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CURRENTS
NEWS FROM WABASH & ERIE CANAL PARK
WABASH & ERIE CANAL
DELPHI, INDIANA
Presented by Delphi Properties LLC

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November 2025

Christmas at the Canal

Carols at the Canal

Day After Christmas Walk

School Tours 2025 Recap

Canal Notes: Carrying Cargo

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.



The Merriest Festival of 2025

Saturday, December 6 will bring the merriest event of the year to Wabash & Erie Canal Park, and you're invited!

Christmas at the Canal will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and it is a Christmas gift to the community. There will be plenty to do for all ages, including...

- The Christmas Bazaar with handmade crafts and goods for sale

- FREE tours of the Reed Case House
- FREE tours of the interactive Wabash & Erie Canal Museum
- FREE visits to the artisans of the Pioneer Village where you can learn about 19th century skills and trades
- FREE visits with Santa Claus (11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.)
- Lunch and Christmas cookies available, proceeds benefiting Wabash & Erie Canal Park
- Christmas carols in the White Chapel at noon and 2:00 pm

See below for more information about this special event!

[Christmas at the Canal Info](#)

Songs and Stories of Christmas Past

CHERISHED CLASSICS AND MUSICAL FUN

CAROLS AT THE CANAL

AN 1800'S CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG



SING INSIDE THE HISTORIC
1880S WHITE CHAPEL



FEATURING VOCALIST AUDREY JOHNSON
PHOTO BY BROOKE SAUTER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025, 4:30PM

WABASH & ERIE CANAL PARK
1030 N. WASHINGTON STREET
DELPHI, IN 46923

If you enjoy singing, Christmas carols, and 19th century lore, then you won't want to miss Carols at the Canal on **Friday, December 12 at 4:30 p.m.**

Vocalist Audrey Johnson will lead a historical exploration of song and culture, and she sets the stage perfectly for participants to join the fun. This is a first-time event at Canal Park, and it is possible thanks to support from [Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette](#).

What is the connection between "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and Abraham Lincoln? What does "Jingle Bells" have to do with irresponsible life choices, and how did it become one of the best-known carols in history? These questions and more will be answered during Carols at the Canal!

Audrey Johnson has enchanted audiences across the region with programming at her company, [Of Thee I Sing](#). She weaves historical

narrative and top-quality music performance, all while creating an interactive audience experience. Her artistry is not to be missed!

The event will take place in the White Chapel within Wabash & Erie Canal Park's Pioneer Village, and the acoustics and ambiance are one-of-a-kind. This event is **free** to the public, although freewill donations are welcomed and all proceeds will support **preservation, education, and recreation** at Canal Park.



Day After Christmas Walk

Who doesn't love a chance to enjoy quality time with family and friends while also sampling the finest foods of the year? After a decadent holiday season, take a stroll and fill your lungs with fresh air at Canal Park!

Our annual tradition, the **Day After Christmas Walk**, will take place **December 26 at 1:00 p.m.** and all ages and walkers are welcome.

Guests will be treated to a guided walk along the historic towpaths of Wabash & Erie Canal Park, plus a selection of hot drinks and other refreshments after the walk concludes.

The meeting point and refreshments will be at the Interpretive Center (1030 N. Washington Street, Delphi), and this event is completely free to attend.

Special thanks to our walk narrators, Carl Seese and David McCain, for sharing their talents and time to make this community event possible!

School Tours 2025



We are pleased to report that 2025 was quite a busy year for school tours! We welcomed over **1,300** students to enjoy an immersive

educational experience at Wabash & Erie Canal Park, and they hailed from all over the Hoosier State.

When schools tour the park, the students ride the canal boat, tour the interactive museum, and explore the Pioneer Village. Of course, they also take some time for a picnic lunch and playtime aboard the replica canal boat playground!



At each station, students are warmly greeted by one of our incredible volunteers, and that personal interaction continues throughout the visit. The lessons and the stories of the Canal Era are still highly relevant to the experience of today's youth, and we are honored to provide a link to the past for so many bright young minds.

Just as volunteer docents create a memorable experience for students, it is our faithful team of supporters who lay the groundwork to make such programming possible. Stewarding 6+ miles of trails, nearly 3 miles of canal, dozens of historic structures, and more is no simple task! As a private nonprofit, charitable donations account for over half of our annual revenue, and we would welcome support at whatever level is feasible for you in this season of giving. Click the button below for more information!

Help us continue our mission so that future generations of learners will have the same access and educational opportunities at Wabash & Erie Canal Park!

[Donate Today!](#)



On the Move

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

If a canal boat could move several tons of cargo with the tug of a horse or mule at the end of a towline, what was so necessary to be moved? Virtually, everything that could be moved from east to west in the mid-1800s, whether passengers or barrels of salt, could be moved smoothly to and from the frontier settlements in Indiana. Stone from the Georgetown Quarry, now a park in western Cass County between Logansport and Delphi, was moved easily by boat for buildings and bridges. Grain and livestock or wood for building and for burning could be cut and loaded along the main line of the canal. Mr. John L. Adams' apple trees were unloaded at New Haven in October of 1873. Lime burned in Huntington and Delphi was loaded on boats for plaster to

finish elegant homes in cities hundreds of miles away. Even the bricks for the Kroeger Funeral Home in Logansport came on a canal boat after they first were used as ballast on a ship from England. Rather than dispose of them as so much rubble, the bricks were placed on a Wabash & Erie boat and unloaded at the Mill Lock Number 24.



Unfortunately, in 1846, people of the Miami nation were placed onto canal boats at Peru. As an added indignity, these passengers were listed on the manifest as "cargo" rather than as people. Canal boats were an efficient means to execute the forced removal of these people all in the name of American westward expansion. A new agrarian society demanded land with forests removed, for crops and livestock. So saddened were the Miami people forced from their ancestral Indiana lands, that some carried packages of soil to hold a piece of the land of their fathers. Boats then moved slowly through Wabash, Lagro, Huntington, Roanoke, Fort Wayne, and New Haven to the junction of the Miami and Erie Canal. Here they turned south to the Ohio River and were taken west to reservation lands in Kansas, then later Oklahoma.



Historians pass over the story of the Wabash and Maumee valley leaving little in their broad-brush history books for general study. Could it be that the slow moving canal boat with its great cargo carrying capacity helped make history pass this region so quickly?

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](#)

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!

[Reserve Now](#)

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!

[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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