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## NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA August 2024



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

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## Calling All Volunteers!

Each year at Canal Park  
brings its own challenges

## A Surprise Guest at the Canal

As we were busy planning for the 50th anniversary of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., one suggestion was to contact legislators to issue a resolution commemorating the achievements and legacy of our canal preservation efforts.

Earlier this year, we were in touch with the office of U.S. Senator Mike Braun, and we had our fingers crossed that the Senate might pass a resolution to celebrate fifty years of preservation, education, and recreation along America's longest canal.

and victories, but you can always count on Canal Season being busy and tiring! As a token of our gratitude, the Program Committee is setting up a picnic for all volunteers and their families to enjoy!



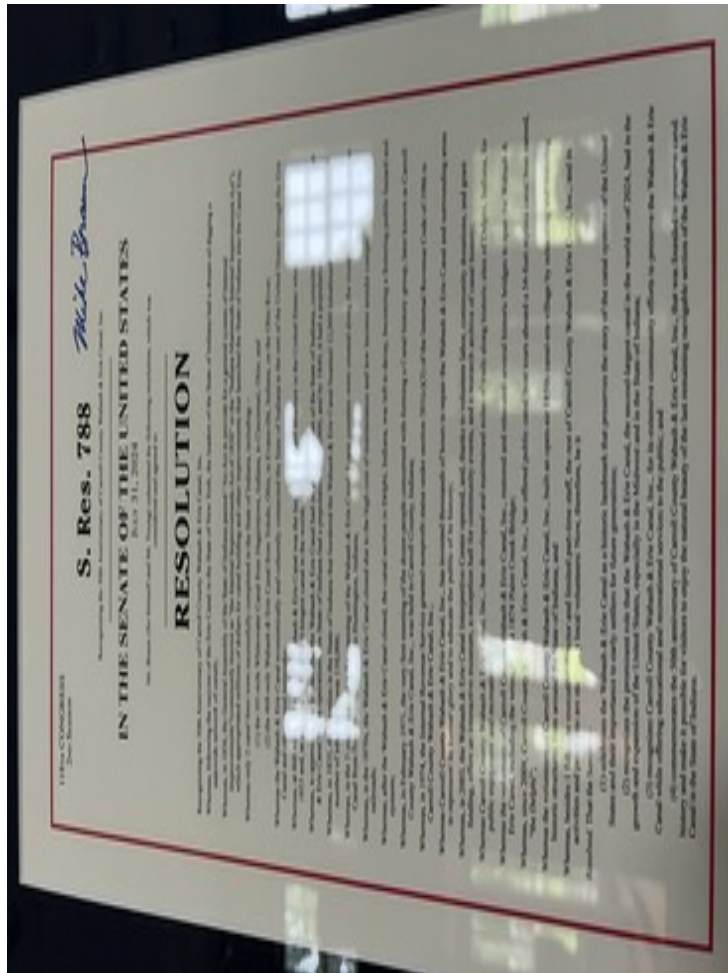
Canal Season's final Saturday will be September 14. After we close the park, all Canal volunteers and their families are welcome to join at the Speece Picnic Shelter in the Pioneer Village.

Canal Park will provide the main dish, drinks, and tableware. If you can attend, please bring a side dish, dessert, or snack to share! We will have refrigerators and freezers available to store things as needed.



Not only will this be a chance to enjoy a meal together, it will be an occasion to celebrate a busy season! It is no small task to bring history to life, and we want to take the opportunity to revel in a job well done. We will see you there!

**Calling All Trails**



To our pleasant surprise, not only did Senator Braun succeed in passing the resolution, he even scheduled a personal visit to Wabash & Erie Canal Park!



The brilliant volunteers of Canal Park hosted Senator Braun for a short voyage aboard *The Delphi*, sharing about the construction, operation, and legacy of this vital piece of Hoosier history. Also present for the visit was Heath VanNatter, Indiana Representative for District 38.

## Lovers

Do you use and enjoy the historic trails around Delphi? Do you enjoy volunteering and working outdoors? If so, Wabash & Erie Canal Park could use **your** help!



We are on the lookout for an individual who can take on the role of Trails Team Leader. This individual would help oversee trail maintenance and upkeep in conjunction with Canal staff, and we would love to hear from you!

Interested individuals can email: [director@canalcenter.org](mailto:director@canalcenter.org), or you can call our office: 765-564-2870.

Since the inception of Delphi's Historic Trails, volunteer efforts have gone a long way to building something special for Delphi's residents and visitors. Help us keep this tradition continue strong!

**VOLUNTEER**  
**TODAY!**

## **INfields for Indiana Fun**

Wabash & Erie Canal Park is a proud founding member of INfields, a new nonprofit organization promoting rural tourism in our part of the state. You'll want to check it out: [visit](#)



After the boat ride, the group took a stroll through the Interpretive Center's world-class museum. There was plenty of history to talk about, but even more meaningful was the chance to share about the unbelievable accomplishments of the volunteers at Wabash & Erie Canal Park over the past fifty years.

It isn't every day that a community of supporters can rally together to build something so special, overcoming so many obstacles along the way. This is the legacy we are proud to celebrate this year, and we are grateful for the chance to share it with new visitors from near and far!

If you would like to see the U.S. Senate resolution, it is displayed prominently in the Interpretive Center's lobby. We encourage you to stop by and read it at your leisure!

## Historic Classes: Fall 2024



Have you reserved your spot yet for one of the historic trades classes this fall? Time is running out to explore a new skill under the expert guidance of our brilliant instructors! You can browse the full class list [at this link](#).

[Infields.org](http://Infields.org) today!



Please be sure to [sign up for the email newsletter](#) so you can keep up to date with all the happenings of member organizations.

You can also follow INfields on social media! Keep up to date with opportunities for enriching and fun experiences for all ages and interests.

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## International Visitors

Visitors come to Wabash & Erie Canal Park from near and far, and we may have set a new record for distance with a recent tour group!



Logansport High School has a fantastic exchange program set up with the Changhua Girls' Senior High School from Taiwan. As part of this program, a group of students from Taiwan comes to Logansport to experience a week of high school life in the United States.



Just this morning at Canal Park, Bev Larson led a broom-making class, and students came from across the state to experience the learning fun! Sessions will run through October, and they include other great classes like basket making, wool felting, coopering, hearth cooking, weaving, and more!



For instance, the hearth cooking class with Becky Crabb will feature new recipes, and the weaving classes will incorporate new creations like table runners. If you have visited the Pioneer Village and thought, "Maybe I could do that," these classes are for you!

You can register online at the linked page above, and you may also download a mailable form on the same page. We look forward to seeing you at the canal later this fall!

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## Red Bridge Renovation Update

We recently shared that the Red Bridge had received a brand new deck, and it is looking fantastic. There is yet another exciting development to share: painting has begun!



The group requested a canal boat ride, because that would be a unique experience indeed. After all, as an island, Taiwan does not have much of a canal presence! The other requested activity was a tour of the Pioneer Village.



As the group organizer said, "These students come from a very large city, so visiting log cabins would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them!" Thankfully, the amazing volunteer docents of Canal Park prepared an educational and fun welcome for the group.

When we asked the visitors what their favorite visit in America was, they insisted it was visiting the cabins and riding the canal boat! Not bad at all, considering the group had also enjoyed an excursion to Chicago.

These visits would not be possible without the support of our canal community to keep the park vibrant and beautiful. Thank you for your contributions to connect students to Hoosier history!

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## Upcoming Events



The intrepid Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew has begun work repainting the rails of the Red Bridge, and they are making steady progress day by day. Mac Carlisle, shown below, is painting one of the railing sections.

We are always ready to welcome new team members to the M-W-F Crew, so if you enjoy painting we would love to have you join the fun! It isn't every day you get to help preserve a 150 year old bridge, after all.



We were especially honored and happy to welcome the Cervantes Brothers, very well-known local artists who have already done so much to enrich the local arts scene. When we asked for assistance with painting, they stepped up to volunteer their elite painting skills, and they have made incredible progress so far. Currently, about half the bridge has received the red primer, and the next step will be to finish the priming and put on the finish coat.

Here are some ways you can experience Wabash & Erie Canal Park for yourself in the coming weeks!

**September 7: Canal Season Saturday, 1-4PM.** Ride the canal boat, explore the Pioneer Village, and tour the museum and the Reed Case House! It's the full canal experience all in one place.

**September 14: Canal Season Closing Day, 1-4PM.** Ride the canal boat, explore the Pioneer Village, and tour the museum and the Reed Case House! It's the full canal experience all in one place.

**September 14: Volunteer Picnic, 4-6PM.** Celebrate the achievements and victories of Canal Season, and have a great time with your fellow canalers! All volunteers and their families are welcome to attend.

**September 16: Basket Making Class, 9AM-3PM.** Learn to make a yarn basket, and take home your creation! The class will be taught by expert basket weaver Bev Larson.

**September 20-21: Coopering Bucket Class, 9AM-5PM.** Begin your journey to mastering this increasingly rare skill! Make a bucket that is both eye-catching and functional, all under the helpful supervision of Peter Cooper.

**September 21: Weaving Classes, 9:15AM-4:15PM.** The Wabash Weavers Guild will be offering a morning and an afternoon session for making a beautiful placemat



This collaboration with the Cervantes Brothers is a beautiful example of how Canal Park is a place for all to enjoy and find community. As they said on their Facebook page, "We used to work for Dan [McCain] to complete our community service hours, back when we got in trouble with the law numerous times. We know our wrongs and we learned from it. It only makes it right to give back to the community!"

We are beyond thankful for the help of the Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew, the Cervantes Brothers, and all the wonderful people who put their support into action! We look forward to seeing the Red Bridge with its final, finished paint job this fall.

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## Colonel Vigus' Shovel

*Note: This series originally aired on WBOI FM public radio of Northeast Indiana. Thanks to Tom Castaldi for allowing and facilitating its reproduction.*

(or two!), plus there will be a second class offered to make a Scandinavian pattern table runner.

## Did you know...?



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



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 Sponsors!

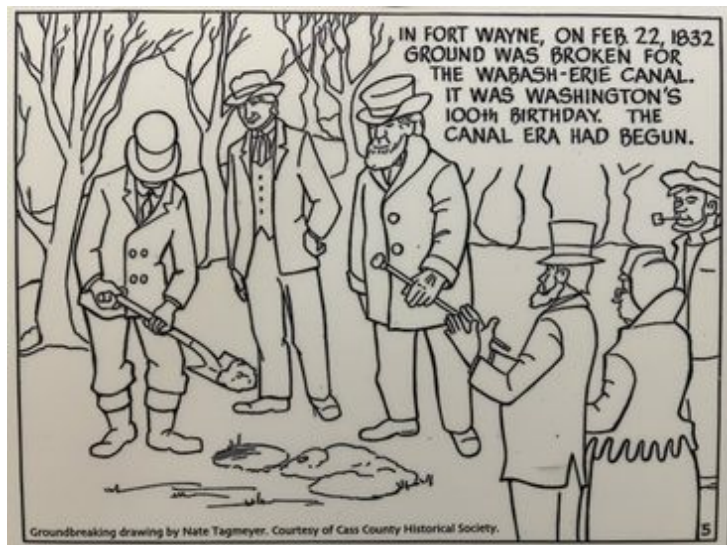
We are fortunate to have many generous businesses in the community who place great value on preservation, education, and recreation.

If you have need of any services offered by the businesses below, we strongly



When Commissioner Jordan Vigus shoveled up that first spade full of Fort Wayne soil announcing the commencement of the Wabash & Erie Canal on February 22, 1832, there was to be a reaction as if an earthquake had shaken the land.

The ground did not shake violently as it had in 1811, but a crevice 468-miles long opened up economic development and prepared a wilderness frontier for a state of productivity. Because of the financial disappointments of Indiana's internal improvement program including the canal, a near bankruptcy occurred causing Indiana to create a new state constitution in 1851 that prohibits the state going into debt.



Vigus' shovel sparked the beginning of a transportation industry considering the large amount of private capital investment that followed the canal. Mills, foundries, and machine shops were possible because of the considerable waterpower near locks and dam feeders. Later these were improved by steam and then by electrical power and gradually the rails and automobiles that connected them.

recommend you reach out to them! They are all wonderful organizations who care about the community they serve!

### **Gold Supporter**

- *J.W. Rentals*

### **Bronze Supporters**

- *Carroll-White REMC*
- *Delphi Hardware & Paint*
- *Indiana Packers Corporation*
- *Jeffrey C Rider, Attorney at Law*
- *Longhorn Apparel and Graphics*
- *PTI Machining*
- *Scarano Boat Building*
- *Security Federal Savings Bank*

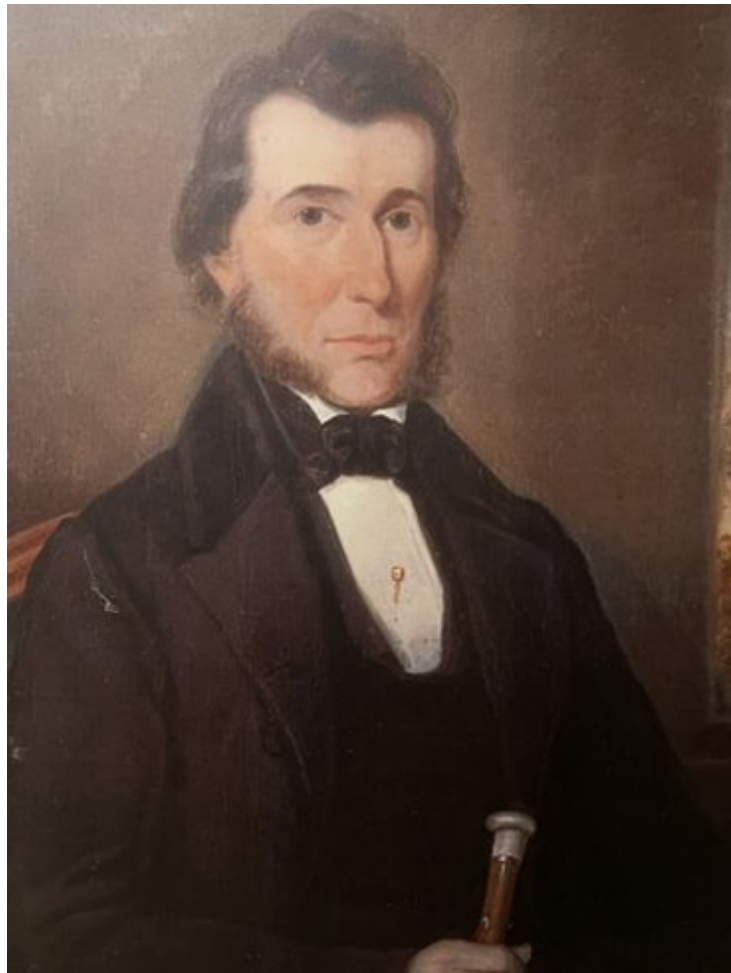
### **Festival Sponsors**

- *Duke Energy*
- *Mustangs To Fear*

### **Community Supporters**

- *Brick & Mortar Pub*
- *Cassens Trees*
- *Collisions Unlimited, Inc.*
- *D-K Construction*
- *Helms Lawn & Landscape Specialists*
- *Industrial Federal Credit Union*
- *The Andersons, Inc.*
- *Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette*

If you'd like to add your business to this list, please email: [director@canalcenter.org](mailto:director@canalcenter.org) and check out the [Sponsorships Brochure on our website.](#)



The canal played a role in developing the everyday economy in the region, providing employment for today's manufacturing and the service industries that it supports. Much of it supplies the auto and truck makers in keeping with the tradition of transporting people and the goods they demand. It is simply a newer technology than the over a century and a half ago when canal passenger packets and cargo boats did the job.



Vigus' groundbreaking shovel initiated a movement that progressed through the land from one technology to another, overcoming all it encountered. With that first spade full of soil, a very long canal became a reality. Today the Wabash & Erie





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

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remains an historic reality with a very long legacy.

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111 East Main Street, Delphi, IN 46923  
Telephone: 765-564-2165/Fax: 765-564-4919

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1030 N. Washington St.  
Delphi, IN 46923  
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