



FORT DUPONT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SHAPED BY HISTORY & ANCHORED IN NATURE DECEMBER 2021

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM FORT DUPONT

Winter Wonderland In Our Neighborhood



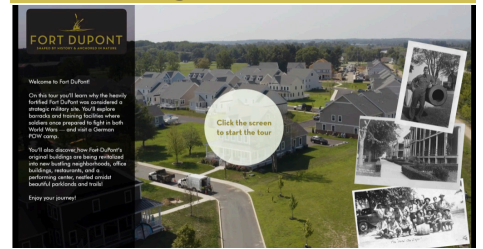
Come see where history and happy holidays mix! Fort DuPont is being transformed into a Winter Wonderland. The Theatre is more festive than it's ever looked, and the Christmas trees are in full regalia. The streets are lined with colorful trees that look like beautiful toy soldiers leading visitors through our neighborhood.

We've captured the magic of Christmas right here in your home town.

Tell your friends to grab some hot chocolate, pack the kids up in the car and tour this amazing sight.

The display will be up until the end of January.

Fort DuPont's Living Museum



Have you ever wanted to tour the beautiful landscape, history and buildings of Fort DuPont? Now you can do it from your own home. The pandemic has forced us all into a different way of living, but our commitment to history, preservation and education endures. See our new video at <https://youtu.be/tZxypKWd6Kc> and take the virtual tour at fortdupont.org/preservation/#tour

See Page 3 for more.

INSIDE

DID YOU KNOW?
MEET THE OOZLEFINCH

OUR LIVING MUSEUM
HISTORY FROM HOME

CAMPGROUND UPDATE
AMENITIES ARE COMING

FORTIFY 2022
THE MUSIC IS BACK
...MORE

DID YOU KNOW?

MEET THE OOZLEFINCH

OUR NEW
MASCOT

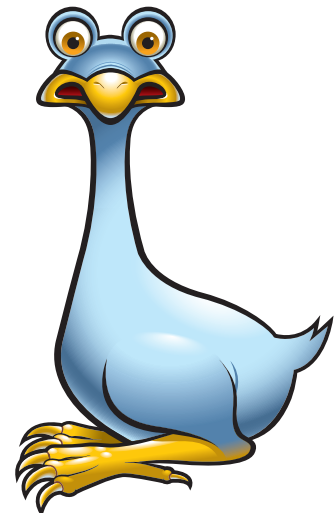
No doubt you've seen him lurking around on our recent newsletters, but we'd like to formally introduce you to our new mascot, the Oozlefinch.

The Oozlefinch is a legendary featherless bird of the Coast Artillery Corps, and reportedly flies only backwards to keep dust, trivia, and other inconsequentialia out of his eyes. The beginnings of this fabulous bird were humble and very vague, but this ancient, ageless bit of improbability has risen to a position of high honor. The Oozlefinch has dedicated himself (in the early 1900's) to the men who manned the guns and later, missiles. He was the confidant of generals and the guardian, patron, and mentor of missilemen.

The first recorded history of the Oozlefinch comes from some writings of Captain H. M. Merriam of Fort Monroe, Virginia in about 1905. He apparently was the only man who alleged he had seen the mythical creature, and emphasized the

great bird's eyes: "Large, all-seeing, unshaded by eyelids or eyebrows, and rather seriously blood-shot. But being all-seeing, the bird can gather more information in a shorter period of time than mere mortals. Because his eyes were unshaded by eyelids or eyebrows, the bird can turn them 180 degrees to gaze inwardly when he desires the maximum value from self-contemplation."

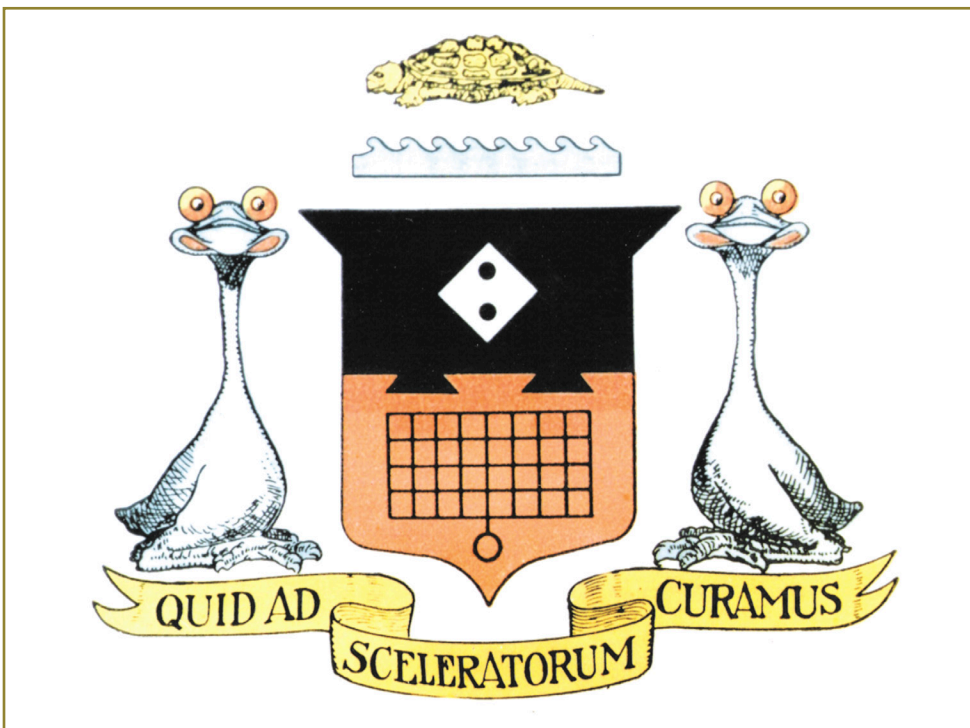
Sometime before Christmas of 1905 or 1906, while shopping in Hampton, Virginia, Mrs. Tilton, the wife of Colonel E. R. Tilton, (also of Fort Monroe, who followed Captain Merriam) came across a model of a bird which appeared to duplicate Captain Merriam's description of the Oozlefinch. A purchase was made and Colonel Tilton transported the bird to the Fort Monroe Officers Club, there it was accorded a perch behind the bar, where it remained for many, many years.



It was sometime during this period that those who remained at Fort Monroe thought it desirable to initiate a crest or coat-of-arms for their "Gridiron Club." Considerable thought was given to the selection of a motto, and finally after considerable search among Latin scholars, the decision was reached to utilize "Quid ad sceleratorum curamus." There was some difficulty in finding a Latin word for "hell" and the one selected translates literally as "place of the damned," which was apparently as near as the ancient Romans ever came to the word desired. Freely translated, therefore, the motto reads, "What in hell do we care!"

During World War II, antiaircraft artillerymen fighting overseas remembered the existence of the Oozlefinch and many of them took his likeness along as their sacred guardian. His spirit led those men who fought in both the European and Pacific Theaters to greater successes.

The Oozlefinch is no longer popular among servicemen as a guardian, but we think his military history, dedication to servicemen and pure whimsy make him a perfect fit for Fort Dupont.



HOMETOWN UPDATE



Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation has closed with Blue Water Development on their acquisition of the Grass Dale area. Look here for progress updates in the coming months.

We've begun the painstaking process of preserving two of the duplexes, bringing them back to their original beauty. We expect completion by next Summer.



There are two open seats on both the Planning Commission and the Board Of Adjustments, and we need your voice! The Planning Commission meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. The Board Of Adjustments as needed, fifteen days after a Planning meeting.

Please forward a brief resume of your experience and qualifications to Mayor Paul Johnson at pjohnson@ci.delaware-city.de.us

HISTORY FROM HOME - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



So we've created two vehicles for you to experience Fort DuPont without the crowds of people.

First, we have a beautiful video outlining the history and community overview of our neighborhood. Take a look at <https://youtu.be/tZXypKWd6Kc>

Even more exciting is our Fort DuPont Virtual tour, where you can virtually stroll through the area, experiencing 360 degree views and aerial vistas. Stop at any point of interest for tour, pictures, videos and detailed information.

Take a look at fortdupont.org/preservation/#tour

CHRISTMAS HAS GONE TO THE DOGS

Fort DuPont is definitely a dog-happy neighborhood, but Jodie Scott has taken it to a whole new level. She took our Winter Wonderland and made it a beautiful canine Christmas. Special thanks to Max, Bella, Daisy, Sal & Cooper!



SUMMER CONCERTS ARE BACK!



Fortify Music Festival is back in 2022! Instead of one big day, the Fortify Summer Series will be FOUR fantastic days of music, food and fun! SAVE these DATES below, and bring your family, friends and chairs and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of music!

June 11, July 9, August 13,
September 10

Road Construction Update



An informational meeting on the construction schedule of the roundabout and detours will be held on Wednesday, 1/19/22 at 6:30 pm in the Delaware City Fire Hall.

Shoreline Cleanup



We are having a community shoreline clean up day on Sunday, January 2 starting at 10 a.m. The goal is to remove as much plastic debris as possible left behind by the 10/29 storm. Volunteers should dress warmly, bring work gloves, and meet at the park parking lot (north end of Old Battery Lane) by 10 a.m. Open to anyone who wants to participate.

Our beekeeper will be giving a "Bees 101" presentation on January 27th at 6:30 at the Fort Delaware Society Building (the little yellow building) on Staff Lane.

Space is limited to 40 so email tbuchanan@fortdupont.org if you'd like to sign up. By then, we'll also be scheduling bee box painting sessions!



HELP US HELP OTHERS



We are working with Delaware City churches to help neighbors in need this holiday season. A drop-off box is located on the porch of the Administrative Office where you can donate non-perishables.

Residents:

Do you have questions about Fort Dupont? Email them to Terry Buchanan, our Director of Communications at tbuchanan@fortdupont.org.



COME EXPLORE

A HISTORIC WATERFRONT COMMUNITY
IN DELAWARE CITY, DE

FORTDUPONT.ORG