Dubois County Museum E Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 11 November 2025

History of Trains Program Nov. 8

Craig Berndt

The Dubois County Museum is proud to present railroad historian Craig Berndt for a presentation on 150 years of Dubois County Railroad History, on Saturday, November 8, beginning at 1:00pm. He will be joined by fellow railroad enthusiast Eric Russ.

Berndt retired in 2020 after 30 years in city management. When he lived in Dubois County (1994-2000) he researched the railroads that served the county and authored a book in 2022 about the Ferdinand Railroad. He also extensively researched other southern Indiana railroads, the rails from then until today. His presentation will cover histories of (1) the railroad that ran from French Lick through Cuzco, Dubois, Jasper, Huntingburg; Johnsburg to Cannelton, Rockport and Evansville. His histories will also cover (2) rails from New Albany through Birdseye, Mentor, Kyana, St. Marks, Bretzville, Huntingburg, and Duff and to East St. Louis. His scope will also cover histories (3) from Ferdinand to Huntingburg. His presentation covers also railroad lines through Dubois County, Louisville, Evansville, St. Louis Railroad (The Air Line), Cincinnati, Rockport and Southwestern Railroad, Southern Railway Company, Norfolk and Southern Railway Company and the Ferdinand Railroad.

Mr. Berndt is currently living in northeast Indiana. He continually researches the railroad in the ten northeast counties and have authored books about four of them. Berndt has made over 100 presentations about railroad histories in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky.

He has had presentations in our area in Jasper, Huntingburg, Ferdinand, Chrisney, Rockport and French Lick.

The Dubois County Museum Model Train exhibit has undergone some updates. Train enthusiasts from the museum have added to the model train set with painted trackside scenery, reconstructed models of factories and buildings along the county tracks, bridges, water scenes under the bridges, constructed homes with residents and more trees and hills. Information has been compiled on local depots and carefully displayed on the train room walls. Maps, rail photos and two televisions showing train videos are mounted on the wall outside the train room. Several display cases positioned outside the train room are displaying more train memorabilia. Eric Russ has been instrumental in gathering and displaying these added items.

Storytime with Carrie Nov. 8

Carrie Holdsworth will be leading Storytime on Saturday, November 8, at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Pioneers area. Her theme this month is "Trains" . Stories, crafts and activities will focus on trains. The group is sure to visit the model train room at the museum. The Model Train Room has continued to undergone some additions and renovations. Be sure to check out the new bridge with the water scene displayed under the bridge. Ken, our volunteer, worked hard to create that scene. The Model Train Room volunteers have added some buildings that are reminiscent of large warehouses and factories that were positioned along the track as they loaded their products on the trains or off loaded their materials.

Check out the town murals and note how many communities were railroad towns. Quite a number of communities were depot stops. Be sure to join Carrie for a great experience.

Veterans Program with DAR on Nov. 9

The Dubois County Museum welcomes the Dubois County Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to the museum on Sunday, November 9, for a Veterans program. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. In this program they will give a history of Veterans Day. Explaining why it exists, how it started and tying it into celebrating America's 250th birthday. The chapter will also give details on how DNA was used to find and match remains of an Unknown Soldier interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D. C. The DAR will also give information about their organization. Food and refreshments will follow the program.

The museum welcomes visitors to visit the museum's comprehensive display on our county's military history. The cornerstone of the exhibit is the Civil War flag made by the mothers of the soldiers leaving for war with the Indiana Company K. The flag returned with the soldiers tattered and torn after flying in combats, noticeably the Battle of Antietam. The Dubois County Historical Society was instrumental in having the flag restored and displayed at the museum.

Also, be sure to check out the 1918 Liberty Truck on display in Room Two at the museum. It was restored by Bob and Shirley Demuth. The Liberty Truck was the workhorse of WWI.

Decorating for the Holidays will begin on Tuesday, November 12, at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers with non-profits, civic originations, communities and the museum are invited to begin decorating this day for the Christmas season.

Festival of Trees 2025 Opens November 20

Festival of Trees
Opening Night
At the Dubois County Museum

2704 N. Newton Street, Jasper 812-634-7733

Thursday, November 20
5:30-7:30 p.m. EST

Vote for Favorite Trees

Over 50 trees decorated by Dubois County Communities, Non-Profits, Museum Volunteers

View all the lovely decorations
See the Santa Figurines donated by Kay Smock
Take in the rich history of Dubois County
Food and refreshments served
Free admission

Museum Closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 27

The museum will be closed on Thursday, November 27 in order for our volunteers to enjoy the holiday with their families.

We will be open again on Friday, November 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to welcome visitors. Ballots will be available for visitors to vote for their favorite decorated Christmas tree. With close to fifty trees displayed, the voting again will be challenging to pick the top three.

Dubois County Museum
2704 N. Newton Street, (US 231 N) Jasper, IN 47546
Call 812-634-7733
Hours are 10 a.m.-2p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 10a.m.-4p.m. Saturday, 1-4p.m. on Sunday. Closed Monday.
Admission is $5 per adult, $3 high school age, $2 middle and elem. school, and under 4-free.
Members admitted free.

The Dubois County Museum is a local non profit organization committed to the collection, preservation and interpretation of historical artifacts and information important to the citizens of the county. Museum operations are funded by annual memberships, admissions, donations and gifts from visitors, area residents and businesses. The DCM is staffed entirely of volunteers. Visit the museum web site www.duboiscountymuseum.org. Like us on Facebook at Dubois County Museum. *Funded in part by the Dubois County Visitors Center- www.visitduboiscounty.com .800-968-4578.*

Book a tour by calling Kathy at 812-630-8696.

Contact Kathy at 812-630-8696 if interested in volunteering.

For Room Rentals, contact Kathy at the museum at 812-634-7733.

Support the museum by making a Memorial Gift in memory of or in Honor of a loved one.

October 2025 was a Busy Month

Programming for October brought in a large group of visitors to check out our museum.

October 11th's Storytime theme of *Fall Fun* brought a great crowd to take in the stories, crafts and activities. The youngsters also lent a hand to help decorate the Main Street area for the Oct. 23 Spooky Streets event.

On October 12 the museum was alive with people enjoying the annual Harvest Day. Organizer Vic Betz had contacted many to share their knowledge of corn shelling, rug making, molasses and honey extracting, fur tanning, and antique farm equipment. All ages enjoyed the alpacas, the miniature cow calf, making butter and the sounds from the dulcimers. Pony rides, face painting, crafts, homemade ice cream, popcorn and apple cider were all enjoyed.

October 13 the Hispanic Community gathered to participate in their program *Voces Vivas.* The museum opened for a rare Monday program. It was well received.

On Oct. 19 Don Flick presented a program on the hidden meanings of *The Wizard of Oz..* The program was enjoyed by all. Don hopes to return with another program in 2026.

The Museum's annual Halloween fun night, Spooky Streets, saw a crowd of costumed visitors venturing through our dark , decorated Main Street for a safe and enjoyable night at the museum. Great night. Thanks to all who came.

We would be remiss if we did not thank our wonderful volunteers. Thank you so much for helping and being part of the activities.