

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs to sponsor 17 free programs during October 2016

(DOVER, Del.—Sept. 20, 2016)— The [five museums of the State of Delaware](#) will be sponsoring 17 special events during the month of October 2016. A full schedule is included below. All programs are free and open to the public.



Re-enactment of the Livery of Seizen ritual inside the New Castle Court House Museum. The ceremony will be conducted as part of William Penn Day on Oct. 22, 2016.

Administered by the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the five museums—the John Dickinson Plantation, the Johnson Victrola Museum, the New Castle Court House Museum, The Old State House and the Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State’s contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through tours, exhibits, school programs and hands-on activities, the museums shine a spotlight on Delaware’s unique history and the diverse people who came to live there. The New Castle Court House Museum and the John Dickinson Plantation are partner sites of the [First State National Historical Park](#). The Old State House is located on the Dover Green, another partner site of the park. Go to the following for a comprehensive, long-term [calendar of events](#) sponsored by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special

programs, October 2016

Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016

"The Birth and Re-Birth of a State House: The 40th Anniversary of The Old State House Restoration." Guided tours explore the modifications that have been made to The Old State House since its completion in 1791, Mabel Lloyd Ridgely's efforts to restore it, and its restoration in 1976 as part of the nation's bicentennial. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016

"Music of the World." Guided tours explore the music of cultures from around the world that was recorded by the Victor Talking Machine Company, accompanied by 78-rpm records played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.



Displays at the Johnson
Victrola Museum.

Fridays, Oct. 7, 14 and 28, 2016

"Photo Fridays." Take advantage of early morning and late afternoon light to photograph the natural beauty of the home and grounds of the "Penman of the Revolution." [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Plantation open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **Early and late access available by reservation only by calling 302-739-3277.**

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016

"A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation." Visitors of all ages will enjoy a day of hands-on activities from Colonial trades to hearth cooking in the 18th-century setting of the home of the "Penman of the Revolution." [John](#)

[Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016

Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild. Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016

“Currents Reading.” Literary reading by Delaware poets and authors published in the new anthology “Currents” which showcases work from the Delaware Division of the Arts’ 2012 Cape Henlopen writers retreat. Part of the statewide Delaware Literary Reading Series 2016. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 1–3 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Monday, Oct. 10, 2016

Columbus Day. The following museums of the State of Delaware will be open: The [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) and [The Old State House](#), open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. The following museums will be closed: The [John Dickinson Plantation](#), the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#). 302-744-5054.

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016

“1781 Surrender: End of War.” Lecture by historic-site interpreter Bob Vander Decker. Part 10 of “The Founding of America in One Year,” a year-long series that examines important local and national events that led to the founding of the United States. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 7 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016

Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation annual business meeting. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 10 a.m. 302-736-7417.

Friday, Oct. 21, 2016

“Lantern Tours of the Plantation.” Programs explore the parties, games, dances and entertainment that would have abounded at the plantation during the nighttime in the 18th century. Activities will also include wagon-ride guided-tours conducted by staff of the [St. Jones Reserve](#) exploring the nocturnal life of the estuary. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Programs 6–7 p.m. and 7:30–8:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling the John Dickinson Plantation at 302-739-3277 no later than Oct. 20.



Autumn scene at the John Dickinson Plantation.

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016

William Penn Day. Series of programs commemorating the 334th anniversary of Penn’s disembarkment at New Castle, his first landing in the New World. Activities include a re-enactment of the Livery of Seizen ritual at 10:15 a.m. in which Penn received possession of New Castle and a 12-mile circle of land surrounding it; a performance by De Blokfluiters recorder/flute ensemble at 11 a.m.; “The Tryal of William Penn,” a historical play exploring Penn’s trial on religious freedom and the rights of English subjects under the law at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m.; “The Amazing Mrs. Penn,” a living-history performance by Jean Norvell as Hannah Penn at 2 p.m.; and a Baroque concert by the Immanuel Bach Consort at 6 p.m. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Free admission but reservations required for the 6 p.m. concert. 302-323-4453. **Note: The time for the Immanuel Bach Consort performance has been changed from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016

“Distilling in Delaware.” Lecture on the history of distilling in the First State by Mike Rasmussen, co-founder

of [Painted Stave Distilling](#) in Smyrna, Del., plus a tasting of some of the company's products. Presented in coordination with the museum's exhibit "[Wine and Spirits in Delaware: Producing, Preserving, and Presenting.](#)" [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 5 p.m. on the museum's 2nd floor (entry via staircase; no elevator). Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Oct. 21, 2016.

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016

"The Spirit of New Castle Past." Play by historic-site interpreter David Price explores historical figures of New Castle's past who return to tell their stories of conquest, murder, adultery, kidnapping, slavery and revolution. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 7 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required. No admission after the play begins. 302-323-4453.

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016

"Mysteries of History." Walking tour explores the unusual tombstones of St. Peter's cemetery in Lewes. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Tour leaves from the museum at 2 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016

"Who Done It: A Historic Murder Mystery." Fictionalized historical play in which museum guests assist Delaware's Dr. James Sykes in questioning suspects in the death of Samuel Bedford, III. Based on a real 18th-century medical mystery solved by Dr. Sykes. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Performances at 2 and 8 p.m. Visitors to the 2 p.m. performance are encouraged to bring children for indoor trick-or-treating at stops within the building. Costumes are welcomed for all who attend. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-744-5054.



The Old State House

Exhibits and displays, August 2016

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is sponsoring the following exhibits and displays. Admission is free and open to the public:

Thru Dec. 31, 2016

[“Wine and Spirits in Delaware: Producing, Preserving, and Presenting.”](#) Exhibit features objects and graphics from the 18th to the 21st centuries that illustrate Delaware’s wine and spirits trade. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.



Containers and accessories from Levy & Glosking distillers of Dover, Del. Part of the exhibit, “Wine and Spirits in Delaware: Producing, Preserving, and Presenting.”

Thru mid-April, 2017

[“The Old State House: A True Restoration 1976-2016.”](#) Display explores preservation work that has been conducted since Delaware’s first state capitol building was restored to its original appearance in 1976. From the collections of the State of Delaware. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Ongoing

[“Discovering Delaware’s Maritime Past.”](#) Display explores the DeBraak, a shipwrecked 18th-century British warship including a photo of the hull recovery, reproductions of

items aboard ship, and a model of the vessel. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[“Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey From Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad.”](#) Exhibit chronicles the compelling story of Emeline Hawkins and her family and their 1845 odyssey on the Underground Railroad from slavery in Maryland, through Delaware to freedom in Pennsylvania. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#) Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty’s Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798 to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[Sculpture by Charles Parks.](#) Display of works by the noted Wilmington artist featuring historical and political figures including a Minute Man, and presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George W. Bush. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[“Simple Machines.”](#) Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of

which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

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