468 Mile Club** and donate \$468 to our program. The amount reflects the 468 mile length of the Wabash & Erie Canal when completed by 1853. Even back then it took lots of effort to keep up that many miles of waterway. Contact



This year with a second phase of the restoration also supported by TAF/NCHS the structure was completed and ready for public use. Before the move the shutters had been closed for fifty years and thus the windows were well protected. And the roof was going bad and had to be removed to make way under the city's overhead wires. The new roof, outside paint and a new foundation makes this a very special (and rentable) attraction in Canal Park.



Inside the final touches of major work on the walls, ceiling and lighting makes this a charming place. The dedication ceremony on June 24<sup>th</sup> allowed a 'congregation' of visitors for the first service.



[admin@canalcenter.org](mailto:admin@canalcenter.org) for more information on either the 468 Mile Club OR the Trail Safety and Security fundraising.

## New Donation



The newest “old” piece of equipment received by the Canal was an 1918 Fordson Tractor that had been brought back to life fifteen years ago by the late Wilbur Jones. When Wilbur died last year his children decided to donate it to the Canal Association. Here the tractor is being positioned as a Festival display (and YES it does run but it’s hard to start).

## Did you know...?



Did you know you could hold your wedding party, corporate meeting, or birthday celebration at the Canal Center?



Lutheran Pastor Greg Fiechtner from South Bend (center) conducted the service in German while local Pastor John Westfall interpreted his sermon in English. This was a very commemorative event as the original church started services in 1889 and concluded in that building in the 1950s. After this time the church sat unused except for storage purposes. It was donated to the Canal Association two years ago by owner Carl Treece who now lives in Kansas.

## Record number boat rides!



Always popular is the replica Canal Boat that cruises on the waterway and provides 40 minute rides up and down the Canal. For Canal Days it made many, many trips carrying record numbers of



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!

**[Save your date today!](#)**

Help us pass the good news!



If you would like to volunteer at the Wabash & Erie Canal please click [here!](#)

For a complete list of activities please visit: [www.wabashanderiecanal.org](http://www.wabashanderiecanal.org)

- [Camping](#)
- [Activities](#)
- [Plan an Event](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Membership](#)
- 

passengers on that weekend. On every summer weekend the boat runs both days at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. weather permitting. Check website for details [www.wabashanderiecanal.org](http://www.wabashanderiecanal.org)



Peter Cooper is a talented maker of buckets, barrels and butter churns. Here in his shop he is shaving pieces of cedar to make stays for a water bucket. This building was also dedicated at Canal Days Festival on July 1-2. Are you interested in producing quality 1850s crafts in Canal Park?



Another building dedicated at Canal Days Festival is the Blacksmith/Carpenter Shop. Here blacksmith Tom Johnson is entertaining children learning the ways to heat and shape metal on a forge. If you would like to be involved in hosting visitors in Pioneer Village contact Linda Cooper [lrcoper@outlook.com](mailto:lrcoper@outlook.com)





A big hit at the Canal Days Festival this year were two Oxen. Here Jim the owner from Thorntown is preparing to show off the animals in a portable pen. Visitors came up to the Oxen and could see, touch and marvel at their size. The animals stayed two night inside the stables of the "Mule Barn" in Canal Park.

## New Project



A new project to provide greater safety and security on Delphi Historic Trails involves the creation and placement of marker posts that will be every "tenth of a mile" throughout the 10 mile trail system. Emergency calls to 9-1-1 could benefit from specific location of each post. Here Vicki Sickler and Gary Stanley are working with the freshly routed posts to paint the numbers/letters and make them more visible before placement along the trails. The Canal has

launched a crowdfunding endeavor on *Patronicity* website to try to raise \$100,000 for entrance kiosks, lighting and cameras to be placed at five primary trail access points. If you can help fund this with as little as ten dollars go to the website.

[www.patronicity.com/project/delphi\\_historic\\_trails\\_safety\\_and\\_security](http://www.patronicity.com/project/delphi_historic_trails_safety_and_security) Hurry as time is running out to meet the goal!!

---

## Flood Control



The City of Delphi has contracted for restoration of the flood control device at US 421/39 on the west side of town. These pipes were placed in the highway fill where the original canal channel crossed under the roadway back in the early 1950s to control the flooding in north Delphi. Before that time Canal Park used to frequently flood from the Wabash River. Recent years have found the old flood control system ineffective due to age and degradation of the metal parts in the outlet. Shown here sticks and blockage has kept the system from working properly and it often has meant water levels for the canal were often too high thus disallowing that day's runs of our Canal Boat.



So volunteers started filling sandbags to make a low dam in the mid-section of the Canal and allow the contractor to work at the highway on replacement of the flood device. This was necessary for keeping the water level adequate in the upper section where the boat runs. If you are interested in chartering a ride anytime during the week or evenings for your personal group event contact Mary at [info@canalcenter.org](mailto:info@canalcenter.org)

The Wabash and Erie Canal newsletter is brought to you by:



**Delphi Properties, LLC**

111 East Main Street, Delphi, IN 46923

Telephone: 765-564-2165/Fax: 765-564-4919