

# Federal delegation secures \$ 200,000 for Canalfront Park

Efforts from the Delaware's federal delegation, led by Sen. Tom Carper, has resulted in the Lewes Canalfront Park being granted an appropriation of \$ 200,000 in the spending bill approved recently by President Bush. " This was a very challenging and competitive environment in which to obtain federal support," said Joe Schell, campaign chairman. " Fortunately, all of our elected officials – Sen. Carper, Rep. Castle and Sen. Biden – are highly regarded and able to get important things done for their constituents." Schell said the Delaware delegation made a joint request for the funds, which resulted in a grant from HUD's Economic

Development Department. " We are fortunate that our senators and congressman take the time to meet with us face to face and are extremely grateful for all the assistance they have provided to this project," said Mayor Jim Ford. The funds will be used to support construction of the first two components of the park, marina and infrastructure. Bids for these components were approved by the Lewes Mayor and Council Nov. 30. " This grant will enable the park to be open to the public by the coming summer," Schell said. " However, we need to raise more than \$ 1 million more in the course of 2006 in order to cover other upcoming expenses, including the creation of the park's village green and various elements." Schell said the campaign for the park would be extended through the coming year in order to generate these additional funds. A midcampaign report will be issued soon, Schell said, and a public meeting about the park plans will be at 7 p. m., Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Lewes Public Library. A groundbreaking ceremony is also being planned for the park later that month. " Everyone will be relieved to see construction finally under way," Schell said. " This is a true public- private initiative and it is very gratifying to have such significant participation by our elected officials." For more information about the Canalfront Park, contact Lanora Bayer at 645- 2795. The park offices are located at 211 Front St. and are open daily.

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