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## October 2025

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**There's a lot happening at Wabash & Erie Canal Park! Click "view entire message" at the bottom of this email so you don't miss anything.**

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## **NEW CABIN INCOMING**

We have some thrilling news to share: Wabash & Erie Canal Park is **growing!** Before next summer kicks off, you can expect to see a new addition to our historic 1850s Pioneer Village, thanks to the generosity of several sources.



Last spring, we were contacted by Bill and Patti-Joy Crone, residents of Warren County. These preservation-minded friends were preparing to move, and they wanted to ensure that the 1830 log cabin on their property, originally owned by Urial Deer, would be preserved and cherished for years to come. After a lot of discussion and planning, the pieces came together!



The cabin was restored in 1970 by Bill's father, Boyd Crone. Boyd passed away earlier this year, but he had compiled a wealth of research and interpretive materials to preserve the history of this incredible structure. While this cabin will be the "newest" addition to Canal Park, it will also be the oldest structure in the park (even older than the canal itself!).

The cabin will be used for demonstrating historic trades with guest artisans and also for paper-making. We are grateful to the Crone family for donating this marvelous cabin, to the Farm at Prophetstown for connecting us with the Crones, and to Peter and Linda Cooper for their financial support to help complete this project.

However, this project came to full fruition thanks to a generous grant from North Central Health Services (NCHS) administered by The Arts Federation (TAF). If you have visited Canal Park, it is easy to see the lasting legacy of NCHS/TAF all around the property, including their support for many of our colorful, educational interpretive panels.

NCHS is a medical services organization committed to addressing a wide range of health issues and to enhancing the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities. NCHS will support non-profit organizations that share its commitment to health and healthy communities primarily through capital grants. Its service area is Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White Counties. NCHS encourages collaboration among organizations to efficiently utilize resources and provide services that are not duplicative of existing programs. Indeed, Canal Park is fortunate to partner with NCHS to save this endangered piece of Indiana's heritage.

We hope you can visit us in 2026 to step inside and experience the newest addition to Wabash & Erie Canal Park!

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## Annual Meeting Recap

Thanks to all who attended the 2025 Annual Meeting for Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc.! It was a delightful time to gather, celebrate, and learn from a busy year.

John Polles, the "admiral" of *The Delphi*, took his official retirement from the board of directors, and he was awarded the Jim French Legacy Award. This honor recognizes John's volunteer service, which stretches back well over 15 years as one of the first members of the canal boat crew.

Additionally, Nikki McCain was voted in as the newest member of the board of directors. She moved to Delphi earlier this year and is already making a great impact with her extensive career experience in the film industry and her enthusiastic museum tours for schoolchildren.

The featured speaker for the evening was Dr. Christopher Moore from the University of Indianapolis. Dr. Moore reported on his findings on Canal Park properties over the past year or so. To summarize a very engaging presentation, Dr. Moore has been excavating in the exhibit area of the Delphi Bayou (across the canal from the Interpretive Center) and at the Carrollton Bridge site, just north of Delphi. In each of these sites, he has found a trove of artifacts that tell a story about past inhabitants and travelers in our region.

Remarkably, in the Delphi Bayou field area, Dr. Moore located pottery fragments that date back to approximately 1000 BC, making them some of the oldest fragments found in our region.

While the past year has been marked by energy and discovery, we can't wait to see what the next year holds!



## Hike the Trails Day Is Tomorrow, November 1!

If you're looking to make the most of these gorgeous fall colors and get some fresh air, join us **Saturday, November 1** for Hike the Trails Day!

This is a very simple event: between dawn and dusk, get out there and enjoy the historic, scenic trails that surround Delphi! Take some pictures along the way, and tag us in them when you post to social media. [You can check out the trail map and get trail information at this link.](#)

At 2:30, you can join for a guided nature walk with David

McCain. There is no registration required; simply meet at the Interpretive Center's main entrance (at 1030 N. Washington Street in Delphi), and enjoy the peaceful walk from there. We look forward to seeing you out on the trails!

## Limelight Award



On October 29, Dan McCain was recognized by the Delphi Preservation Society and Delphi Opera House for a lifetime of service

and dedication to Carroll County and its history. This marked the 5th year of the Limelight Legacy Award, and past winners have included local legends like gospel artist RayGene Wilson and local historian Candi Pastor Harrison.

The evening began with a meet-and-greet in the beautiful concession lobby of the Delphi Opera House, then a meal provided by CustomSelect Catering, with dessert from Stone House Bakery.

The program included an onstage interview with Canal Park's executive director, Mike Tetrault, where Dan regaled the audience with stories of how the canal was restored and developed over the past 50 years.

Typical to Dan's style, his focus was on the team efforts that transformed Delphi and built a unique historic site. He lauded the vision of volunteers like George Obear, Jim French, and his mother, Roseland McCain, among many others.

To conclude the evening, the presidents of the Delphi Preservation Society and Delphi Opera House, Christina Langsdorf and Anita Werling, presented Dan with the award, followed by a spontaneous and fitting "Hip hip, hooray!" The evening was certainly a memorable tribute to an incredible canaler.

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## Two Seasons

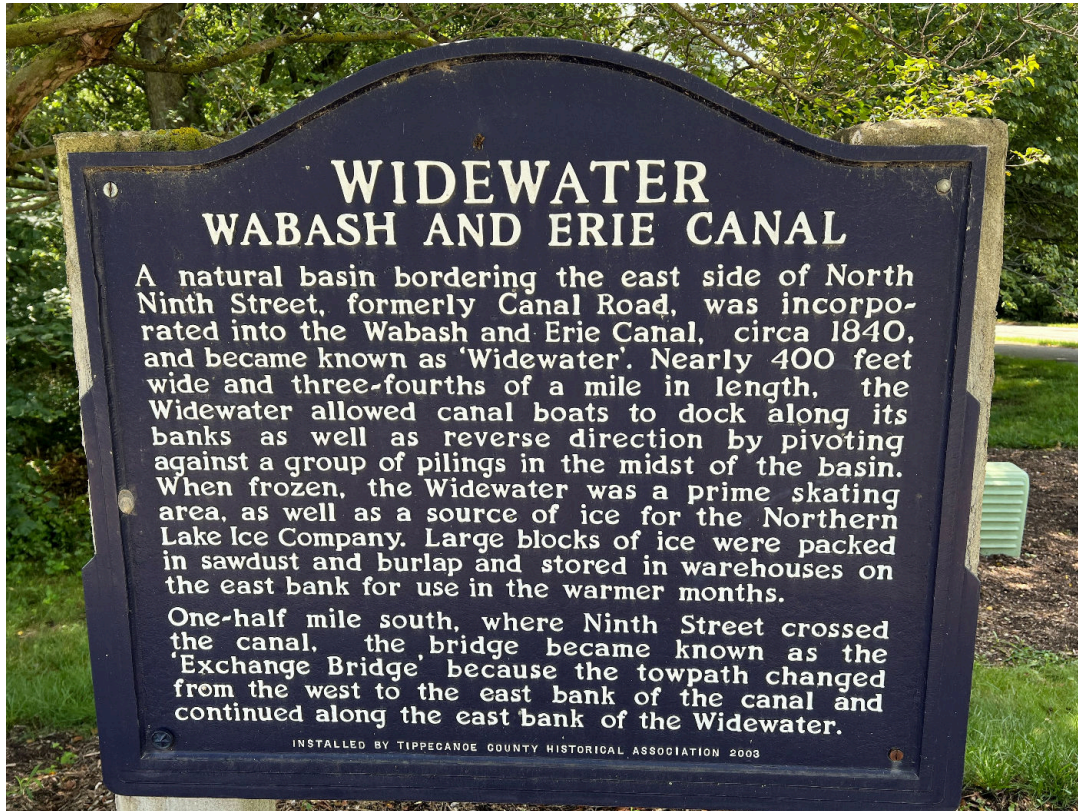
From Allen County Historian Tom Castaldi's series, "Canal Notes"

Even though the old Wabash & Erie Canal closed for business in the winter season, it possessed a unique spirit of giving. Throughout Indiana, winter brought low temperatures, freezing free movement of water within the forty-foot width from towpath to berm bank. Each year the change of seasons transformed the canal into a solid sheet of shimmering ice, perfect for horse drawn sleigh travel through a winter

wonderland. Surely it was a joy for all who were accustomed to slow, rough cart and wagon rides. Ice skaters too could enjoy smooth surfaces for the fulfillment of their sport. An old illustration by Wils Berry depicts a frozen Eel River at Logansport providing an ice skaters' haven beneath the aqueduct on the Eel. Overhead a span of the frozen water-filled aqueduct trunk is graced with long icicles hanging low. Such scenes were no doubt repeated under the aqueduct at St. Mary's River in Fort Wayne or on the wide turn basin at Delphi or the landing at Huntington. [Below is a modern image of skaters playing hockey on the Central Canal in Indianapolis]



In Lafayette, blocks of ice were cut and removed from a place called Wide Water [see image below]. Ice was stored under straw in warehouses for use in summer because no one had anything like a refrigerator. Farmers welcomed its opening as the canal provided customers for the crops and livestock they produced at harvest time. Merchants were happy when the spring season thaw brought canal boats with goods from the east. Everyone could look forward to the news stories of the world brought in by packet boat passengers and their discarded newspapers.



Winter and summer seasons limited the advantages of a canal, unlike the railroads that operated year-round. As Indiana's resources were opened up to the world, transportation systems were needed that had no season. Finally, open season was declared on the canal as rails and highways forced it out of existence for all time.

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## Help Us Build the Future

If you believe in the mission of Wabash & Erie Canal Park and wish to contribute towards its future, click below to learn about becoming one of our valued supporters!

[Donate Today](#)

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## Need More Canal History?

The **Canal Society of Indiana** is an amazing resource for all things related to the stories of Indiana's canals. On their website, you can explore historic canal routes laid over modern maps, you can read numerous biographies, and you can browse a wealth of research materials that are top-notch and engaging! Click the button below to visit, and be sure to sign up for a membership!

[Canal Society of Indiana Homepage](#)

### Camp at the Canal

Enjoy a peaceful getaway while also getting hands-on with Indiana history! We have options for all camping needs, including rustic cabins if you would rather not bring your own shelter!

Winter camping is available for self-contained RV's, or you can book your future adventure today!

### Plan an Event with Us!

You can hold your wedding, birthday celebration, corporate meeting, or family reunion in the beautiful reception hall at the Canal Center in Delphi! We offer a variety of options to custom-fit your needs, and we can accommodate events up to 300 guests. Click below to get started with your event!

Reserve Now

Book Now

## 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 recommend you contact them! They are all wonderful organizations who care about the community they serve.

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