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Currents



NOV/DEC 2015 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA

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M-W-F CREW

It's That Time Again!

The 2015 Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration in right around the corner

This years festival will take place on Dec 12 from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Dec 13 noon to 4:00pm.

Watch our Facebook page for more details!

We also have frozen individual Apple Dumplings for sale at \$2.50 each. Pick up any day between 1-4 pm



Day After Christmas Walk

The "Day After Christmas Walk" gathers participants at 1 pm at the Canal Center and if the weather is blustery, cold and impossible we will just be inside the Center and have several displays, hot coffee/chocolate and some fun inside. But if the weather is marginal we will take a short walk OR if the weather is pretty manageable we will carpool to the Freedom Plaza out east in Delphi. There will be the walk on the Monon High Bridge Trail. Several alternatives will be offered. Representatives from NICHES, Heartland Heritage, the Canal Association and City will lead groups to areas of special interest.

[More Information on Niches Land Trust](#)



Meanwhile the MWF volunteers have moved the panels of the one room school that came from the Crowel Farm north of Delphi. This building had been used for many years as a farm storage shed. When machinery began to get much larger the use was limited and took up space that could become cropland. This building's foundation is much like the stone that will be laid under the church.



Volunteer Dick Bradshaw using his cousin's utility truck lifts these bulky panels. Reassembly of the walls this day took about 7 hours which meant the MWF crew worked past their normal time of 8 am to noon. Therefore as seldom happens with their normal workday the crew got a "free lunch" to tide them over. Work between both the church and school buildings will take the volunteers up to winter's cold and snow blasts and will resume in the early spring. Days with beginning outdoor temperatures of less than 20 degrees are not preferred by volunteers but otherwise they work year around.



A new MWF volunteer Eddie Graves has joined our older crew. With his youth, optimism and boundless energy he can do some things that us older volunteers can't seem to make our aching joints do. Here he is laying tile to drain a wet spot that will become part of our plans to expand the RV Park campsites.

New Staircase and a Stove too!

Tippecanoe Arts Federation along with North Central Health Services announces their 2015 Capital Grants Program winners.



We were one of the lucky ones that have received a \$55,600 grant this fall to both move an old church AND to add historically accurate business names on signs marking the many storefronts that make up our Canal Center's facades.

The idea of saving a historic church or chapel and moving it to Canal Park is now a reality thanks to this significant grant from North Central Health Service (NCHS) that supports Tippecanoe Arts Federation's Capital Improvements Program. The major portion of this grant helps with the move and restoration of the 1884 German Lutheran Church that resided just six blocks from Canal Park. The building was offered to us by Carl Treece with our caveat that we would take it if we found the money to move it. This recent grant clinched the deal.

We work quickly once a grant is awarded. The relocated church has just been moved to a site across the Canal near the Gray Bridge. This area will continue to be developed to represent the latter days of the Canal's usefulness. And the renovated church will host small weddings, meetings, programs, plays, musical engagements, craft demonstrations and similar events.



Business names on outdoor signage will highlight the Center when completed as part of the NCHS/TAF grant.

Meanwhile at the Canal Center fifteen attractive markings will by spring add the authentic business signs duplicated (from old photography) as accurate as possible. Those markings were originally on the fronts of buildings in 1850s downtown Delphi. Because of a shortage of funds earlier only a few signs such as the Bakery were installed when the Canal Center opened in 2003.

The numerous historic building fronts have gone un-identified for 12 years, but now the NCHS/TAF grant program has provided the

Brice Crowel (left) brought his truck and trailer to Andrews Indiana to retrieve this old canal era staircase from owner Jean Gernand. She gave this relic from the 1850s that had been inside Lagro's Canal Toll Station. When the building was torn down in the 1960s Mrs. Gernand saved it and has been inside her barn ever since. Her goal was to give it to someone that would appreciate and display this historic artifact.



Another very special donation to a growing list of artifacts in the Leiters Ford Depot comes from Don Marohn of Plymouth, IN. His offering of this potbelly stove had been in the depot during its early years plus an authentic depot table were picked up the same day as we received the Lagro staircase. The stove is made in four sections of inch thick, heavy cast iron and is true to railroad durability. With his offer Marohn said "these items need to go back home." Thanks Don.

School Tours

Captain of the Canal Boat *the Delphi* Steve Gray assists school children as they go for a ride on our historic waterway. Hundreds of children in the year make similar forays through the Canal Interpretive Center, Pioneer Village and this boat. Tours are headed by Mary Cray and Vicki Sickler with help by many other docents. If you would like to assist with this school program for interpreting our 1850s history let us know. Contact info@canalcenter.org



REMC helps out

This fall the local office of the Carroll White REMC donated a half day to Canal Park with a five member volunteer "pickup" crew, a power chipper and high lift bucket truck with operator and chainsaw. This was a great blessing to us as there were dead trees that were otherwise difficult to cut from ground level and dispose of the surplus.



[Link to my website](#)

Opera House Opens

funds needed to complete this overdue task. Skyline Designs of West Delphi has been contracted to make the signs this winter and install in moderate spring weather.



Addition of a Chapel to the Canal

A dream recognized

Adding a church or chapel to canal grounds has long been our desire. When the former late-1880s German Lutheran Church at 503 North Union Street in Delphi -- only six blocks from Canal Park became available last spring, we expressed our interest. Owner Carl Treece offered the unoccupied 20 foot by 30 foot structure to us if we would move it off his property, restore the grounds and build a wall to protect his garage.



The inside of this small church had walls that were plastered and a raised area at the back where the minister would conduct his services. The floor was remarkably sturdy and refinishable. The front door had been replaced with a more modern door but the window transome above was covered on the outside. We will restore all this to its original looks.

A dozen blocks away from Canal Park in downtown the completed Delphi Opera House is open now. This is a celebration of the 150th anniversary ball for the return of Civil War soldiers that occurred here in 1865. Completion of restoration marks the dedicated work and fundraising by many, many Delphi Preservation Society board members and volunteers and signals the midpoint of the larger local indoor/outdoor restoration work brought to us by Indiana's **Steller Community** program. Stay tuned for reports of more completions and the ultimate grand opening of the Court House Square Historic District.



[Learn more about the Delphi Opera House](#)

New Donation

Joe Kitchel donated a number of his unique plaster moulds he used in hand crafting replications of original architectural adornments. Some patterns were shared with the Delphi Preservation Society and between the lot will serve as educational and exhibit materials.



Artifacts Donated

Jason Wertman, as a high school interested in railroad



youth, became early canal and

transportation. Now as an employee of CSX railroad as well as a collector of historic transporations artifacts Jason came to the Leiters Ford Depot dedication last month. He brought with him these old railroader's tools and donated them for our collection/display. There were many artifacts donated by other people as well. We are accepting items of the canal and steam railroad eras. Let Dan know if you have items of interest to donate [\(765\) 412-4308](tel:7654124308)



Did you know...



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



Roof removed and now down to the rafters the moving contractor begins his preparation for the move. Shutters on the windows are in good shape and Mr. Treece wanted us to save the garage at the back for his later use.



The garage (foreground) was to be saved. So a separation was planned that would leave the original wall with the church (sort of like separating siamese twins) and the garage would have a new wall.



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!



VOLUNTEER TODAY!



Canal Park would not exist without the countless hours and hard work of dedicated volunteers.

Whether you enjoy working with your hands or sharing stories with park guests, there are volunteer opportunities to fit your schedule.

- Help groom the walking paths on our trail system.
- Learn historical facts to become a tour guide.
- Help build or maintain exhibits.



Preparing for the move took contractor Waylan Graybill and his crew to the heights and by removing rafters and gable ends the plan was to allow clearance for overhead wire and tree limbs during its travel down residential streets.



Moving day came and Tim Stahl the contractor with trucks and cranes was ready before 9 am. This transport trailer was very long and adaptable to this kind of work.

- Train to become a boat captain.
- Help plan festivals and events. ...and much more!

BECOME A MEMBER



Mike and Pam Luenz are Life Members and they also like to come to Canal Park and help us with "acting out" the Canal era. Mike likes to tell stories or converse with the crowd and Pam is often found in the One Room Log Schoolhouse as the Schoolmarm.

Your financial partnership restores and preserves a rare, important piece of early American history and provides hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages.

JOIN TODAY!



Finally after six blocks of street travel the little church enters Canal property off of Market Street. The whole move took less than an hour. In the background (left) is the Gray Bridge leading to Canal Park's Pioneer Village. Also note the back of this building was the wall that was earlier shared by the garage.



Near its final resting spot. In a few moments the church was placed directly over the concrete foundation and blocked up high. There will be a foundation built by the Monday-Wednesday-Friday (MWF) volunteer crew made from the original site's old stone. Sometime this fall (weather permitting) or by early next spring the building will be lowered onto the new foundation.



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The Wabash & Erie Canal Association
1030 W. Washington St.
Delphi, IN 46923
US

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