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NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA
November 2023



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IN THIS ISSUE

- [Christmas Highlights](#)
- [Free Tours Dec. 2](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Memberships 2024](#)
- [Purdue and the Canal](#)

Christmas and FREE Tours

If you can join us for Christmas at the Canal, be sure and capitalize on a FREE stroll through the interactive Canal Museum

Christmas at the Canal Tomorrow!



Saturday, December 2 will bring Christmas at the Canal 2023, and we hope to see you there! It is the merriest event of the year at Canal Park, and it's like a Christmas gift to the whole community. We welcome visitors from around the region, and there is a ton to do for all ages.

and through the historic Reed Case House!



The museum is a huge hit with all ages, especially for those who prefer learning hands-on with memorable and fun exhibits.



In the Reed Case House, visitors can learn about life of the well-to-do city-dwellers from the Canal Era. There will be several intrepid volunteers at the Case House who will be excited to show you around and share local history.

The Christmas at the Canal festival wouldn't be possible without the efforts of dozens of volunteers who dedicate their skills and time to bring history to life.



If you have some holiday shopping to take care of, you'll want to stop through the reception hall in the Interpretive Center to visit the Christmas Bazaar! The 4,300 square foot room will be filled with vendors and all sorts of handmade goodies.



Whether you're looking for something beautiful, something



Above we see Carl Seese leading some guests through the main bedroom in the Case House. We're so grateful for the people who treasure history so it can freely shared with all our neighbors!



Another reason we can freely share our historic resources is the generosity of our 2023 Event Sponsor: Horizon Veterinary Service! They are located just west of Delphi, and they graciously sponsored Canal Days and Christmas at the Canal this year. Please pay them a visit if you're in the area, because they treat your pets (large and small) like family!

If you might be interested in joining the volunteer team that is devoted to **preservation**, **education**, and **recreation**, please click the link below! We would love to meet you and connect you with the perfect volunteer opportunity for your skills and interests.

[VOLUNTEER](#)
[TODAY!](#)

functional, something yummy, or that perfect gift, you're sure to find it at Canal Park this weekend!

In addition to the Christmas Bazaar, the museum, and the Reed Case House, you can also explore the Pioneer Village for FREE! There will be historic crafts and demonstrations in the different buildings in the village, so you'll want to see it all!



Above you can see Martin Mears working at the forge of the Blacksmith Shop, and it's well worth the visit to hear the hammering, smell the fire, and learn more about the blacksmithing trade that play such a vital role in 19th century Indiana.

Upcoming Events

Here are some ways you can experience the Canal for yourself in the coming weeks!

December 2: Christmas at the Canal, 10AM-4PM. Join us for the merriest event of the year! Indoor Christmas Bazaar, Pioneer Village demonstrations, visits with Santa, music, food, and more!



December 26: Day After Christmas Walk, 1PM. Take an educational stroll and enjoy some movement after relaxing on Christmas Day.

FYI: Museum Closure

January-February! For the months of January and February, the interactive Canal Era Museum will be closed for repairs and updates. The museum will reopen on weekdays starting in March, and Saturdays starting in April.

Did you know...?



You can hold your wedding, corporate meeting, or birthday celebration at the Canal Center?



And of course, you must pay a visit to Jolly Old Saint Nick himself! He will want to hear all about your Christmas wish list and take a photo with you. Plus, if you're on the naughty list you can get some advice about how to make things right before Christmas!

Memberships for 2024

Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal is excited to celebrate its **50th Anniversary** in 2024, and we want to invite you to join us as a canal supporter for the year!



**WABASH &
ERIE CANAL**
DELPHI, INDIANA

Reflecting on the past 50 years, it is amazing what has been accomplished and the stories that have been saved through the efforts of this resourceful and brilliant group. As historian and author Tim Harford recently said, "To lose our grip on the past, we just need to stop paying attention." Preservation work is not for the faint of heart, and it carries a cost, but it is a duty to



We offer a variety of options for each different type of event. We offer free wifi and can accommodate up to 300 guests!

[Save your date today!](#)



Thanks to Our Business Supporters!

We are fortunate to have many generous businesses in the community who place great value on preservation, education, and recreation.

If you have need of any services offered by the businesses below, we strongly recommend you reach out to them! They are all wonderful organizations who care about the community they serve!

Festival Sponsors (\$1000)

- *Horizon Veterinary Service*

Bronze Supporters (\$500)

- *Camflo*
- *Carroll-White REMC*
- *Indiana Packers*

carry on the stories of the past for future generations to enjoy and learn.

Help us continue in those efforts to save Indiana's incredible canal story to share with all our visitors by becoming a supporter of the Canal! We have a variety of giving levels to match your budget, and we've also got some special gifts in store!



HOGGEE Level (donations under \$149): You'll receive a recognition letter as a Canal supporter and a free postcard set with Wabash & Erie Canal Park photos.

STEERSMAN Level (donations \$150-\$299): You'll receive the above gifts PLUS free museum entry for 2024 for yourself and three guests. Note: these guests can be any three people you bring with you and can change from visit to visit!

LOCKMASTER Level (donations \$300-\$467): You'll receive the above gifts PLUS free Case House entry for yourself and three guests in 2024. In addition, you will receive a free T-shirt, and a free one-night stay in the Lockmaster's Airbnb cabin! The cabin stay will depend on availability, but we can arrange those details when you're ready for your rustic cabin experience.

468 MILE CLUB Level (donations \$468+): You'll receive the above gifts PLUS a free hat, four free canal boat tickets, and a VIP tour of Canal Park with executive director Mike Tetrault with all-access to the historic buildings. This elite level of membership can also be arranged with automatic \$39 monthly giving.

There are also annual giving levels for corporate sponsors, and if your business might be interested in partnering with us, we would love to hear from you. Please send a message to director@canalcenter.org and we'll get the ball rolling!

We will be mailing out letters soon, and if you'd like to be on our

- *H&R Block*

Community Supporters
(\$100+)

- *Brick & Mortar Pub*
- *Collisions Unlimited*
- *D-K Construction*
- *Deiwert Insurance*
- *Fieldings Jewelry & Time*
- *Helms Lawn Specialists, Inc*
- *Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance*
- *Pizza Hut Delphi*
- *Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette*

If you'd like to add your business to this list, please email:
director@canalcenter.org for information about sponsorships.



For a complete list of activities please visit us at www.wabashanderiecanal.org

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mailing list please reply to this email with your mailing address and we will put you on the list!

If you would like to donate today, you can do so conveniently and securely online through our online giving platform. [Click here to go directly to that portal](#), or you can also point your smartphone camera at the QR code below and follow the link to get there.



Outside of Delphi there is no other site where you can learn as much about the engineering marvel of the Wabash & Erie Canal, and it is only possible because our generous community sees the value in preserving this story. Please help us continue our mission of **preservation**, **education**, and **recreation** as you're able this holiday season. And keep your eyes open for 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2024!

Purdue's Canal Connections



When most people think of our region of Indiana, the first institution to come to mind is Purdue University. And for good reason! Purdue is a driver of innovation, industry, engineering, and it brings untold numbers of new people and businesses to our part of the state. There is also the pride of Purdue's sporting legacy, including their current dominance in college basketball. We won't talk about how things are going with football this year. But did you know that John Purdue, namesake of the school, has strong canal connections?



John Purdue was born to Charles and Mary Short Purdue in Pennsylvania, and he was the only boy among eight sisters. Sometime after 1813, the Purdue family moved to Ohio, where John was apprenticed to a merchant in Adelphi.

He learned and succeeded in business, eventually teaming up with Moses Fowler and purchasing land in remote Lafayette, Indiana in 1838-1839. Back then Lafayette was far less developed, although it had a promising future with an incoming canal being built through the Wabash Valley.

Just a few years later in 1844, Fowler and Purdue ended their business partnership, but they both went on to achieve great wealth through their respective dealings.

Purdue became a multi-millionaire in the dry goods wholesale business, and this business was facilitated by having a superhighway pass right through his city. In 1845, he built the first business block in Lafayette, part of which still stands today! At the time, it was said to be the largest brick business house west of New York City, and it was located just near the canal itself.



Over time, John Purdue evolved his business to match changing market conditions and infrastructure, and he helped finance education and even a toll bridge across the Wabash River! He granted \$150,000 towards founding a land grant school in the Lafayette area, and one of the conditions of that donation was attaching his name to the school.

So the next time you walk around Purdue's beautiful campus or watch a Purdue game, you can think back of the Canal Era tycoon John Purdue who helped transform Lafayette with the help of the Wabash & Erie Canal!

**The Wabash & Erie Canal Newsletter is brought
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