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June 2026

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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.



Canal Days 2026: July 4

Get ready for the grandest festival of the year at Wabash & Erie Canal Park in Delphi! **Saturday, July 4**, from **10AM-4PM**, you're invited to step back in time and experience Indiana's Canal Era with fun activities for all ages, just in time to celebrate America 250!

Here's a sneak peek at the excitement that awaits:



Canal Boat Rides: Take a narrated cruise aboard The Delphi, a 54 foot replica canal boat along the only remaining navigable stretch of the Wabash & Erie Canal in Indiana. Dock departures are on the half-hour, from 10:30 through 3:30. You can purchase tickets online at this link until 4:00PM on Friday, July 3. After that point, ticket sales are in person only, pending availability.



Pioneer Village: If you have wanted to explore the many historic buildings in Canal Park and see historic trades in action, this is your chance! Build and take home a birdhouse, make your own rope, take a free shuttle down to the Railroad Depot, play kids' games and enjoy crafts, and so much more! We will have volunteers and special guests from a variety of backgrounds, and every building will have something to see and do!



Vendors: The park will be buzzing with food vendors, craft vendors, and informational booths for fellow historical and cultural organizations. Whether you're looking for ice cream, homemade pies, delicious lunch, or handmade crafts and products, you'll find it at Canal Park this weekend!



Mule Rides: Come celebrate the long history of mules on the canal by meeting special guests Hedy and Ada, local Percheron mammoth mollies that will be treading the towpath throughout the day. Be sure to get your tickets at the Interpretive Center to hop on the mule-drawn wagon rides for just \$2! Rides will take place every half hour from 11:00 until 3:00.



Live Music: There will be several chances to hear some beautiful music throughout the festival. The Delphi High School Band will be performing patriotic favorites near the Gray Bridge following the Delphi Lions 4th of July Parade. Tom Baugues, the amazing organ grinder, will also be playing his music on the towpath near the General Store. And last but not least, Joe Newlin will be playing pump organ classics in the Reed Case House throughout the day.



Reed Case House and Interactive Museum: Of course, you can pick up tickets to tour the historic, restored Reed Case House and the hands-on Wabash & Erie Canal Museum. While you're in the museum, be sure to check out our wares and try your hand at the different games and activities. In the Reed Case House, step back in time and experience urban luxury in true 1850s style.

We have to give all credit to our incredible sponsors, Duke Energy and the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to provide such an extensive lineup of attractions and activities.



There are so many fun activities on the way for you and the whole family at Canal Days 2026. None of this would be possible without the incredible volunteers who bring the park to life throughout Canal Season and beyond!

New Music Rings at Canal

A brand new music program is coming to Wabash & Erie Canal Park this summer, and **you're invited!** This two-week event series is FREE to attend and open to the public, led by renowned vocalist Audrey Johnson with Of Thee I Sing. The events will take place on August 8 (at noon) and August 15 (at 4PM) inside the Interpretive Center at Wabash & Erie Canal Park, and visitors are invited to attend one or both events.

**THE SETTING FOR
OUR DREAMS**

★ ★ ★

**A MUSICAL CELEBRATION
OF CANAL ERA INDIANA**

FREE SERIES!

Historical Songwriting Workshop
Saturday, August 8th at 12pm

Interactive Music Performance
Saturday, August 15th at 4pm

Wabash & Erie Canal Park
Delphi, Indiana

**WABASH &
ERIE CANAL**
DELPHI, INDIANA

the arts federation

INDIANA ARTS
COMMISSION
MAKING THE ARTS HAPPEN

OF THEE I SING
AMERICAN HERITAGE
THROUGH SONG
★ ★ ★

Activities are made possible in part by The Arts Federation, and the Indiana Arts Commission, which receives support from the State of Indiana and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The August 8 event will begin at noon and will feature an interactive musical workshop. Participants will learn the building blocks of lyric writing and collaborate to compose an original verse with Audrey's guidance. The workshop's theme will be *How Our Pioneer Ancestors Inspire Us*, guiding reflection on the qualities that have been passed down to us. [For more details on the August 8 event, click here.](#)



The August 15 event will be a captivating one-woman show where Audrey will lead visitors on a musical tour through history. After Family Day concludes, the performance will begin at 4PM. The performance features interactive elements, live music, numerous onstage costume transformations, and more! You won't want to miss this opportunity to engage your senses in canal era history! [For more information about the August 15 performance, click here.](#)

This performance marks a first-ever program in our 50-year history to celebrate 19th century music as a window into our shared local heritage. This groundbreaking two-week program is made possible in

part by The Arts Federation, and the Indiana Arts Commission, which receives support from the State of Indiana and the National Endowment for the Arts. We hope to see you (and hear you) there!



Canal Park's Newest Oldest Cabin Dedicated



The Deer-Crone Cabin, moved to Wabash & Erie Canal Park from Warren County over the winter, was officially dedicated on June 6, thanks to the efforts of numerous contributors along the way. The cabin is open for visitors to enjoy living history and experience a piece of Indiana's heritage from early statehood.

We are grateful for the members of the Crone family who came and spoke about the legacy of their parents Boyd and Virginia who stewarded the cabin for more than 50 years. The family's visionary donation is what made this possible.



At the dedication, guests heard remarks from the Crone family and from Wabash & Erie Canal Park executive director Mike Tetrault. To culminate the joy of the day, president emeritus Dan McCain led the crowd in the customary "Hip, hip, hooray!" that accompanies a successful project completion.

We wish to extend special thanks to the team who moved the cabin safely across a long distance, especially Mark Hufford with Peg & Pin.



A huge thanks to Peter and Linda Cooper for their substantial financial and volunteer support as they spearheaded the cabin's placement, planning, and renovation. Other additions provided by the Coopers' leadership includes electrical service, a covered porch, custom wood treatments, interior design, landscaping, a new roof, ramp, porch, and much more.

As the primary financial engine behind the cabin's move, we owe this project's success to the grant funding of North Central Health Services (NCHS) administered by The Arts Federation (TAF). Their invaluable support ensured the survival of an irreplaceable piece of history. Visitors to the park, especially schoolchildren, will get to enjoy it for generations to come!



Update from Mike Tetrault



Hello to all the faithful friends and supporters of Wabash & Erie Canal Park!

This month, I notified the Board of Directors that I have accepted a new position in Indianapolis. This opportunity was a very recent, unexpected change for me. After considerable discussion with my

family, we have decided making the change would be right for us at this time.

I want you all to know that this decision was not lightly or easily made, because I truly love Wabash & Erie Canal Park and the people that make it so special. You have all made me feel like family over the past five years, and I hold a special place for the time I've served here.

My memory of these years is full of the adventures we have shared, and I will always remain astonished at what has been accomplished by the generosity and talent of so many wonderful people within our community.

I will continue to reside in Delphi, and I will continue to support Canal Park on a volunteer basis. The story of this one-of-a-kind organization and the history of the canal are too compelling to let go, and I look forward to continued participation in our shared mission.

The Board of Directors has stepped up, and we are collaborating to ensure the transition is smooth. There are many great things happening here, and we won't miss out on the progress we've been steadily building together. I am also confident in the team we have in place to continue the work we've done so well for such a long time, well before I even arrived.

I will remain on staff through July 4, after which I will shift to a volunteer role here at the park. I am so grateful for your partnership and support, and I look forward to what the future holds for Canal Park as we continue to serve the community.

Appleseeds

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



Johnny Appleseed Park on Fort Wayne's north side is celebrated as John Chapman's burial place. In fact, Chapman, popularly known as Johnny Appleseed, is not in the marked grave, but is resting nearly in a place no one can pinpoint with any certainty.



What is buried in the park are several hundred yards of the Wabash & Erie Canal feeder line. It carried water from the Saint Joseph River about three miles north of the park, to the canal's main line another three miles to the southwest.

Records are clear that here the canal feeder is covered over in the park named for the man who so gently covered seeds with fertile soil. This

feeder provided the water to the canal that floated the boats that brought the pioneers of Johnny Appleseed's day to the region.



Actually, the channel depression can be traced today following the big Indiana & Michigan power line towers that are anchored in the old canal bed.

A small stream still flowing through the park was there in the 1830s and had to be crossed. Long gone is the water bridge, known as Culvert No. 4, that allowed water to pass down the feeder line.

Johnny Appleseed's spirit is kept alive near the buried channel that gave life-giving water to the longest canal in America.

Johnny gave us apple trees, the other gave us the people to tend them and harvest their fruit.

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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