

Shaped by History & Anchored in Nature



As Fort DuPont preserves our past and reshapes our history, we invite you to join our community. This newsletter will share events and updates about programs and projects to bring Delaware City closer together and help Fort DuPont's neighbors appreciate our location's natural and historical heritage.

Upcoming Events at Fort DuPont

Hosted by Friends of Fort DuPont

For the birds, for free

The Friends of Fort DuPont and Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research have scheduled a free wild bird educational talk at 7 p.m., Monday, May 19 at Fort DuPont Pavilion, in front of 2546 Colter Road in Delaware City.

Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research was founded in 1976 after oil spills in Delaware and other parts of the country. In 1982, Tri-State Bird opened a full-time wildlife rehab and research facility in Newark, Delaware, to care for sick, injured and orphaned wild birds.

Tri-State outgrew its original facility because of a growing demand and opened a new wildlife facility in 1989.

The organization emphasizes education because most of the animals it treats have been harmed by human activity.

Tri-State offers open houses, outreach programs, and literature.

Registration is not required for the program on May 19, but encouraged:

Friends of Fort DuPont
& Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research
Present

**Wild Bird
Educational
Talk**

**Monday, May 19th
7:00 PM**

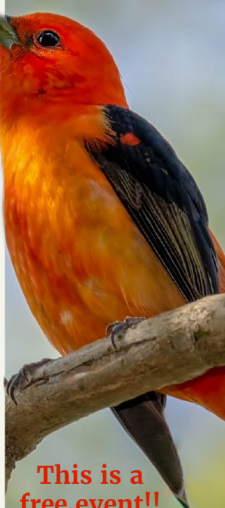
Fort DuPont Pavilion
in front of
2546 Colter Rd., Delaware City, DE

Registration is not
required, but encouraged
FriendsOfFortDuPont@outlook.com
or calling 302-838-7374 x103

Visit our website at
<https://friendsoffortdupont.org/>

Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research was founded in 1976 after a series of oil spills in Delaware and other parts of the country. In 1982, Tri-State Bird opened a full-time wildlife rehabilitation and research facility to care for ill, injured, and orphaned wild birds. Tri-State outgrew the original facility because of a rapidly growing caseload and opened a new wildlife facility in 1989. Today, the Tri-State Center for Wildlife consists of animal care wards, surgery and research labs, outdoor aviaries and pools, and a contaminated wildlife response facility that was built in 2015. Because 80% of the animals treated have been adversely affected by human activity, Tri-State places a large emphasis on educating the public. We offer open houses, outreach programs, literature, and a web site for the public in the hopes that education will lead to appreciation of wild birds and injury prevention. Almost 30 years later, the community still turns to Tri-State to give injured native birds a chance to return to the wild.

Friends of Fort DuPont
Preserving History. Enriching Community



**This is a
free event!!**

TRI-STATE
BIRD RESCUE & RESEARCH, INC.

www.tristatebird.org

Register Now

A promotional banner for "SHAKESBEER IN THE PARK". At the top left is the "DELAWARE SHAKESPEARE" logo with a stylized figure. At the top center is the "Bellefonte" logo with a green leaf. At the top right is the "Friends of Fort DuPont" logo with the tagline "Preserving History, Enriching Community". The main title "SHAKESBEER IN THE PARK" is in large, bold, blue and yellow letters. Below it, the date and time "June 6 at 7 PM" are written in a cursive font, flanked by two beer mugs. A blue button with white text says "Enjoy an evening with the Bard at Fort DuPont!". At the bottom, a dark blue bar contains the social media handle "@delshakes" on the left, a white button with "REGISTER TODAY!" in the center, and the website "www.delshakes.org" on the right.

DELAWARE SHAKESPEARE

Bellefonte

Friends of Fort DuPont
Preserving History, Enriching Community

SHAKESBEER IN THE PARK

June 6 at 7 PM

Enjoy an evening with the Bard at Fort DuPont!

@delshakes

REGISTER TODAY!

www.delshakes.org

The Bard and brew

An evening of ShakesBeer is set for Fort DuPont.

Join Delaware Shakespeare and Friends of Fort DuPont at 7 p.m. Friday, June 6 for a night with the Bard in Delaware City. The evening will feature brews from Bellefonte Brewing and food from Bailey's Dawgs and Kona Ice for a fun-filled evening of Shakespeare.

Tickets are \$35 for a flight of three beers and \$25 for designated drivers.

Revelers will meet at Fort DuPont Pavilion, 2546 Colter Road, Delaware City.

[More Information](#)

[Order Tickets](#)

Board Meeting on May 14

The Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, May 14, at 9:30 a.m. at the Delaware City Fire Hall.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is on June 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Delaware City Fire Hall.

[Download Meeting Packet](#)

Site Tour on Wednesday, May 21

See the Future. Walk the Grounds.

Fort DuPont Site Tour



Hosted by the Fort DuPont Redevelopment & Preservation Corporation

 Wednesday, May 21
 6 p.m.
 260 Old Elm Ave.

Take a guided tour and
learn what's in store
for Fort DuPont.

Register today: info@fortdupont.org


FORT DUPONT

SHAPED BY HISTORY &
ANCHORED IN NATURE

FORTDUPONT.ORG

Register Now

Save the Date



Delaware Friends of Folk

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

Preserve and Protect



The National Trust for Historic Preservation has designated May 2025 as Preservation Month.

Fort DuPont is included in the National Register of Historic Places. It was officially added to the register in 1999. The Fort DuPont Historic District includes 350 acres and more than 75 buildings, structures, and objects.

The National Trust says preservationists play a vital role in protecting historic spaces while meeting the needs of communities now and in the future. This May, for Preservation Month, the trust is celebrating the power of place and the many ways, large and small, that preservation bolsters communities, adds life to neighborhoods, and supports a healthier planet.

We're excited to share that the historical marker at Fort DuPont has been reinstalled!

After being temporarily removed for construction, this important piece of our story is again in its rightful place, reminding us of the fort's rich past and its role in Delaware history.



Community Information

The Reedy Point Players, a community theater group in Delaware City.

Founded 24 years ago, the Reedy Point Players began on a makeshift stage in Delaware City's (former) Port of History Center with the production of "Spoon River Anthology." A few



years later, the Reedy Point Players relocated to the community center. The company has won state and regional awards, including from Delaware BroadwayWorld.com for its production of "The Outsiders."

The group's production of "Angels in Gangland" by Robert Smith is set for May 16, 17 and 18.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Consider Joining 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!



Delaware State Parks



Fort DuPont

Fort DuPont History Walk

10 a.m. Saturdays, May 24, 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: 302-601-6382 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. Saturdays, June 7 and 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! 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.

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

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.

U.S. Corps of Engineers Weekend: Saturday & Sunday, May 17 & 18

Libby Prison Minstrels Concert: Saturday, May 31, 1 p.m.

Visit the
Website

Library Offers Programs for All Ages



Upcoming Events



Delaware City Library, 250 5th St., offers informative, entertaining events for learners of every age.

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.

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., May 14 and June 11.

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.

Soap Making Demonstration: Presenter Mia of Basically Soap leads a soap making demonstration. Mia is a chemist with a passion for creating handmade products. She will lead a demonstration on making cold processed soap using natural ingredients. Registration requested. Adults. 5:30 to 7:30 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. June 9 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. June 9 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

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. May 13 and June 10 from 6:00 to 7:00 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., May 21 and June 18.

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., May 15 and June 26.

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., May 17 and June 18.

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., May 27 and June 24.

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., May 28 and June 25.

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. May 20 and June 17 from 4:30 to 5:30 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. May 19 and June 30 from 5:00- 7:00 p.m.

Teens Knit and Crochet: Join us first Mondays for pizza, snacks, and creativity! All materials provided or bring your own project if you already have experience. Don't know how to knit or crochet? No problem - we'll have an experienced teacher ready to get you started. Aimed at ages 12-17. June 2 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

NEW! 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. June 2 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

NEW! 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 June 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Great Escapes from Fort Delaware: If you were imprisoned on an island without much to keep you busy, your mind would surely turn to escape. Come find out about some of the more creative attempts to escape from Fort Delaware, successful and otherwise. Jacob Miller, the Interpretive Programs Manager of Fort Delaware State Park hosts this program. Adults and families. May 22 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Shove Off Day for Freedom: The kick-off event for the community's second annual Juneteenth event series begins at the Library! At 10:00 a.m., an educational program and exhibit for all ages by Kathy Trusty, an independent historian, Black history educator, and children's book author. In the afternoon, period era games program at Fort Delaware! For those attending the morning program at the Library, ferry tickets to the Fort are half-price at only \$7 and we'll provide lunch at the pavilion at Fort Delaware. May 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

African Americans and the Civil War: Historian and Black history educator Kathy Trusty leads this program on African Americans, free and enslaved, and their role in the Civil War. It examines the challenges they faced and puts a face to soldiers who fought valiantly for the Union cause and freedom. This program is brought to the library by the Delaware Humanities and is the kick-off event commemorating Shove-Off Day for the community's Juneteenth event series.

"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.

Color Your World Summer Reading Kickoff: Celebrate the beginning of the summer reading program by creating art at this fun "color your world" kickoff party! Create art at various art stations throughout the library, enjoy refreshments, and, of course, sign up for summer reading! Grab a take-home art kit for our end of the summer art show, too! All ages. June 7 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Sankofa African Drum and Dance Company: Sankofa is comprised of a talented, creative selection of young people from Inner City Dover, and throughout the Central Delaware area. Dedicated to dance and percussion arts, this youthful company studies under some of the finest dance teachers, choreographers and percussion artists in the area. All ages. June 7 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

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.

Register for these programs and more on our website.

[Register Now](#)

- The **2025 Delaware City-Polktown Juneteenth Observance**, free events honoring history, culture, and community, are planned between May 24 and June 22. Live performances, educational programs, a community cookout, and activities at the Delaware City Library and Fort Delaware are scheduled. Participants can view exhibits, learn about the Underground Railroad, and celebrate Black history through music and storytelling. Event details: juneteenth-delcity.org.
- **National Night Out** Set aside the first Tuesday in August for National Night Out, an annual campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood friendship to make communities safer and more caring. National Night Out elevates the relationship between residents and law enforcement, reinforcing a sense of community. It offers an opportunity to bring police and neighbors together in a positive atmosphere. Millions of people take part in National Night Out across the nation the first Tuesday in August, holding block parties, parades, cookouts and other events with safety demonstrations, seminars, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and more. natw.org
- Volunteer now for fall event. **Saturday, Oct. 4, is Delaware City Day.** The historic waterfront town celebrates with a parade down Clinton Street, music, vendors, food trucks, children's activities, boat rides, and fireworks at dusk. The Delaware City Day Committee needs volunteers now and to help the day of the event. The committee will hold its first meeting at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 8, in the Surfboard Room, Delaware City Library, 250 Fifth St. Questions? info@delawarecityday.com

Juneteenth Events

2025 Delaware City-Polktown Juneteenth Observance Schedule At a Glance



Shove Off Day, Saturday, May 24
10 am at the Delaware City Library
 "Shove Off for Freedom" a program for all ages by Kathy Trusty: Independent historian, Black history educator, children's book author
Shove Off Day continues at Fort Delaware
12:30 pm Ferry to Fort Delaware - Tickets: \$7 each for those attending the morning program
1 pm Pizza Lunch at Pavilion, Fort Delaware State Park
3 pm Children's games and activities typical of the Civil War Era, led by Fort Delaware Staff
Saturday, June 7, "Looking Back / Moving Forward"
1 pm at Delaware City Battery Park Gazebo
 "Harriet Tubman and the Tilly Rescue" with Debra Martin
3 pm at the Delaware City Library
 Artist's Tour of "Landscapes of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway" with E. Lynn Dilliplane
5 pm at the Delaware City Community Center
 The Sankofa African Drum and Dance Company

Film: *The Tilly Escape* by the Seaford Historical Society will be shown throughout the afternoon of the 7th at the Delaware City Library

Tuesday, June 17

6 pm at the Delaware City Library: "African American Genealogy Research: Resources and Strategies" presented by Delaware Public Archives and the Delaware Afro-American Genealogical & Historical Society

Juneteenth, Thursday, June 19

10 am Juneteenth Commemorative Service, a solemn ceremony at the African Union Church Cemetery
 Music by the HildaVan Chorale, the Mount Salem U.A.M.E. Church Choir, and Phyllis Phelps
Afternoon through evening Juneteenth Black-Owned Businesses and Organizations' Exhibits and Cultural Expo at Delaware City Battery Park

5:30 pm Suite Franchon and Friends: Performance at Delaware City Battery Park

Introduction of Delaware's Saniya Gay, the first National Miss Juneteenth

6 pm Best Kept Soul: Performance at Delaware City Battery Park

Sunday, June 22

12 pm Mount Salem U.A.M.E. Church's Juneteenth Ecumenical Worship Service

Following the Service Community Cookout: A traditional community cookout offered by the Mount Salem U.A.M.E. Church congregation on the church grounds. Performances celebrating Black history and culture.

Throughout the Juneteenth Observance period at the Delaware City Library

- Photography exhibit by E. Lynn Dilliplane, "Landscapes of the Delaware Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway" May 26 through June 21
- All regularly scheduled programs for adults, teens, tweens and children will have special Juneteenth themes. For details and to register visit <https://delawarecitylib.de.us/>

For sponsors, donors and event updates please visit <https://juneteenth-delcity.org/>

For cemetery location, please visit <https://africanunioncemetery.org/find-us.htm>

Upd 050625

Delaware City-Polktown Juneteenth Observance

First day of events ~**Shove Off Day**~ May 24, 2025



On May 25, 1865, United States Colored Troops "shove off" from City Point, Virginia sailing south to the Gulf of Mexico on a mission to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863. On June 19, 1865 the USCT bivouacked in Galveston and posted General Order No. 3 around the city reminding the people of Texas that "all slaves are free." Shove Off Day, as a precursor to Juneteenth, honors the vision, courage, and commitment of all journeys for freedom.



Here is how we will observe the day:

10 am At the Delaware City Library

Welcome by Delaware City Public Library Director Loree Elton
 Black National Anthem performed by Charonda Johnson
 Greetings from Delaware City Mayor Paul Johnson,
 County Councilman Kevin Caneco, Rep. Melissa Minor-Brown



Kathy Trusty, Historian

"Shove Off for Freedom" At first, they were not allowed to fight. Then they were, and more than 180,000 signed up. Kathy Trusty—historian, children's book author, and Delaware Humanities speaker—presents the role of African Americans, free and enslaved, in the Civil War. She puts a face to soldiers who fought valiantly for freedom.



1pm At the Fort Delaware State Park*

1 pm Pizza lunch at the Pavilion for morning attendees made possible by La Matesha's Pizza and Pasta and Anonymous Donors

3 pm Children's games and activities typical of the Civil War Era led by Fort Delaware Staff

*\$7 discounted tickets available for those attending morning program will be available at ticket office beginning at noon. Must board 12:30 ferry.

Juneteenth Observance Sponsors: City of Delaware City, Delaware City Fire Department, Delaware City Library, Delaware City Police Department, Delaware City Refining Company, Fort Delaware State Park, Friends of the African Union Church Cemetery, Main Street Delaware City, Mount Salem U.A.M.E. Church, Underground Railroad Coalition of Delaware

For donors and event updates please visit <https://juneteenth-delcity.org/>

upd May 6

Up to Date
Information



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