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Currents



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



***GET INVOLVED*
TODAY!**



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Old Fashioned
Christmas
At The Canal
Saturday,
December 2nd, 2017**

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * Old-Fashioned Christmas is right around the corner!
- * Work continues on Trail Safety
- * Enhancing Interiors of Our Buildings



Melissa Rodkey-Skalicky a native of Carroll County married and has lived the past 20 years in Allen County. She and her husband approached Dan McCain after he gave a speech in Fort Wayne last March. They saw a picture of the German Lutheran Church that had been brought to and restored in Canal Park and decided to donate this beautiful pump organ. It was originally in a Lutheran Church and Melissa was adamant that it goes back to a church. Not many churches of that era are left in their original décor. The idea of donating an item that has history connected to specific buildings or the era had brought the Canal numerous items over the years.

Bring the whole family to enjoy some Christmas cheer at Canal Park! Artisans and crafters will sell their wares, and we'll have warm apple dumplings, music and lots to see!

THANK YOU!



The Canal Association was successful recently in landing another grant funded by North Central Health Services (NCHS) and administered by Tippecanoe Arts Federation (TAF) both of Lafayette. The grant will allow us to complete the restoration and placement of the old Sleeth Post Office building and create a child's size water powered model mill. This work will be done by our volunteers in the next 8 months. In addition, the grant will allow us to develop eight new outdoor interpretive signs highlighting craft



A crew of two friends that McCain used to work with in Fort Wayne offered to bring the organ to Delphi. Here unloading the musical instrument is Dennis Bennett (left), Dean Sharp and our Canal Park Blacksmith Tom Johnson. The organ needs repair and an offer from a volunteer that has repaired the family pump organ in the Case House, Joe Newlin, will care for it later this year. With the finish of this church last summer the space is rentable for weddings, family events or even club meetings. Historic lighting, a pulpit, 60 soft chairs, heat and air conditioning are part of the package.

Contact Jami for rental further information [765-430-2259](tel:765-430-2259)

The work continues on Trail Safety!



shops in Pioneer Village, as well as a project to reconnect a flood worn trail near Deer Creek and the Wabash River. The TAF/NCHS grant will also fund Phase II of our surveillance camera system to protect the boat house and the interior of the Canal Center. Hip-Hop Hooray and off to work we go!!



Jami Ade has been selected to become Business Manager and will do the bookings for space and market the Canal through the website and social media. Feel free to Welcome her & say Hello!

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The Trail Security project's "tenth mile" posts have progressed to the point that the routed markings have been painted and surface sanded to highlight their placement along the Delphi Historic Trail system. Sixty five posts are ready for installation along the rural portions of DHT paths to give 9-1-1 callers the exact location in case of an emergency. This is part of the overall security measures being planned for money that was raised through a crowdfunding effort by the committee. Also lighting and cameras at public entrance points will be added.



The Reverend Arthur Hadley, a retired 🗨️ minister, came to Canal Park and saw for the first time our setting of his large loom in the Log Loom House. Arthur had seen an article in the Fort Wayne News Sentinel newspaper about the completion of the Loom House two years ago and immediately called the Canal Park to offer his disassembled loom. It had been in his possession for decades and he had loved the operation of the loom but had no place to set it up at his new home near Howe, Indiana. He and his wife were passing through Delphi and wanted to visit.



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your skills and time!**

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information
regarding all
canals in**



Arthur Hadley and his wife peer at the fabric that he personally made years ago on that very loom that they donated to Canal Park. If you have relevant items of historical significance representing the Canal era (1832-1876) contact our Archive Committee Chairman David Kelly archives@canalcenter.org



“Moving on” as our Reservations Coordinator Mary Crary (left) begins her transition to retirement as the monitor of events in the Canal Center. The Canal Association has hired Larry Scowden and his wife Jeanene (second & third from the left) as “Events Monitor” to oversee meetings, reunions and wedding receptions. Next at the table is a new Custodian Chuck Crary who will be taking on the tasks of our janitor and indoor/outdoor coordinator of keeping facilities clean and ready for rental events. Two of the committee members that

**Indiana check out
the Canal Society of
Indiana.**

<http://indcanal.org>

helped make the selection of these new contractors are Vice Presidents Gary Stanley and Vicki Sickler.

For more than 12 years Mary Crary has been the Wabash & Erie Canal's Reservation Coordinator. Not only has she juggled the scheduling of the Canal Center's Meeting Rooms, she also monitored the events to make sure the client's experience at the Canal Center was the best possible.

Mary always made sure the facility was well maintained and attractive. During events, Mary was on hand to help resolve issues with the plumbing, lighting, decorating, and the sound system. Along with managing the rentals, Mary also volunteered with bus tours, school tours, and narrating the canal story on boat rides.

After years of managing the business of the canal, Mary has decided to retire from this position. She plans to devote more time to her special interests. If you guessed those interests are with the canal you'd be right. Mary plans to devote more of her free time to working with bus tours, school tours, assisting in the village, and narrating the canal story on boat rides. Mary's assistance will be in high demand around the canal.

To accomplish all the jobs that Mary managed to do, we have had to contract two people. To monitor and assist with events at the canal we have contracted with Larry Scowden. Larry will open and close facilities as required and deal with all the problems that can occur during contracted events at the Canal Center. To manage the business end of canal rentals we have contracted with Jami Ade. Jami will not only manage the business end of the rentals, she will develop additional business by marketing the facilities and increasing public visibility for the canal.

It is unlikely that Mary's celebrated tenure will ever be surpassed. Thank you Mary, for all you do.

A unique Club provides a new way of giving!

A special reception of the "468 Mile Club" was hosted by the Canal Association on a rainy and cool late October evening. To celebrate their charter year the members took a ride on The Delphi, then had refreshments in the Reed Case House.

This new club made history by holding their first meeting since the Club was founded 10 months ago. The club has granted 26 Charter memberships and expects to grow even more. Currently the members have raised nearly \$12,000 for preservation of our historic buildings. Membership is open to anyone pledging \$468.00 per year to the canal's General Operations budget. Your year begins with your first check. Send to W&E Canal, 1030 W. Washington St., Delphi, IN 46923

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