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

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May 2026

Canal Season Open

New Cabin Dedication

School Tour Recap

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.



Canal Season Is OPEN

The wait is over: Canal Season is here! This is your chance to enjoy the full canal experience at Wabash & Erie Canal Park in Delphi. Park entry, parking, Pioneer Village fun, playboat, and trails are all FREE!

Every Saturday through September 12 from 1-4pm, you can take your pick of the following:

- See historic trades and crafts in action in the Pioneer Village
- Ride aboard the canal boat (at 1:30 or 2:30, ticket required)
- Play and learn in the hands-on Wabash & Erie Canal Museum (ticket required)

- Tour the elegant 1844 Reed Case House (ticket required)
- Hike historic trails along the canal corridor
- Create your own adventures aboard the canal playboat

Tickets may be purchased at the front desk on the day of your visit (pending availability), or you can [get tickets in advance on our website](#). Please note: at close of business on Friday, online sales also close. **But** you can still get tickets in person on the Saturday of your choice!

It is a special treat to see how volunteers bring the park to life during this season. With schools dismissed, a visit to Canal Park is a great way to spend time as a family, learn something new, and have a blast at the same time! We hope to see you some Saturday this summer!



Deer-Crone Cabin Dedication



Wabash & Erie Canal Park is proud to announce the dedication of the Deer-Crone Cabin, a one-of-a-kind piece of living Indiana history, on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. The public is warmly invited to attend the ceremony and be among the first to explore the cabin in its new home within the park's Pioneer Village.

The Deer-Crone Cabin's story spans nearly two centuries. It was originally constructed in 1830 by Urial Deer in Fountain County, standing as a testament to the craftsmanship and resilience of the state's earliest settlers. In 1970, Boyd Crone gave the cabin new life through careful restoration, relocating it to Warren County where it stood for more than fifty years. Below is a picture of Boyd and his wife Virginia, shared with us by his family.



When that property was sold to new ownership, the future of the cabin was uncertain. Rather than see this irreplaceable piece of history lost, the family of Boyd Crone stepped forward and selflessly donated the cabin to Wabash & Erie Canal Park, ensuring it would be preserved for generations to come. The cabin's relocation to Delphi was made possible through a generous grant from North Central Health Services (NCHS), administered by The Arts Federation.

With an interior measuring over 200 square feet, the cabin posed some challenges to move over 50 miles to its new home. The roof structure was removed from the building, and the two resulting sections were loaded and hauled to Delphi.



Once at Canal Park, the cabin underwent an extensive renovation thanks to an extraordinary contribution of funding, time, and expertise from Peter and Linda Cooper. The work has transformed the structure into the park's new Trades & Crafts Cabin, a hands-on history destination within the Pioneer Village. Improvements include a new cedar shingle roof, a covered porch, an accessible ramp entry, electrical service, and a new fireplace and chimney — ensuring the cabin is both historically accurate and welcoming to all visitors.

"This cabin represents the very best of what our community can do when we come together to preserve the past," said Dan McCain, president emeritus of Wabash & Erie Canal Park. "We are deeply grateful to the Crone family, to Peter and Linda Cooper, to NCHS, and to The Arts Federation for making this dream a reality."



Following the dedication, the Deer-Crone Cabin will be open to the public every Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. through the end of Canal Season on September 12. Visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to experience authentic pioneer trades and crafts in a setting that connects them directly to Indiana's past.

School Tours Recap



This spring, Wabash & Erie Canal Park welcomed approximately 1,000 students for guided school tours, perhaps the busiest spring season in our history! Groups traveled from across the Wabash Valley and beyond, with schools representing Fort Wayne, Lafayette, Williamsport, Rensselaer, and many other communities.

Students enjoyed a full day of hands-on history, including a ride on the canal boat, a guided tour of the interactive museum, and visits to several Pioneer Village destinations led by expert docents and tradespeople. Kids also had time to play on the canal playboat and enjoy a picnic lunch.

Watching young imaginations come alive is one of the season's greatest rewards. Whether a child is picturing a voyage all the way to New York City, wondering what it took to dig America's longest canal, or trying their hand at broom-making or weaving on an authentic loom.

None of this would be possible without the park's remarkable volunteers, who gave their time generously — often several days each week throughout April and May. Equally vital are the community donors

whose support allows the park to offer school tours at significantly reduced cost, ensuring that history and education remain accessible to all.

If you are interested in supporting the work we do, please scroll down for information on how to become a valued donor and member!



Underground Towpath

From historian and author Tom
Castaldi's series, "Canal Notes"



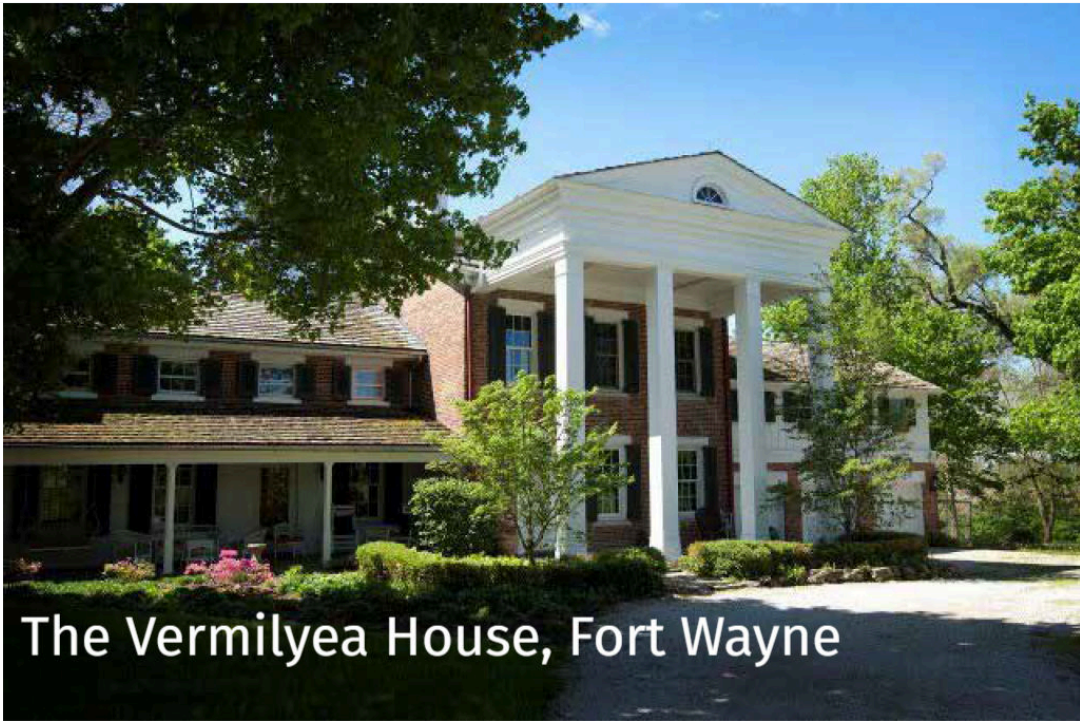
Canal travelers may have depended on the towpath for mules or horses to pull Wabash & Erie Canal boats north from Evansville on the Ohio River, but there was another traveler using the towpath route in the days before President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

Staying out of sight, and probably using the cover of night, enterprising people escaping slavery seeking freedom found their way to the canal towpath and a natural pathway north.



It was ingenious. It was a clear easy to follow towpath heading north, with "underground railroad stations" along the way where sympathetic Northerners would hide refugees from bounty hunters.

Because there were predators determined to capture and return runaways to their owners, the entire enterprise was kept a secret. To this day, few records remain to attest conclusively where sheltering stations were located.



The Klopp House on Logansport's Michigan Road is said to have been such a shelter. When a fugitive reached the Michigan Road where it intersected the canal at Logansport, the highway led directly north toward South Bend, into Michigan and on to Canada.

Other places were suspected underground stations such as at the Vermilyea House in Allen County where legend speaks of a yet-to-be-discovered hidden tunnel leading from canal to house.

Canal travelers relied on the towpath to move themselves or their freight independently as they wished. For others, a common towpath became a passage to an inalienable right to be free.

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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