

Shaped by History & Anchored in Nature



As Fort DuPont honors the past and shapes the future, we invite you to join our community. This newsletter shares events and updates that connect Delaware City and celebrate our area's rich history and natural beauty.

FDRPC Awarded Grant to Support Theater Restoration



Fort DuPont Redevelopment & Preservation Corp. has received a \$5,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to help fund a design study for the historic War Department Theater, built in 1933.

The project will evaluate the building's condition, explore design and reuse plans, and generate community discussion on the theater's restoration. This work is the first step toward reviving the theater as a cultural and community venue.

Tim Slavin, executive director of Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation, said of the grant, “As a small organization with a big vision, receiving support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation is an incredible honor. This grant represents national recognition for our very own War Department Theater—a place with deep roots in Delaware City’s history. We’re grateful for this opportunity and excited to take the first step in bringing the theater back to life as a vibrant space for community, culture, and connection.”

This project was funded in part by a grant from the National Trust Preservation Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Funding from the National Trust is awarded to nonprofit organizations and public agencies, most for planning and education projects through the National Trust Preservation Funds grant program. More information: <https://savingplaces.org/grants>

County Executive Marcus Henry Visits Fort DuPont



Fort DuPont was pleased to welcome New Castle County Executive Marcus Henry for a recent site visit and tour of ongoing restoration efforts. His visit marked a meaningful recognition of the work being done to preserve and revitalize this historic site.

During his time at the fort, County Executive Henry met with team members, learned about current projects, and expressed his support for initiatives that strengthen both the community and the environment. We are grateful for his time and interest, and we thank everyone who helped make the visit a success.

Next Board Meeting is July 9

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is on July 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Delaware City Fire Hall.

Around the Fort: Updates and Improvements



A Natural Tribute: Delaware Takes Root on the Parade Ground

If you've walked the parade ground at Fort DuPont lately, you may have noticed a new feature taking shape amid the historic landscape. It's no accident. We're thrilled to unveil our expanded "No Mow" area, specially designed in the shape of the state of Delaware.

This initiative blends natural preservation with local pride. By allowing this section of the field to grow freely, we're promoting biodiversity, supporting pollinators, and giving native plants a chance to thrive. At the same time, it showcases the iconic outline of our home state.

A special thank you to Larry MacLaren, Landscape Maintenance Manager, for carefully mapping out the area and bringing this vision to life. Whether you're viewing it from the ground or catching a bird's-eye look, it's a beautiful way to honor Delaware's heritage while embracing sustainable practices.

Come take a stroll, snap a photo, and enjoy this living symbol of state pride and ecological stewardship at Fort DuPont.



The first Friends of Fort DuPont event was a success. The Wild Bird Educational Talk drew a strong turnout and provided valuable insights on caring for and interacting with local bird species. Special thanks to the [Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research](#) for a great partnership.



Fort DuPont's Larry MacLaren participated in the Delaware City Arbor Day celebration, where he presented on the Delaware City Rotary Club's recent tree sale initiative.



The historic chapel at Fort DuPont has received new doors and updated lighting. The improvements are a welcomed refresh to a treasured site on campus.



A new library box has been added to the Fort DuPont campus, thanks to staff and the Delaware City Rotary Club. Special thanks go to Will Drummond and Stan Stachecki for building it.



The Fort DuPont front entrance sign has been reinstalled following its temporary removal for construction and updates. We're glad to see it back in place.



Transformation of the Old Battery Lane Duplexes

The recently remodeled duplexes at Fort DuPont are now complete and ready for occupancy. With significant upgrades inside and out, these homes offer a fresh look while honoring the site's historic character. For rental inquiries, please contact Emory Hill.

Connect with Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation on social media.



Meet the Friends: Spotlight on Friends of Fort DuPont's New Board Members

Meet Jane Graci



Jane Graci is a senior business administrator in Africana studies, College of Arts & Sciences, at the University of Delaware. She began working at the university in October 2008.

Jane and her family live in the Canal District on the Fort DuPont campus and appreciate its welcoming atmosphere.

"My family relocated to Fort DuPont in the hopes of providing a sense of community for our neurodiverse son," she said. "As residents of Fort DuPont, we found a friendly, accepting and diverse community.

"We enjoy the natural surroundings and the historical setting the fort offers," she said.

Jane is eager to participate in Fort DuPont's restoration and "will enthusiastically embrace the revitalization ... while caring for and preserving its past glory and history."

Meet Jay Brockson



Jay Brockson serves as vice president of managed IT services at Diamond Technologies. With more than two decades of experience in the information technology field, he brings deep expertise in managed service provider operations. Over the course of his career, Brockson has helped shape client strategies, provided CIO-level guidance and led teams in delivering seamless IT solutions. His strengths include project management and a focus on long-term technology success.

Connect with the Friends of Fort DuPont on social media.

Facebook

Instagram

Threads

LinkedIn

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events!



Delaware Friends of Folk & Friends of Fort DuPont partner for the 4-part series: FORT FOLK FEST!

Save the Dates:

- Friday, June 20, 7-9 p.m.
- Friday, July 18, 7-9 p.m.
- Friday, August 15, 7-9 p.m.
- Friday, September 19, 7-9 p.m.

delfolk.org

Friends of Fort DuPont Summer Events

2025

SUN. 6/15

SKETCH THE FORT

History & creativity meet with Urban Sketchers

FRI. 6/20

FORT FOLK FEST - JUNE

Live blues & jazz from Bruce Anthony on the Pavilion

SAT. 7/5

NATIVE FLORA WALK

Walk the trails and talk about the native flora of Fort DuPont

FRI. 7/18

FORT FOLK FEST - JULY

Listen to the best Celtic has to offer with The Blarney Pilgrims

FRI. 8/15

FORT FOLK FEST - AUGUST

Live Americana music with Mother's Highway Junction

SUN. 9/14

SKETCH THE FORT

Discover the wild side of Fort DuPont with nature sketching



SCAN TO MORE INFO
friendsoffortdupont.org

Community Information

Consider Joining Rotary



Rotary



Service Above Self



Delaware City Rotary Club, Satellite Club of
Middletown-Odessa-Townsend



For more information contact:

Crystal Pini-McDaniel, Chair
RotaryDECity@gmail.com

Service Above Self

Delaware City Rotary Club, satellite club of Middletown-Odessa-Townsend.

Information: Crystal Pini-McDaniel, Chair
RotaryDECity@gmail.com

Connect with us!



Events from Delaware State Parks



Fort DuPont

Native Flora Walk

10 a.m. Saturday, July 5

Fort DuPont, in addition to being a historic site, is also a significant natural habitat. In this new program, we will walk the trails and talk about the native flora of Fort DuPont and its effect on wildlife. We will also touch on the invasive species in the area, and how they affect the local habitat. This program is free, but it is suggested that you register by emailing Jake at Jacob.miller@delaware.gov. Meeting place will be at 2498 Old Battery Lane.

Led by Larry MacLaren, Landscape Maintenance Manager for Fort DuPont Redevelopment

Fort DuPont History Walk

10 a.m. Saturdays, July 19 and August 16 at the Fishing Point

Fort DuPont has a fascinating history from the mid-1860s to the present. Join a park historian to walk the grounds and explore sites that make this place significant. The program is free, but registration is suggested: or email Jake at Jacob.miller@delaware.gov The meeting place is 2498 Old Battery Lane.

FDRPC staff members will join the walk on July 19 while guests are visiting the Theater and Chapel.

Fort DuPont Battery Hike

10 a.m. Saturday August 2

Fort DuPont started out as a coastal defense site. For this program, we will explore why Fort DuPont was important, and how coastal defense on the base functioned. Wear waterproof shoes that you don't mind getting a little muddy!

All programs are free, but it is suggested that you register by emailing Jake at Jacob.miller@delaware.gov or calling 302-601-6382.

Meeting place will be at 2498 Old Battery Lane.

Register
Today

Fort Delaware

Fort Delaware is open!

Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, April 26 to June 8

Visit the greatest Civil War site in Delaware. Fort Delaware offers programs including artillery and musketry demonstrations, tours, and activities. Costumed interpreters show what we believe life was like in the 1860s. Fort Delaware is a great experience for visitors of all ages.

Visit the
Website

Library Offers Programs for All Ages



Upcoming Events



Summer Reading has begun! Color Our World is this year's program theme. Sign up for summer reading and color our world with numerous activities all summer long. Summer Reading Program Benefits: 1) promotes learning during summer break in a fun way; 2) sharpens literacy skills, 3) encourages reluctant readers, 4) fosters a passion for reading, and 5) it's FREE!

The library commemorates Juneteenth in many ways in June! Look for Juneteenth themed programs marked with an asterisk.

A **teleservices specialist** is available every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to assist with job/career guidance, resume support, computer skills, DE ASSIST (Medicaid/SNAP), housing/food resources, and referral to social service organizations. No appointment required and walk-ins are welcome.

Children's Storytime: A weekly event at 10 a.m. Tuesdays focuses on early literacy. We'll read a few stories and play a game during our time together. While this program is aimed at preschool-age children, we welcome kids of all ages. A parent or caregiver **MUST** be present.

Teen Room Hours: Teens have their own space with board games, cards, art supplies, as well as several video game systems. Ask the Library staff member on duty about additional activities. Teen Room hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays - drop in anytime between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.. Ages 12-17 welcome.

Our **MAKER SPACE** is a place to make, learn, explore, and share creative activities individually or collaboratively with tools provided by the library. Maker Space is open Tuesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. by reservation. Call the library for more information.

"Landscapes of the Delaware Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway" Photography Exhibit: A photography exhibit of the Delaware Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad by E. Lynn Dilliplane. On view from May 26th through June 24th.

Vinyl Record Listening Club: Join us the second Tuesday of each month. Meet like-minded music fans and listen to records. Enjoy the library's collection of over 60 records or bring your own! Light refreshments provided. Registration requested. Adults. June 10, July 8, and Aug 12 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Tweens & Teens Culture: Join us second Wednesdays for popular culture, food, games, art and more for tweens and teens. Theme changes monthly. For ages 10 to 15. Registration requested. 5 to 6 p.m., June 11, July 9, and Aug 13.

Knit, Crochet Social Club: Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels are invited to join our Knit and Crochet Social Club. Bring your latest project, enjoy refreshments provided by the library, and meet other knit and crochet lovers. A limited number of knitting needles and yarn will be available. 5:30 to 7 p.m., June 12, July 10, and Aug 12.

Five Ways to Freedom: Navigating Delaware's Underground Railroad Network: Experiential program that emphasizes critical thinking and analysis while teaching students about the important roles that modes of transportation and the Delaware abolitionist network played in the Underground Railroad. Children and families. June 16 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

African American Genealogy Research: Resources and Strategies: Presented by Delaware Public Archives and the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Adults. June 17 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Cooking with Cathy for Tweens & Teens: Tweens and teens get hands-on experience, learning how to use kitchen tools and practice cooking on third Wednesdays. Supplies are limited, registration required. Ages 10 to 15. 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., June 18, July 16, and Aug 20.

PAWS for People: READ! Read aloud to a furry, friendly therapy dog to inspire a love of reading. Offered by PAWS for People. Readers of all ages and stages are welcome the first and third Saturdays of the month. 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., June 21, July 5, July 19, Aug 2, and Aug 16.

Art in the Library: This fine arts program on third Thursdays changes themes monthly. Call the library for this month's project. Registration required. Adults. 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., June 26, July 17, and Aug 21.

Kids Cook: Kids ages 7 to 11 will have fun cooking (and eating) while learning to read and follow a recipe, basic math and chemistry, and fine motor dexterity on fourth Wednesdays. Younger kids may participate with an adult to help. Supplies are limited, registration required. 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., June 25, July 23, and Aug 28.

Kids Craft: Join us for a monthly kids craft on third Tuesdays to make fun and seasonal items, perfect for kids to keep, display, or give as gifts. Supplies are limited. Registration required. June 17, July 15, and Aug 19 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Author Talk with Noel Williamson – Local author Noel Williamson joins us for a discussion of his latest book, *A Dancing Celery Stalk and Other Sports Memories with My Dad*. Learn about his new book detailing recollections of his father and working for the Wilmington Blue Rocks for 30 years. Look for a copy of his book available in our Local Author section soon! June 23 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Recent Release Book Club: A monthly book club for adults on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Pick up a copy of this month's title at the library. Adults. 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., June 24, July 27, and Aug 26.

Maker Space Makes for Kids: Usually reserved for ages 12+, our new monthly Maker Space Makes program gives kids ages 7-11 (younger with an adult to help) a chance to explore our Maker Space tools and resources to create a fun new project on the first Wednesday of the month! Drop-in on July 2 and Aug 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

DC Writers Workshop- Are you a local writer? Join us for our newest recurring program for writers, the DC Writers Workshop! Share your work, workshop in-progress pieces, and receive feedback. This program is open to adults of all writing styles and skill levels. Meets every other month. July 2 from 5:30- 7:00 p.m.

Maker Space Makes for Adults: This new monthly program takes place on the first Monday of each month. Participants create a project utilizing technology and gadgets from our Maker Space. Call the library for this month's project. July 7 and Aug 4 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

STEAM Activity for Kids: STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. STEAM focuses on sparking imagination and creativity in ways that naturally align with learning. New activities on the second Monday of the month. July 14 and Aug 11 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Game Night for Adults: Join us at the library on the second Monday of the month for a game night just for the grownups. Play a selection of board games, card games, and video games for the Nintendo Switch and PlayStation 4, or bring your own! Adults. July 14 and Aug 11 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Drop-In Sewing Sessions: Learn machine sewing techniques in this new monthly program! A sewing instructor will guide participants in basic sewing techniques. Each session tackles a different technique. The library has a limited supply of sewing machines for participants OR bring your own machine from home. Registration required - space is limited! Adults. July 28 and Aug 25 from 5:00- 7:00 p.m.

For additional programs at the library, please visit our website at delawarecity.lib.de.us or like us on [Facebook](#).

Register for programs with the link below. Questions? Call the library at 302-834-4148.

[Register Now](#)

What's Happening in Delaware City

Honoring Juneteenth through education and celebration

Free events recognizing Black history, culture, and community will take place May 24 through June 22 as part of the 2025 Delaware City-Polktown Juneteenth Observance. Scheduled activities include live performances, educational programs, a community cookout, and special events at the Delaware City Library and Fort Delaware. Attendees can view exhibits, explore the history of the Underground Railroad, and celebrate heritage through music and storytelling. For event details, visit juneteenth-delcity.org.

Building community through National Night Out

Set for Tuesday, Aug. 5, National Night Out encourages police-community partnerships and neighborhood connections to strengthen public safety. Residents across the country take part in block parties, parades, cookouts, and events featuring safety demonstrations, educational programs, and emergency personnel. Learn more at natw.org.

Celebrating Delaware City Day together

Delaware City Day returns Saturday, Oct. 4, with a full day of festivities along the historic waterfront. Highlights include a parade down Clinton Street, live music, food trucks, vendors, children's activities, boat rides, and fireworks at dusk. Volunteers are needed both before and during the event. The first planning meeting will take place at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 8, in the Surfboard Room at the Delaware City Library, 250 Fifth St. To volunteer, email info@delawarecityday.com.

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