



SHAPED BY HISTORY & ANCHORED IN NATURE JUNE 2022

## WELCOME DIRECTOR TIM SLAVIN

Meet Fort DuPont's new Executive Director, Tim Slavin. In a special FDRPC Board Meeting on April 21st, it was announced that Mr. Slavin was appointed as the new Executive Director of Fort Dupont.

Mr. Slavin is currently the Director of the Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs and State Historic Preservation Officer, a position he has held since April 2004. In this position, Slavin has responsibility for the management of 43 historic sites across Delaware; the management of a large collection of state antiquities, artifacts, fine arts, and archaeological holdings; and the management of the state's historic preservation office. Slavin also served for fourteen years on the Dover City Council, including four years as Council President.

"We are thrilled to welcome Tim as our new Executive Director," says David Baylor, Delaware City Manager and Vice Chair of the FDRPC Board. "I know that he will bring experience, enthusiasm, great communication skills and fresh air to the organization."

When Slavin assumes the role on July 1, he will manage all day-to-day operations for Fort DuPont as well as liaising with vendors/developers and community engagement initiatives.

"I am excited to take on this role at Fort DuPont and humbled by the confidence the Board has shown me. Fort DuPont can be a great example of how historic preservation works in Delaware—practicing ethical stewardship while allowing for mindful design and new construction."

Mr. Slavin is well-versed in dedication to history and preservation, one of Fort DuPont's core tenets.

"Much of my work in the past 17 years at Historical and Cultural Affairs mirrors these issues," he said. "This includes managing historic structures and lands across a statewide campus and being involved in key decisions about historic preservation incentives and laws."

City Manager Baylor continued, "We feel very lucky to have found Tim and look forward to a smooth



transition and successful collaboration between Fort Dupont and Delaware City at large."

Mr. Slavin was introduced at the Delaware City Council meeting on April 25th, and said "The only way we'll be successful is by working together."

### A FORT DUPONT TWIST

Site Manager Peggy Thomas found this little guy under our car recently. "Oliver" (Oliver Twist) is less than 6 weeks old and absolutely adorable. As much as she would've



liked to keep him, he is in great hands now at Hillary Taylor's rescue where he will be with a couple of other rescued young foxes.



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## DID YOU KNOW?

# STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

RUSSELL P. SMITH,  
RETIRED NATIONAL  
PARK SERVICE  
MANAGER

On the grounds of Fort Dupont, there is a tall tower with a boxed-in square structure on the top. It's often identified as a guard tower for German POWs in World War II, and while it could have been used for that purpose, its original purpose was much more significant. It is a structure that illustrates the major technological changes in seacoast defense that occurred between the Civil War and Fort Dupont's major renovations in the 1890s.

At the beginning of the Civil War, heavy artillery (big guns) were made of iron, and the vast majority were smoothbore. For the most part, gunners sighted targets over the barrel of the gun. The smoothbore's greatest drawback was accuracy. To put it simply, the round cannonball would sort of rattle its way out of the gun. Its flight was anything but precise at long ranges.

As the war went on, the armies turned more and more to rifled artillery. These iron guns had grooves in the bore that made their elongated projectiles spiral through the bore, much like a football, greatly increasing accuracy. Range was also increased, as the Union army proved by lobbing shells 4.5 miles from Morris Island into the City of Charleston.

Accuracy isn't much of an issue when your target is a city. However, when you are trying to hit a ship at sea at long ranges, it is much more critical. By the 1890's, a revolution in ships and guns had taken place. Both were now made of steel. The biggest rifled guns at Fort Dupont (12-inch bores) could fire 1,096 pound projectiles up to 17 miles.

The tower at Fort Dupont was designed to aim those big guns. Two similar towers can be seen at Fort Mott in New Jersey. A key to their function is their orientation. Those towers, like the tower at Fort Dupont, are oriented downriver toward any threatening enemy ships.

The towers at Fort Mott were built in 1903, the same year that telephones were ordered to be installed at seacoast fortifications to improve communications with the guns. Fort Dupont's tower was probably erected at the same time.

Basically, the tower at Fort Dupont served the same purpose that the concrete fire control towers along the seacoast served for Fort Miles at Lewes during World War II. These structures were part of a sophisticated system that determined range and direction for the big guns so that they could place 2,700 pound shells on warships up to 24 miles at sea.





# June 11th

Don't forget that on June 11th, Delaware Waste Management will be here to shred and recycle:

Household Hazardous Waste- Product containers marked with words, "Warning: Hazardous," "Flammable," "Poisonous," "Corrosive" or "Explosive." For example; household cleaners, garden pesticides, oil-based paints only, nail polish, fluorescent bulbs, or antifreeze.

Electronic Goods Recycling- Electronic Equipment such as, old computers, printers, CD players, microwaves, telephones, televisions, game boys, fax machines, answering machines, and VCRs.

Paper Shredding- Residents can bring up to 2 file boxes of personal confidential papers for shredding (financial and legal documents, receipts, and tax and medical records). Papers with staples or paper clips are accepted.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN



The 2022 gardening season is quickly approaching and we only have a few more boxes available to residents. If you're interested in renting a box for \$100 this coming season please let us know by emailing [FortDuPontGardenCommittee1@gmail.com](mailto:FortDuPontGardenCommittee1@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience. Please include your full name, lot #, address, email, and contact number. At that time we'll provide the garden rules with the gardener agreement, etc.

## GRASS DALE/CAMPGROUND 411

There have been many rumors circulating about the RV Park/Campground Site at Grass Dale, and we want to bring you the facts.

First, the property has been sold to a developer and is no longer owned by Fort DuPont. Second, a site plan for the development of the property has been approved by Delaware City, and the project is being developed in accordance with that plan and in compliance with applicable laws. Both the decision to sell the property, and the plan approval, were discussed at numerous public meetings, fully noticed and in compliance with state law and pursuant to the authority granted to the Fort DuPont Corporation. Contrary to what some are saying, the decisions were not made in secret or out of public view.

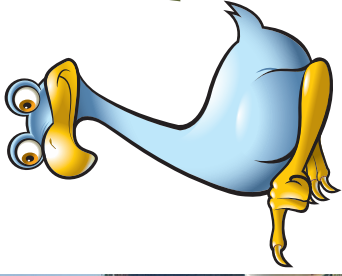
While there are opinions on both sides of the issue, the Fort DuPont Corporation voted to move forward with the project with the understanding that the project will bring tourism and economic development and substantial revenues to the local economy and to Delaware City.

Some also claim that the project is being developed in wetlands. Not true. While the project is near wetlands, it is designed around them, and is in compliance with all state and federal wetlands regulations.

Finally, some disparage the project as a mere "trailer park." Again, not true. It is an upscale seasonal campground with extensive amenities, many of which will be open to the public. No one can live at the facility year round; rather, it is a tourist destination. Take a look at Sun Outdoors Rehoboth (formerly called Massey's Landing) to get an idea of what this area will look like when complete.







Have you taken a walk by Battery Elder lately? The brush has been cleared, repairs made and a new railing installed. The view is breathtaking. Just wait until the guns are installed at the top!



## EVENTS - AGAIN!

We're thinking up new events all the time - make sure to keep an eye on your newsletters, Facebook and our website ([fortdupont.org](http://fortdupont.org)) for updates!

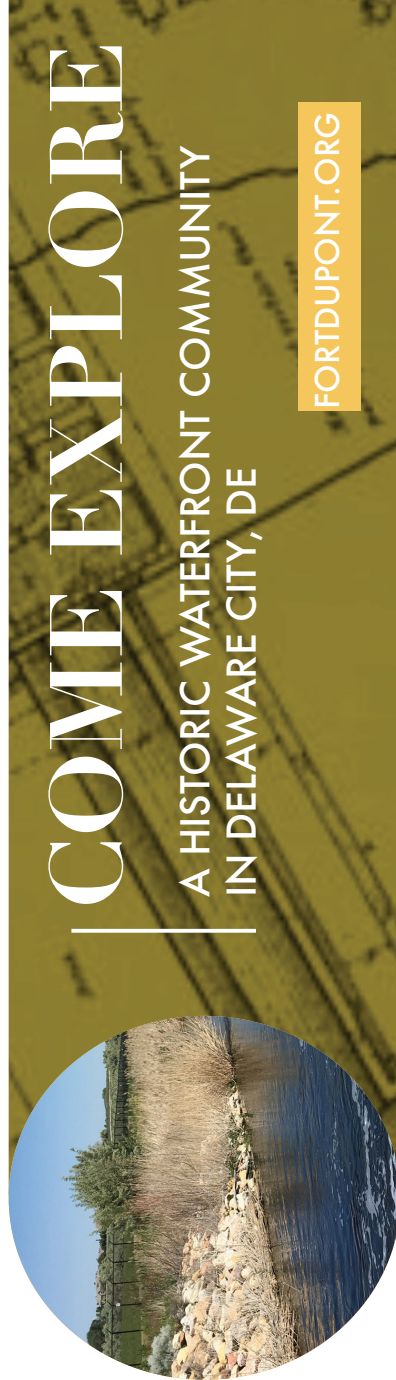
On **October 8th**, take a walk for a great cause and do it close to home! The **Walk for Autism** is right here in Fort Dupont. For more info or to register, go to <https://www.autismdelaware.org/walk-for-autism/>

Want some information on having your event here? Send an email to [marketing@fortdupont.org](mailto:marketing@fortdupont.org) to get some details.



## Residents:

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



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