A Day Away

Fall/Winter 2021 Guide

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Erik Johnson, the director of the William M. Staerkel Planetarium, sits at the console that controls the various projectors which light up the dome.

Story and photos by Andrew Adams
The first time I heard Pink Floyd’s 1973 album “Dark Side of the Moon,” I was 9 or 10 years old. I had no concept of what progressive rock was and, to be honest, didn’t fully appreciate the guitar riffs on the fourth track, “Time,” as much as I should have. But I will never forget that first listen because of the place where it happened.

My father took me to a light show set to the album at the William M. Staerkel Planetarium, part of Parkland College in Champaign.

The show was absurd: a mix of abstract light effects, party store fog machines and on-the-nose projections of flying piles of cash for the song “Money.” But it was really fun.

It also turned my child-self on to the existence of one of central Illinois’ best intersections of art and science. While I learned about the planetarium from a very unscientific exploration of music, I kept attending shows about astronomy and planetary science because they were just as fun.

Walking into the Staerkel Planetarium is sort of like walking into a different universe — a mirror of this one that invites you to think about faraway worlds and the beginning of time.

The lobby could easily be mistaken for an old community theater. It has movie-style posters advertising upcoming shows behind the ticket desk and institutional carpet that looks its age -- the facility was opened in the late 1980s.

But the lobby also displays an enthusiasm for the cosmos. Once you get past the kitschy space-themed toys for sale, the area seems purposefully built to encourage visitors’ imaginations.

Throughout the hallway into the planetarium are demonstrations of scientific concepts like Bernoulli’s principle and gravity wells to play with while you wait for a show. A collection of actual meteorites is on display, offering you the chance to feel a piece of space that crash landed on Earth. Hanging prints of astrophotography on the walls are like windows into far-off regions of space.

But while the bits of science in the hall might excite the kid in anyone (or the literal kids, if the family is coming along), they do little to prepare you for the feeling of walking into the planetarium’s theater.

The physicality of the dome is enough to take your breath away. Every time I walk in, I see the reclined theater seats and glance upward before looking farther up and up and up before laughing at the sheer scale of the room.

The 50-foot dome is the planetarium’s “Projector Emeritus” was manufactured in West Germany by Carl Zeiss, Inc, a world-renowned glass and lens making company. The odd-looking contraption sits at the center of the planetarium’s 128-person theater. Photo by Andrew Adams
The closest planetarium to Effingham and is the second largest in the state, behind only Adler Planetarium in Chicago. Its highest point is more than two stories from the floor. The dome’s surface is made of aluminum that looks impossibly smooth until a closer inspection reveals the tens of millions of perforations on its panels.

The dome also houses an alien-looking Zeiss Model M1015 star projector — original to the building’s 1987 construction and the first of its kind in the world. The projector was decommissioned 10 years ago in favor of a more modern digital projection system, earning it the loving title “Projector Emeritus” among planetarium staff.

Being in the theater makes you feel small, a perfect setup to the tours of the universe that happen beneath its curved walls.

The planetarium offers several shows at any time, with its flagship being “Prairie Skies,” an all-ages live-narrated tour of the astrological phenomena above central Illinois. The show is updated seasonally to reflect the changing constellations, planets and other points of interest in the sky during different parts of the year.

Brand new as of this summer is the show, “Birth of the Planet Earth,” a full dome show created in part at the University of Illinois’ Advanced Visualization Lab, part of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. “They have had as their focus for over 30 years the intertwining aspects of art and science,” said Planetarium Director Erik Johnson. “They see this art and aesthetic component to visualizing data and they use that to produce some incredible imagery and those have been the focus of several shows we’ve had in the planetarium and this is our newest example.”

The show will be offered through at least the end of October, when the planetarium’s calendar shifts to a new season of shows.

“We try to cater to all ages, but we know that there are folks who are gonna bring their very young children here,” said Johnson.

To reach these younger audiences, the planetarium is offering the show “One World, One Sky: Big Bird’s Adventure,” a show co-produced by the Adler Planetarium, Beijing Planetarium, Liberty Science Center and the Sesame Workshop. It features three Muppet characters from Sesame Street — Big Bird, Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu — taking a trip to the moon.

That show runs through the end of September, though it does come back from time to time, according to Johnson.

After the Sesame Street show wraps, a new show will premiere at the planetarium, also aimed at a younger audience, called “Did an Asteroid Really Kill the Dinosaurs?” that explores the end of the dinosaur age.

Future shows hinted at on the Planetarium website include shows about Mayan archeoastronomy, a tour of experiments seeking to better understand dark matter, an exploration of the sun’s makeup and a show about hunting for planets beyond our solar system.

The planetarium also hosts the James B. Kaler Science Lecture series, a forum for scientists to discuss their specialties. These lectures are open to the public.

Upcoming lectures include Joaquin Rodriguez-Lopez discussing his research into using flow batteries and responsive nanomaterials for large-scale energy.
storage, Nicola Perry discussing her research into “solid state ionic” materials and their applications in producing cleaner energy and Decker French talking about her research into galaxy formation and merging.

And while they aren’t as regular as they used to be, the planetarium still occasionally hosts light shows, though they are hard to set up and the pandemic put everything on hold, so the next one hasn’t been scheduled yet.

The pandemic forced the planetarium to change a lot of how it operates, according to Johnson. They had to shift to virtual shows hosted on Zoom and published to YouTube. For some theaters, that was a straightforward maneuver, but it presented a particular challenge for the planetarium since its entire value proposition is a uniquely large (and curved) screen.

Though they aren’t as breathtaking, many of these shows are on the planetarium’s YouTube channel, so if you’re looking to see what shows are like or are looking for a stay-at-home version of the experience, that resource is available for free to the public.

The planetarium’s first in-person show was held in early August and updates about their scheduling, if mitigations are required again, will be posted to their website, parkland.edu/planetarium.

A calendar of current shows, which are offered at 6:30 and 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and the Kaler lectures, which are offered on the first Friday of each month during academic semesters, is available at the planetarium’s website.

Tickets to shows and lectures are available in the planetarium lobby 30 minutes before a show. There are no advance ticket sales, but the planetarium can fill just shy of 130 people, so the risk of missing your chance to see a show is low. Tickets are $6 for adults and $5 for students, seniors and children under 12. Lecture tickets are $2 for everyone.

Fundamentally, the planetarium is for learning — either for young kids to get excited about scientific exploration or for grown-ups to reconnect to a sense of awe that gets lost in day-to-day life.

But having someone tell you stories about the night sky offers an almost spiritual connection to the world we live in and the history of humanity.

Seeing a show under the dome at the Staerkel Planetarium feels mystical. Humans have been looking up at the night sky for the entirety of our species’ history and nearly every culture has attributed mythological and practical significance to the stars’ positions in the sky.

“You’ve got the planetarium as a way to help people connect themselves back to those traditions in various ways,” said Johnson. “If it’s just as simple as seeing the patterns in the sky and what names were given to them by the Greeks and the Romans thousands of years ago, that’s great! If you see another one of our shows and you learn about the oral traditions from other cultures, that’s fine too!”

The Staerkel Planetarium is a good way to entertain the family for an evening or treat yourself to a night out that leaves you a little smarter than when you started. More than that, it’s one of the best ways for someone in central Illinois to be reminded of what’s above us and how even the most cynical among us can be coaxed into a little bit of wonder when they look up at the night sky.
**Bond County Attractions**

DeMoulin Museum

Located at 205 S. Prairie St. in Greenville. Check out spanning machines and other initiation devices. Group tours are welcome and can be scheduled at any time. Free admission. Donations welcome. For more information, visit www.demoulinemuseum.org

**Marcoot Jersey Creamery**

Variety of cheeses and dairy products available. Our specialty raw milk cheeses are aged in our aging cave. The aging cave is modeled after the man-made cheese caves in Switzerland. Some of our cheeses are raw milk cheese, which will age from a minimum of 60 days up to 12 months. Our building is built with viewing windows so the public can view as we make cheese and process milk. You are also invited to visit our calves, housed near the creamery. Located at 526 Dudleyville Road, Greenville. For more information, call 618-664-1110 or visit www.marcootjerseycreamery.com

**American Farm Heritage Museum**

Offers a glimpse of life on a farm in days gone by. Located 45 miles east of St. Louis on I-70, exit 45. For more information call 618-664-9733 or visit www.americanfarmheritagemuseum.com

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**Bond County Events**

Aug. 28 — Johnny Solo at Pokey Fainting Goat—Free. 408 W. Johnson St., Pocahontas. IL. Music, refreshments, gr8 grub!!

Sept. 4 — 2-6 p.m. Greenville Farmers Market, 404 S. 3rd St., Greenville, IL. Enjoy and purchase fresh and local produce, exciting and inspiring art, sweet treats, locally made crafts, wares, products, and more that are made, grown, and created in Greenville, Bond County, and nearby communities by our local farmers, artisans, makers, and creators. Breakfast and lunch available on-site from Wy’s Place and Pullin’ Pork. Coffee available on-site by Espression Cafe.

Sept. 11 — Classic Car Cruise-In, 200 W. College Ave, Greenville, IL. Celebrate charity by attending this unique experience!

Sept. 17-19 — Hill’s Fort Rendezvous, American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Ave, Greenville, IL. Re-enactments, traders, beautiful scenery, live music, guided tours and demonstrations will give you a glimpse into the vibrant cultural heritage and tradition of the Greenville community. Celebrate those who bravely came before us at Hill’s Fort Rendezvous this year!

Oct. 1-2 — ArtWalk & Apple Day, 404 S. 3rd St., Greenville, IL. ArtWalk and Apple Day are two of the best days to visit Greenville, IL! Join us Oct. 1 and 2 for two days of art, music, wine, and entertainment. With many activities for kids of all ages, this is the perfect event for the entire family. Walk the streets of this historic town while viewing the works and creations of local artisans, creators, and makers. Taste the delicious creations from local bakers and restaurateurs.

Oct. 1 — Senior 2-Person Scramble — Twin Oaks Golf Club, 21900 Illinois-127, Greenville, IL. $35 per person includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, and prizes. Players must be over 50 to participate.

**Champaign County Events**

Aug 26-29 — Half Century of Progress Show, 9 a.m., Rantoul Aviation Center. The Half Century of Progress Show is the premier working vintage farm show in the U.S. Held the weekend before the Decatur Farm Progress Show, the Half Century of Progress allows visitors to experience what farming and agriculture was like 50 years ago and beyond with live demonstrations, attractions, and fellowship. Sanctioned tractor pulls Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Aug. 27-28 — Mahomet Food Festival. Free live music, cold beverages provided by Mahomet Lions Club, food court, vendors, rides, cornhole tournament, parade and more!

Aug. 27 — Summer Prairie Skies, 6:30-7:30 p.m., William M. Staerkel Planetarium, 2400 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign. 217-351-2568

Sept. 3-5 — Audiofeed Music Festival, 7 p.m., Champaign County Fair, 1302 N. Coler Ave., Urbana.

Sept. 4 — Johnny Solo @ Pokey Fainting Goat—Free. 408 W. Johnson St., Pocahontas, IL. Music, refreshments, gr8 grub!!!

Sept. 8-11 — 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Agricultural Heritage Fair, 1302 N. Coler Ave., Urbana.

Sept. 8-11 — Eberfest, 11 a.m., The Virginia Theatre, 203 W. Park Ave., Champaign. 217-356-9063

Sept. 10-11 — Horizon Hobby RC Fest, 9 a.m., Eli Field, 999 Iron Horse Lane, Monticello

Sept. 10 — Meadowbrook Park Jazz Walk, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Meadowbrook Park, Urbana

Sept. 11 — Sundowner’s Car Show, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monticello Courthouse Square Historic District.

Sept. 17-18 — Ellnora, The Guitar Festival, 7-10 p.m., Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana

Sept. 18, Oct. 16 — Third Saturday Garden Tours, Allerton Park & Retreat Center, Monticello

Sept. 18 — Mahomet Soda Fest, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Downtown Mahomet. 217-586-3165

Sept. 25 — CU Oktoberfest, 6-10 p.m., The City Center, Champaign

Oct. 2 — Boz Skaggs: Out of the Blue Tour 2021, 7:30 p.m., The Virginia Theatre, Champaign

Oct. 14-18 — CU Jazz Festival Weekend

Oct. 23 — Flannel Fest, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Hessel Park, Champaign. 217-398-2550

Oct. 27 — Halloween Masquerade Car Parade and Trunk-or-Treat. 5:30-8 p.m., Marketplace Mall, Champaign

Nov. 6 — Mercyme Inhale (Exhale) Fall 2021 Tour, 7 p.m., The Virginia Theatre, Champaign

Nov. 13 — The Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artists, 7 p.m., The Virginia Theatre, Champaign
**Champaign County Attractions**

The Sousa Archives and Center for American Music

Located at 1303 S. 6th, Champaign, IL. 217-244-9309. How did John Philip Sousa become involved with the University of Illinois? Visit the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music in Champaign and you’ll find out. Located at 1103 South 6th Street, in the Harding Band Building, near the University of Illinois Armory, it documents American music through historical artifacts and archival records and the archives of John Philip Sousa, Albert Austin Harding (Illinois’ first band-master), internationally known trumpet soloist Herbert L. Clarke and the University of Illinois bands. Opened in 1994, the museum acquired the personal papers from Sousa, the famed American composer and March King, who had a personal relationship with Harding. Since then, the museum has added many other collections, including over 50 record series documenting the history of American music, instruments, sound recordings, photographs, memorabilia, correspondence and the papers and music by and about many distinguished musicians and composers, including Harry Partch, Harry Begian, Elbern Alkire, Kenneth Gaburo, Paul Bierley, Virginia Root, Salvatore Martirano and Paul Martin Zonn.

Krannert Art Museum

Located at 500 East Peabody Drive on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a unit within the College of Fine and Applied Arts, the museum opened its doors in 1961, establishing a permanent home for the university’s existing collection of fine art. For more information, phone 217-333-1861 or 217-244-0516 or visit kam.illinois.edu.

The UI Arboretum

A living laboratory, including plant collections and facilities that support the teaching, research, and public service programs of several units throughout campus. Located on the campus of the University of Illinois, it was developed in the late 1980s to early 1990s, and is currently 57 acres. Central to the Arboretum was the development of the “All American Selection Trial Gardens.” The Arboretum is available for organized events from 8:00 am to dusk. The Arboretum is located on Lincoln Avenue in Urbana. The Arboretum is open daily, sunrise until sunset. Admission is free. For more information call 217-333-7595 or visit the website at www.arboretum.illinois.edu.

Gordyville USA

Founded by legendary auctioneer Gordon and his wife, Jan Hannagan. They created Gordyville. It boasts 160,000 square feet of space to host any kind of event. It consists of two 100’ x 270’ arenas and room for 650 portable stalls all under one roof that is heated in the winter and has new ventilation fans to cool in the summer. It is equipped with food concessions, wash racks, new “green” lighting and 40 acres of parking. Located on Rt. 136 East outside Gifford. For more information, call 217-568-7117.

Curtis Orchard

From prairie to farmland to apple orchard ... how this piece of central Illinois has changed. You have plenty of choices – pick apples and pumpkins, feed goats, celebrate birthdays, and much more. Fresh country air and plenty of memories are waiting for you at Curtis Orchard. Located at 3902 S. Duncan Road in Champaign. Open July 20 thru December 20. Phone 217-359-5565 or visit info@curtisorchard.com.

Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Lake of the Woods County Park is a 900-acre preserve that features an 18-hole regulation golf course, a 9-hole par 3 course and practice range, fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing, sledding, the Hi-tower bell carillon and observation area, 3.3 mile bicycle/pedestrian path, the Early American Museum, Mabery Gelvin Botanical Gardens, building rentals, and programs. Located at 109 S. Lake of the Woods Road in Mahomet.

**Christian County Attractions**

Paublo Agricultural Museum

The objective of the Paublo Agricultural Museum is to preserve and promote agriculture from the past to the present. To accomplish this, the museum building houses antique trailers, threshing machines & more. Located in Stonington.

Christian County Historical Society Museum

Walk through an 1820 log house, the 1839 Christian County courthouse where Lincoln argued cases, an 1854 farmhouse and an 1856 one-room school. Also military weapons from five wars. Christian County Historical Society Museum in Taylorville.

The Christian County Coal Mine Museum

It features the history of and memorabilia pertaining to coal mining in Christian County. Visit the coal miner monument on the courthouse lawn, Christian County Coal Mine Museum in Taylorville.

Anderson Prairie

Anderson Prairie is a 25-acre wildlife park that features remnants of the original Tall Grass Prairie of Illinois. The park was established in August of 1986 and is managed by Pana High School Biology teacher Dave Nance. It serves as an outdoor laboratory for students and the public. Located South of Rt 16 on Chestnut Street, in Pana. This mile-long, 200 foot strip is the old historic Illinois Central Railroad bed. For more information go to www. facebook.com/panaandersonprairie

Pana Tri-County Fairgrounds

The Pana Tri-County Fairgrounds is the home to the Pana Tri-County Fair. First held in 1885, this yearly event starts the Wednesday before Labor Day and runs for six days as one of America’s top agricultural fairs. The Pana Labor Day Parade, a two-hour plus extravaganza, runs through downtown Pana and ends in Kitchell Park, and attracts thousands to view the largest Labor Day Parade in the state.

**Christian County Events**

Oct. 2-3 — 36th annual Greater Taylorville Chamber of Commerce Chillifest on the square in Taylorville, IL. “Chillinois” Cook-off will be Saturday, Oct. 2 and “Central States” Cook-off will be Sunday, Oct. 3.
ILLINOISouth Tourism’s Eastern Region is our largest, accounting for 12 counties – Clark, Clay, Crawford, Cumberland, Edwards, Hamilton, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White. One of the most popular events in our Eastern Region each year is in Hamilton County. The McLeansboro Kiwanis Club has hosted the McLeansboro Fall Festival each year for the last 65 years. When it began, it was a one-day celebration called Dairy Days – it has since grown into a three-day event that is beloved by thousands of folks throughout southern Illinois.

“What separates this event from others is the free, professional, worldwide-known entertainment,” explains Jerry Prince, Chairman of the Fall Festival’s Entertainment Committee and Past President as well. Over the years, they have had a ton of talent visit McLeansboro – from Sawyer Brown and the Oak Ridge Boys to Lee Greenwood and Confederate Railroad, along with many others. For this year’s event – the Fall Festival will host Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder on Thursday, Sept. 9, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band on Friday the 10th, and Exile on Saturday the 11th. The best part is, the McLeansboro Fall Festival costs folks nothing to enjoy, the concerts are all FREE – which is made possible from donations.

“akhir idea, our festival is starting to take on a different atmosphere, because I think it might be becoming a southern Illinois staple,” Prince says. “We start getting calls right after our festival from people wondering when the next year’s event will be, and who will be performing. People like to plan class reunions, family reunions, vacations, or just passing through – and let
those things coincide with our Festival.’"

In terms of any health precautions, Prince says they’ll follow any guidelines that the state and the department of health have in place. As an affiliate of the National/International Kiwanis Club – they will do whatever they can in order to stay in compliance, which is why they made the difficult decision to cancel last year’s Fall Festival.

Did you know that the Heath Bar was created in Robinson, Illinois? The fantastic toffee and chocolate bar has deep ties to the community of Robinson, which is why they have an event called the Heath Harvest Festival.

This annual celebration features live entertainment, a car show, a parade, toffee demonstrations and so much more. Glenda Fulling, the President of the Heath Harvest Festival, says that after taking last year off – the community is excited to have the event in the downtown square this fall.

“It is very important to our community to host this event for our businesses to thrive and most importantly for our community residents and visitors,” Fulling explains. “This festival brings a great deal of tourism to our community and we want to make their experience fun and safe. Not having the festival last year was hard on so many so this year we want to invite our class reunions back, our yearly visitors back as well as some new faces to our community. We have many businesses already on board to do their part to make this year’s festival the best ever.”

Fulling adds that the Festival will definitely take the pandemic into account when it comes to this year’s event.

“We will be making as many provisions as possible to ensure safety of our guests with placing of our vendors, sanitation stations, and more,” Fulling says. “Most likely, our demographics for our vendors will change a bit in order to keep our vendors spaced properly for social distancing.”

The 2021 Heath Harvest Fest is set for Oct. 1 and 2, and you can visit their website for more information at heathharvestfest.com.

Another community in Crawford County with a long-running tradition is Oblong. The Oblong Fall Follies and Spooktacular Halloween Parade have become a fan favorite over the last few decades, and the parade has been deemed the largest night-time parade in the state.

“We are extremely excited to be moving forward with the events this year,” says Diane Houdasheldt, President of Oblong’s Chamber of Commerce. “Our visitors and vendors safety will be our top concern and we will be following all needed safety precautions deemed necessary for all those attending our event.”

Fall Follies has been a tradition for over 50 years in Crawford County.

“People look forward to attending the entertainment, browsing the craft booths, enjoying the great food at many food vendors, and shopping our downtown stores. No matter how far people move away, coming home to share their memories with others is always a highlight,” Houdasheldt explains.

For those who plan to attend the Fall Follies and Halloween Spooktacular on Saturday, Oct. 30 this year, Houdasheldt says the community welcomes you with open arms.

“We would encourage people to be courteous and patient while attending this year’s event but also come to enjoy the fun we have on Halloween in Oblong, Illinois,” she says.

“You can mark off on your bucket list that you have been here and plus attended the largest night-time parade in Illinois!”

For more details, check out the Oblong Chamber’s website at theonlyoblinc.com.

There is also plenty happening in White County this fall. Communities like Grayville, Enfield, Carmi, and Norris City are all gearing up to host an array of different events!

The first of the bunch is Grayville Days, which is held each year on Labor Day weekend. Grayville Days is a staple of this small community, and usually features live entertainment, a parade, different dinners, and fireworks!

Head to Carmi a couple of weekends later for Big Wheels on the Little Wabash Monster Truck Show, Mini Tractor Pull & Concert on Sept. 18. There will be live entertainment following the show featuring No Fence – The Garth Brooks Tribute Band at the White County Fairgrounds.

A milestone event is set for Oct. 1 and 2 in Enfield. The community is celebrating their Mule Days event for the 100th time!

“Mule Days is very important to Enfield and its identity,” explains Cindy Birk Conley, a representative for White County. “There is a mule painted on the town’s water tower. Most of the high school reunions are planned around Mule Days. Several of us have large collections of Mule Day t-shirts and sweats.”

So why in the world is it called Mule Days? Well, Conley says that’s simple.

“The event started out with mule auctions and judging, and today has baby, tot and Miss Mule Days pageants,” Conley says.

“There have always been a lot of music and dances, chances for young people to have fun and adults to visit with friends.

“If you were a student at Enfield or now NCOE, you probably helped build a float for the parade or played in a school band. In recent years there have been large crowds for bingo, which helps fund the event.”

For those who have been to Albion, you’ve likely seen the signs that say ‘Chowder Capitol of the World.’ It’s a self-proclaimed title, but man oh man, do they know how to make some chowder in Albion.

The City of Albion Chowder is held on the second Saturday of October, and it attracts folks from all over the place. The event did take place in 2020, but...
it was limited to drive-thru only.

“That drive-thru worked very well,” admits Jessica Gwaltney, the Chamber President and Chowder Director. “We’re discussing that possibility again. We will have the pre-filled buckets again, as we have a sponsor for those.”

To those who have never had Albion Chowder, it’s not like a New England-style chowder – and there are no clams in it. If you do decide to partake in this southeastern Illinois staple, here are a few tips from Gwaltney: “Get there early. Prepare to wait in line. Prepare for us to sell out quickly.”

Aside from the fact that it’s delicious, there’s a reason why folks keep coming back until it sells out, year after year.

“Tradition,” Gwaltney says simply. “It’s something that has evolved over the years but has held true to its roots. Something that started as family celebrations, turned into small community celebrations, to large community celebrations has definitely held its place in our hearts.”

Make sure to follow the City of Albion Chowder Facebook page for updates as the day gets closer!

If you consider yourself a chili champion, make plans to head to Mt. Carmel for the Wabash County Chamber Chili Cook-Off at Beall Woods State Park on Oct. 2. Because the event is outdoors at a state park, social distancing won’t be an issue – but there will be extra PPE and hand-washing areas set up.

Fans of art will be intrigued by the Olney Arts Council Fall Festival, which is planned for Saturday, Sept. 25. Much like many other events, the OAC Fall Festival has had the discussion about sanitary areas, distancing, and mask regulations – and they will follow any guidelines deemed necessary by IDPH.

Keegan Tucker, the President of the Olney Arts Council, says the group is also considering other changes to the event.

“We are always brainstorming ways to make the event better than the last and we have some ideas up our sleeve we are excited to see come to fruition,” Tucker says. “We think the public will enjoy the changes and additions we are looking to make.”

Getting the OAC Fall Festival reignited after 2020 will also provide a boost to the community.

“This event brings many individuals from outside our community into Olney for a day,” Tucker says. “This is great for our local businesses and restaurants. We are so looking forward to being able to support artists, vendors, and local businesses/restaurants once again in the same manner we have seen before with our Fall Festival.

“This event also helps to raise funds for other outreach projects we do throughout the year. Having this event will help boost what we are able to put back into our community for art enriching opportunities.”

For more information on the Olney Arts Council, give them a follow at olneyartscouncil.com.

If you have been to Olney, you have heard of their beloved white squirrels. Did you know that each year they host their Annual Squirrel Count? This event was another one of the few that operated last year, because it is outside and everyone is scattered around town counting squirrels – so it’s the perfect

The Oblong Fall Follies in Crawford County has been a tradition for more than 50 years.

The City of Albion Chowder is held on the second Saturday of October.
activity in terms of being safe and socially distant!
So the big question is, why in the world is everyone counting squirrels?
“Our white squirrels are a source of great pride to Olney residents, and a point of interest for visitors from near and far,” Olney City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi says. “The count helps us to track the health and population of our white squirrels while noting any additional influences that may contribute to the year’s numbers. Attendees have said it’s like “a natural scavenger hunt” and love to explore Olney’s neighborhoods.”
It’s never too early to volunteer for the Squirrel Count! If interested, contact Sterchi at cityclerk@cityofolney.com. Volunteers can participate in one or more dates. The dates of this year’s Annual Squirrel Count will be Oct. 2, 9, and 16.

The White Squirrel Car Cruise is shown.

CAR CORRAL

620 McCawley Ave., Flora, IL 62839 | 618-662-2641
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
www.carcorralpolaris.com
CLARK COUNTY EVENTS

Aug. 28 — Gatherings at Linn Park Amphitheater, corner of Mill & Vine, Martinsville features. “Generation Gap” at 7 p.m.

Sept. 4-6 — Labor Day Weekend, Annual Casey Popcorn Festival at Fairview Park. Casey’s signature festival with Free popcorn, live music, family entertainment shows, car show, vendors, kids carnival, chainsaw carvers, arts and crafts, food booths, Jonah Fish Fry! Contact Bernie Morgan at 217-232-2676 for more information

Sept. 11 — Gatherings at Linn Park Amphitheater, corner of Mill & Vine, Martinsville features. “Scott Wattles & Blue Suede Crew” at 7 p.m.


Oct. 10 — Lincoln Trail State Park Fall Frolic.

Oct. 30 — Frolic/Trunk or Treat/, Marshall. Trunk or Treat around the Marshall Square from 6-7 p.m. Frolic (costume contest) at 6:30 p.m. Trick or Treat around the community from 6-9 p.m. 217-826-2034. www.marshallilchamber.com

Dec. 3-4 — Candy Cane on Main, Downtown Casey, Friday Night Lighted Parade; Saturday all day event with businesses running Christmas specials; events by local library and a big mailbox for kids to mail their Letters to Santa. www.cityofcasey.org

Dec. 4 — Hometown Holly Days, Marshall, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Vendors, cookie walk and light parade at dusk. 217-826-2034. www.marshallilchamber.com

Clark County Attractions

Archer House
The Archer House, located at 717 Archer Ave in Marshall, was built in 1841 and is the oldest hotel still in operation in Illinois.

Moonshine
Moonshine, located about 12 miles southeast of Casey, is the home of the Moonshine Burger and the annual Moonshine Run — a must for motorcyclists everywhere. For more information on the event, please visit the Moonshine Run Home page.

Lincoln Trail State Park
Whether you are looking for history, unusual plant life or recreation, Lincoln Trail State Park has something to interest you. Located just west of IL Rt. 1, 2 miles south of Marshall in Clark County, the area is named after the trail Abraham Lincoln’s family followed en route from Indiana to Illinois in 1831. Three Native American groups, the Miami, Kickapoo and Mascouten, occupied the site before it was ceded to the United States in the early 19th century. Today, visitors to the 1,023-acre park can enjoy the sights of an American Beech woods; wildflowers, including the unusual squaw-root and beech drops; and recreational activities such as boating, camping, fishing, hiking and winter sports.

CLAY COUNTY EVENTS


Sept. 11 — Ford Town USA Celebration!, 223 W Railroad St, Flora, IL. What is the BEST way to start your SATURDAY MORNING? With a BIG 80’s show at the Ford Town USA Celebration in Floral BoomBox all 80’s Pop/Rock Band will be playing your favorite 80’s pop/rock music at 9am, and then spend the rest of your day enjoying this RAD celebration!! More details to be updated as we get closer to the event! Can’t wait to see you all there!!!

Sept. 25 — Appleknocker Festival, Flora Elementary School, 445 Emory Ave., Flora, IL. There are many games/booths for children and notary.

Revenue from Changing Hands has been used for many projects/activities in our community.

Come visit with your friends and enjoy a delicious meal in a fun restaurant!

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and their families, most are free! Lots of food vendors, and fun guests like tumblers, stilts walkers, and other crowd performers!

Oct. 29-31 — Louisville Fall Harvest Festival. Food and craft vendors, queen and little miss pageants, tractor and car show, pancake breakfast and parade on Saturday all on the square in Louisville IL.

Oct. 30 — Flora Halloween Parade, Downtown Flora—223 W. Railroad St., Flora, IL. Floats, bands, masqueraders, antique and emergency vehicles and much more make up a parade lasting over two hours through Flora’s Main Downtown Street.

Clay County Attractions

Little Toot Railroad
Located in Charley Brown Park in Flora, the 15-inch gauge locomotive runs each weekend, four times each day (except during rain), beginning Memorial Day weekend and concluding when Labor Day arrives. Special trains run in November and December for the holiday weekends. Tickets can be purchased at the park. For more information and schedule times, call 618-662-8040.

Charley Brown Park
Located west of Flora, the park has 100 acres of rolling wooded hills, a swimming pool, camp sites for both campers and tents, picnic sites and a lake for boating and fishing. Charley Brown Park not only hosts the Little Toot Railroad, but also hosts the county fair, several sanctioned coon hunts and Dean Bluegrass Jam.

B & O Depot
Located at 223 West Railroad Street in Flora. Built at the height of the railroad industry in Illinois, the recently restored three-story brick building is now the home to the Chamber of Commerce of the railroad industry in Illinois. The vintage charm, industrial décor, & immense attention to detail are just a few of the things. Venue 720 features a spacious brides room, a retro lounge, state of the art sound system, and a premium bar with bartenders included. Check out the calendar of events and Facebook page for upcoming events and other various businesses.

Venue 720
Venue 720 is a Reception Hall and Entertainment Venue located in Flora, Illinois. The vintage charm, industrial décor, & immense attention to detail are just a few of the things. Venue 720 features a spacious brides room, a retro lounge, state of the art sound system, and a premium bar with bartenders included. Check out the calendar of events and Facebook page for upcoming events and dates when they are available to host your events.

Coles County Events

Aug. 27, 28 & 29 — Flea Market at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon, Friday & Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday noon-5 p.m.

Sept. 1 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents “Dynamo” at 7:30 p.m., Dvorak Concert Hall, 1860 7th St., Charleston. Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu

Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25 — 18th St. Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Coles Co. Health Dept. parking lot, Charleston. Fresh produce, baked goods, flowers, and homemade items. Call Charleston Chamber at 217-345-7041 or by email at president@charlestonchamber.com.

Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — Charleston Farmers Market on the Square, 6:30-10:30 a.m.

Sept. 18 — Missy Garnett’s Coming Home concert at 1903 Maple Ave, Mattoon, from 8-11 p.m.

Sept. 18 — Special Olympics Family Festival, Lakeland Community College, 5001 Lake Land Blvd., Mattoon.

Sept. 18 — 18th Street Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Businesses along 18th St. will have specials all day. Call 217-345-4700 for more information.

Sept. 18 — EIU Family Weekend, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston.

Sept. 25 — Walk to End Alzheimer’s begins at 9:30 a.m. At Petersen Park, Mattoon.


Sept. 25-26 — Harvest Frolic Fall Celebration, Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to take part in mid 19th century activities - games, crafts, cider pressing and more on the Lincoln and Sargent Farms. Artisans will be demonstrating their 19th-Century crafts, and performances will take place throughout the weekend. Free to the public. www.lincolnlbgcabin.org or Email info@lincolnlbgcabin.org for more information.

Sept. 29 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents “Le Cirque Esprit” at 7:30 p.m., Dvorak Concert Hall, 1860 7th St., Charleston. Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu

Oct. 2-3 — 5 Mile House Celebrates the New Barn & Fall Festival. Living History Open Houses 1-4 p.m.; Demonstrations 1-4 p.m.; Music from 1-2:30 p.m.; Programs at 2:30 p.m.; Bonfire BYO hot dogs & Marshmallows at 6 p.m.; Barn Dance at 7 p.m., music by Motherload. South Rt. 130, Charleston.

Oct. 5 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents “Cardis Condition Blue” at 7:30 p.m., Dvorak Concert Hall, 1860 7th St., Charleston. Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu

Oct. 23 — EIU Homecoming Weekend, https://www.eiu.edu/homecoming/

Oct. 29 — Mattoon Trunk or Treat

Oct. 29 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents “Rolston String Quartet” at 7:30 p.m., Dvorak Concert Hall, 1860 7th St., Charleston. Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu

Oct. 30 — Charleston Scare on the Square, 3-5:30 p.m. Includes Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Pack the Pumpkin Food Drive, Virtual Costume Parade, Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat. Visit their Facebook page for details.

Nov. 18 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents “Bette Davis Ain’t For Sissies” at 7:30 p.m., Dvorak Concert Hall, 1860 7th St., Charleston. Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu

Nov. 18-Dec. 25 — Mattoon Lightworks Opens at Peterson Park, open nightly from 5-10 p.m.
ENJOY A DAY IN COLES COUNTY!

Past and Present
antiques and primitives

furniture, crafts
home décor and more

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Visit the more than 9 miles of trails! Whether you like to Bird Watch, Fish, Kayak, Bike, Hike, or just Relax! We have a place for you!
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www.charlestonillinois.org

Quaint urban garden open sunrise to sunset
Located at 17th & Lafayette, Downtown Mattoon

The Whiteside Garden

• Open Fridays & Saturdays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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• Thousands of botanical plants from all over the world, including rare and endangered specimens

Located at 8422 North County Rd, 1820 East, Charleston

Douglas-Hart Nature Center & Foundation
2204 DeWitt Avenue East, Mattoon, IL | 217-235-4644
www.dhnature.org

Take the Plunge into the Cross County Mall

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• McQuarters Pub
• C&C Kettle Corn
• Claire’s
• Pro Nails
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• JoAnn Fabrics
• Bath & Body Works
• Maurices
• Shoe Dept.
• Glick’s
• Elevate
• Alamo Steakhouse & Saloon

UPCOMING SOCIALLY DISTANCED EVENTS:
• August Flea Market - Aug. 27-29
• October Flea Market - Oct. 22-24
• Christmas Gift & Craft Show - Nov. 19-21

Cross County Mall

Cross County Mall is Conveniently Located At 700 Broadway East - Mattoon
With Easy Access From I-57 On Rte. 18 - Exit West To 3rd Stop Light - North Side Hours - Monday 10am-9pm, Sunday Noon-5pm
Nov. 25 — Bare Bones 5-Mile Turkey Trot, 6-8 a.m. The 5-mile run begins at 6:00 am and takes runners through the Mattoon Lightworks display at Peterson Park before sunrise. For more information, please visit www.mattoonymca.org.

Dec. 2, 3, 4, 5 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents “Holiday Fest” from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., at 1860 7th St., Charleston. Fun science activities, concerts, plays, and presentations for all ages. Plus the popular Holiday Art Sale that will take place in the Doudna’s Main Concourse. If you need a unique gift for that hard-to-shop-for-person, this is the place for you! Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu

Dec. 3 — Celebrate Downtown Mattoon Christmas – 5-8 p.m. Broadway and Western Ave., from 14th-21st Streets, downtown Mattoon. Fun activities for the whole family and special shopping.

Dec. 4 — Christmas in the Heart of Charleston begins at 4:45-6:30 p.m. Holiday parade, carriage rides, refreshments, window displays, entertainment, photos with Santa and much more. Parents are encouraged to bring their own cameras for pictures with Santa. Parade starts at 4:45 pm. Streets leading to the Square will be closed – please park 2-3 blocks off the Square and walk inward. Check out our event page on Facebook under “Christmas in the Heart of Charleston”. For more information please call (217) 348-0430

Dec. 2 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents “Bette Davis Ain’t For Sissies” at 7:30 p.m., Dvorak Concert Hall, 1860 7th St., Charleston. Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu

Coles County Attractions

Douglas Hart Nature Center
Helen Douglas-Hart had a dream of developing a natural area that would reflect the native habitats of east-central Illinois. Her dream became a reality in the late 1960’s by planting a 33-acre nature preserve. Today, the Douglas-Hart Nature Center features more than 70 acres of prairie, wetland, and forest habitat. Also, it provides the people of the surrounding communities the unique opportunity to learn about and discover the wonders of nature. For more information call 217-235-4644 or go to www.dhnature.org. Douglas Hart Nature Center is located at 2204 DeWitt Ave. East in Mattoon, IL

Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site
Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site was the 1840s home of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and stepmother of Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States.

The site includes a working, living historic farm developed around a two-room cabin. A second farmstead, the Stephen Sargent Farm, has been moved to the site to help broaden visitors’ understanding of the 1840s rural life in Illinois. Both offer an array of interpretive programs. For a current calendar of events, call the site at 217-345-1845 or check online at www.lincolnlodgecabin.org. Special group tours are available by appointment. Hours are 8:30 a.m. through dusk Wednesday through Sunday.

Lake Charleston
With 10 miles of paved and unpaved trails that surround the lake, its a perfect place to run, hike, walk and enjoy the scenery. Plus new playgrounds and pavilions for picnics. www.charlestonillinois.org

Thomas Lincoln Cemetery
Many visit this cemetery in the Lerna area to see the burial site of Abraham Lincoln’s father and stepmother, Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln. Free admission. Open each day until dusk.

Charleston Downtown Square
Charleston’s Downtown Square has been the site of the Coles County seat since 1835. Abraham Lincoln practiced law in a previous version of the courthouse. Today, the late 19th century Romanesque courthouse sits at the center of the square. Historic buildings display stunning architectural details and serve as home to current professional offices, unique shops and restaurants.

Charleston Riot Historic Marker
Located on the Coles County Courthouse square the Charleston Riot Historic Marker commemorates a face-to-face encounter in Charleston that took place during the Civil War between southern sympathizers, Union soldiers and citizens who favored the Lincoln administration.

Shown is a log cabin recreated at the Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site on its original foundation, emulating the former home of Abraham Lincoln’s father and stepmother. Charles Mills photo

HARVEST FROLIC
Saturday & Sunday, September 25-26
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
FREE to Public

Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, 402 S. Lincoln Highway Road, Lerna, IL 62440

Special events all year long, check the calendar of events at the web site www.lincolnlodgecabin.org or call 217-345-1845.
Experience the living history program at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site May through October.

We look forward to seeing you out on the farm, eight miles south of Charleston, Illinois, until then be sure to follow us on Facebook.

This ad sponsored by Lincoln Log Cabin Foundation and Charleston Tourism
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Dine In Our Coffee Shop,
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Stews • Fried Chicken • Ribs • Seafood
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Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Marion, Perry, and Washington make up ILLINOISouth Tourism’s Central Region.

We will kick things off in the Central Region with the Vandalia Farmers Market, a GREAT family-friendly event. The community was able to safely host the event last year through the pandemic, and the response was great.

“We are so excited to host another season of the Vandalia, Illinois Farmers’ Market,” says Jessica Hampton, Vandalia’s Tourism Director. “Our goal is to inspire and nurture a healthy community by building a local and sustainable food economy in an engaging downtown experience while showcasing local farmers and gardeners. The momentum from last year has fueled our downtown community and we can’t wait to welcome new visitors!”

After the success of last year’s inaugural season for the Vandalia Farmers Market, the committee decided to expand this year’s events.

“Our vendors this year have everything from plants and produce to farm-raised meat and homemade sweets,” Hampton adds. “You can also find honey, eggs, and dairy products. We’ve expanded to include more artisans and crafters, as well! Each market will also feature activities from various community organizations and live music from local musicians!”

In terms of safety precautions, the event is outdoors and vendors are adequately spaced. There are also hand sanitizers at each booth, and sanitization stations dispersed throughout the market. Masks are available at the Information Table at the entrance of the market. If you plan on attending the market this year,
Hampton says there are plenty of other things to explore while you are in town.

“Our market is in the heart of downtown Vandalia, right across from the Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site. With a number of other historical sites, shops, boutiques, and restaurants, you can easily make this a full day or weekend trip,” adds Hampton.

The Vandalia Farmers Markets take place every second Saturday, from May-October and run from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Follow their Facebook page at Vandalia, Illinois Farmers Market for specific information and updates for each market.

Another event slated for downtown Vandalia this fall is the 4th annual Wine & Ale with Abe Street Fest. This gathering is put on by the Vandalia Historical Society, and they have plans for this to be the biggest and best year yet.

“We have a wide assortment of food vendors and food trucks, many craft and artisan vendors, live musical entertainment all day and evening, commemorative Wine & Ale with Abe wine and beer glasses, and of course a variety of local and international wine and craft and domestic beer,” explains Susan Williams, President of the Vandalia Historical Society.

The return of Wine & Ale with Abe is important to the entire community. It is held on the streets where Abe Lincoln walked in front of the historic Vandalia Statehouse.

“We are inviting everyone to visit. There is something for everyone,” Williams says. “Food, music, arts and crafts, and of course beer and wine! Bring your lawn chairs or lawn blankets. Families with children are welcome.” The Wine and Ale with Abe Streetfest is slated for Saturday, Sept. 25 from noon to 8 p.m.

There are also several other places in our Central Region to pick out some fresh produce, and spend some time on the farm while you’re at it! Schwartz Orchard in Centralia is a great place for pick-yourown apples in the fall, and while you’re visiting make sure to pick up some of their award-winning apple cider.

Speaking of apple cider, the apple cider donuts at Schwartz are well worth the drive to Centralia alone. If you make the trip without trying at least one, you should probably plan another trip!

In Fayette County there are two similar places to pick out the perfect pumpkin in the Central Region. Country Kids Pumpkin Patch in Hoyleton has 20 outdoor related games and activities from a corn maze to a scavenger hunt, and of course... pumpkin picking!

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In Fayette County there are two similar places to pick out the perfect pumpkin - Happy Hollow Farm in St. Elmo and Schaefer Pumpkin Patch in Beecher City.

Another great agritourism stop that is a little different than the ones mentioned above is Rainbow Ranch Petting Zoo in Washington County. If you visit the Ranch in October to experience the camels, kangaroos, zebras and other animals - you receive a pumpkin to take home with you.

One event in Marion County is celebrating a major milestone this year. The Little Egypt Festival and Parade is celebrating it’s 50th year in 2021! This gathering was one of the many that decided to cancel in 2020, so it is imperative to the community that the event happens this year.

“For 50 years, people have come to expect the food trucks, the craft vendors, the big wheel race, the car show, the horse show, the school marching bands, the fanfare of the parade floats, and the candy,” explains Kelley Predium, Committee Chairperson of Kids Activities for the Little Egypt Festival and Parade.

“This event occurs on the first Saturday of October, and people are always prepared to support or participate in it. Everyone is excited about being able to build their floats this year and throw candy to the kids. The committee is excited to honor
our Grand Marshalls and volunteers from over the years.”

The Little Egypt Festival and Parade is an outdoor event, allowing patrons to come and go as they please from any of the several activities staged throughout the mile-long parade route all day long.

“We will be providing shuttles from the courthouse to the Bryan Memorial Park all day long as well,” Predium adds.

Event organizers are looking to increase the number of activities available this year, spread them out to allow distancing, increase the varieties in which the audience can participate, and add new activities later into the day.

“This event brings so many different activities to one day and creates an enormous sense of community,” says Predium. “You can see the blankets and chairs line the parade route the night before. Every family is or has participated in some aspect of this event throughout their life. Most people have some story about how they were involved or something they have enjoyed from the day. Please come out and support local vendors, crafters, and food trucks, the 5k, kid’s activities, the car show, and the parade. Please make plans to spend the day with us, enjoying everything we are putting together for you. We want this to be the best year ever,” adds Predium.

This year’s Little Egypt Festival and Parade is set for Oct. 2, so be sure to mark your calendars!

The other exhibition is the Illinois Freedom Project, which tells the story of slavery to freedom in Illinois through the lens of people, places, and events from the early 18th century French settlements through early 20th century Chicago.

“Voices and Votes explore the bold experiment of American democracy using exhibit panels, interactive stations, and video presentations, plus traveling trunks for teacher and school use,” Keller adds. The Freedom Project began in 2011 when the Lincoln Home National Historic Site and community partners began investigating the places that best represent the inspiring stories of the move from slavery to freedom in Illinois.

“The goal of the project is to teach history and motivate youth by presenting inspiring stories of the past to inform and empower students to create a better future,” Keller explains.

The combined exhibition in Salem provides a triple header experience whether you’re a history buff, a teacher, a patriot, or simply looking for new information and experience.

“It opens on Aug. 28, just before the Labor Day weekend. Then the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Flight 93 is the next weekend on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021,” says Keller. “Salem will honor and remember the loss of life and heroic actions of the day with a special ceremony. Finally, the exhibition closes on Oct. 2, which is also the opening day of our Little Egypt Festival. In addition, each week will have a different set of special activities so, no matter your specific in-
interest, there will be something for everyone during this time.” For more details and updates on the exhibits, visit salemmbll.lib.il.us.

Art enthusiasts will want to make a trip to Greenville for ArtWalk, a two-day event planned for the first weekend in October. This year ArtWalk will look a little bit different as some new activities have been added to the lineup.

“We are adding a 5k, half-marathon, and bike race to our event,” explains Jes Adam, Tourism Director for the City of Greenville. “We’re calling the races ‘ArtRun’ and ‘ArtRace.’ These will take place on Saturday, Oct. 2 in the morning. RaceMaker Productions of Indianapolis will be organizing the races.

“Saturday morning also includes a Farmers Market and Flea Market! We will also have more craft beer, local wine vendors, and food trucks!” ArtWalk just returned to Greenville in 2019 after a brief three-year hiatus, and then missed last year due to the pandemic – so community leaders are excited to host it again.

“Thankfully, we have taken the extra time to further develop this event into something that every human being will enjoy! ArtWalk brings in a lot of visitors to our area, which is also a blessing for our local economy and businesses.”

The American Thresherman Association draws a large crowd each fall to the Fairgrounds in Pinckneyville.

The American Thresherman Association’s Advertising Chairman David Logsdon says this fall’s event is scheduled for Oct. 15-17. After missing both of the scheduled event dates in 2020, Logsdon says the group is chomping at the bit to have the American Thresherman show this year.

“Our events are like a homecoming for many people,” Logsdon says. “They come not only to enjoy seeing the ways of farming and various trades from the past, but to reunite with friends!” For more information regarding the event, visit americanthresherman.com.

The Du Quoin State Fair started back in 1923 and has since become one of the most popular gatherings in southern Illinois, attracting an estimated 300,000 folks each year! There are SO many entertainment options, from harness races and livestock competitions to concerts every day of the event. There are also plenty of vendors and a wide array of food options to sink your teeth into. Families will definitely want to take advantage of the carnival rides and games as well! The aforementioned concerts can be found at the free entertainment tent, the beer stage, and the Grandstands.

Speaking of the Grandstands, there are some pretty notable acts that have been set for this year’s Du Quoin State Fair. En Vogue, REO Speedwagon, Ludacris, and Ron White are a few notables that are slated to perform this year!

Fans of racing will want to head to the Fairgrounds on Sept. 4-5 for ARCA and USAC races on the dirt track. This year’s event starts on Aug. 27 and will go through Sept. 6, so be sure to check out the Du Quoin State Fair on Facebook for more information on pricing, tickets, and much more!

Looking for Lincoln? You’ll find him here, where his storied political career began and history abounds. After some adventure? You’ve only to venture toward Vandalia Lake for a host of water and outdoor sports. Whether you’re after browsing boutiques or immersing yourself in culture, you’ll find the right thread to weave your perfect story right here in Vandalia.

VandaliaIllinois.com
CRAWFORD COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 3-6 — Annual Pioneer City Labor Day Festival and Rodeo, Pioneer City Arena, Leaverton Park & Main Street Palestine play hosts to a Street Fair, Carnival, and the PRCA rodeo. Chuckwag-on Breakfast, Parade, Camping, Junior-sized Tractor Pull, Lunch with Clowns, Flea Market, Mechanical Bull Rides, Free Entertainment at the Band shell, Town-Wide Garage Sales and more! Contact: Palestine Chamber of Commerce 618-586-2222 www.pioneerocity.com or Email: PalestineCoC@verizon.net

Sept. 18 — Crawford County Fest-Of-Ale. The City of Robinson will host its annual craft beer festival in the Robinson City Park. Craft beer vendors, wine, food, and entertainment highlight the afternoon activities. Visit www.ccfesfoale.com for tickets and more information.

Oct. 1-2 — Annual Heath Toffee Festival and Parade. Located on the square in Robinson. Celebrating the delicious Heath Candy Bar, created in 1928 by Heath Brothers Confectionary in Robinson. Features Friday night entertainment, street dance, and car show, and Saturday craft show, live entertainment, toffee bake-off, and parade, capped off by a free chili supper. Call 618-546-1557 for more information.

Oct. 2-3 — Annual Wabash Valley Wine & Arts Festival. Several wineries provide various wines for tasting as you stroll Main Street and enjoy artwork from numerous artists from the Wabash Valley area. Some will be purchased. Food booths and live entertainment. Sat 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. & Sun noon-5 p.m. Contact: Susan Goodwine 618-586-2035

October 30 — Annual Oblong Fall Follies and “Spooktacular” Band Fest and Parade. Features Friday night entertainment, food, crafts, and entertainment on the square in Oblong. Call 618-592-4355 for more information.


Crawford County Attractions

Oblong

Oblong, located on the western edge of the county, also offers a variety of unique retailers. Collectibles, quilt and sewing supplies, handcrafted gifts, floral, and furnishings can be found along Main Street in Oblong. The Oil Field Museum in Oblong is one of only seven such facilities in the nation. It features two buildings of displays, tools, books and literature, working models and photographs regarding the boom days of oil discovery in Crawford County Illinois in the early 1900s.

Palestine

Palestine is the oldest town in the state of Illinois still in its original location. The entire business district is listed on the National Historic Register, and many turn-of-the-century buildings house art galleries, antique and collectible stores, and gift shops. Visitors come from all around to visit this historic village full of rich history. Palestine is home to the Fife Opera House, the annual Pioneer City Rodeo and Labor Day Festival, and many other history rich events throughout the year.

Hutsonville

Hutsonville, at the Wabash River Bridge on the northeast edge of the county, features the Hutson Memorial Village. A “town” made up of original, furnished log cabins, a log barn, and log church, is named in honor of the Isaac Hutson family which was massacred by Indians in 1813. Each year, the event is re-enacted, and several other family oriented events are held at the complex throughout the year. Antique and specialty stores round out the village, along with a bookstore located in the house where Illinois’ ninth Governor, August French was married.

Flat Rock

Flat Rock may not be the retail mecca of the county, but it does get a big “thumbs up” when it comes to a great milkshake, fresh pie, and friendly conversation. The annual Flat Rock Homecoming is a great time to visit the village for memorable family fun. After a disastrous fire in 1912, an ordinance was passed that all new buildings must be constructed of brick. The town has more concrete sidewalk per capita than anywhere in the nation.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY EVENTS

First Saturday of Every Month — Hootenany, a night of free dancing and great country and bluegrass music is scheduled for the 1st Saturday of each month at the Greenup Village Municipal Building Auditorium, from 7-10 p.m. in Greenup.

Aluminum Can Recycling — Aluminum cans can be placed in the wire trailer at 533 Chestnut Avenue in Neoga. IL. Funds will be used for upkeep of the Neoga Veterans’ Memorial.

Aug. 28 — Back Our Blue 5k & 10k, Jennings Park in Neoga, IL. Races start at 7 a.m.

Sept. 11 — Neoga Fall Citywide Rummage Sales, Neoga, IL.

Sept. 23-25 — Greenup Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival, Queen Contest, Crafts, City-Wide Rummage Sales, Car Cruise Night, Parade, Food Vendors, Beer Tent, Musical Entertainment, Kids Entertainment and Fun, greenupchamber@gmail.com

Sept. 24 — Cruise Night, Greenup Chamber of Commerce. Other dates and times to be determined. Cruise IL Rt. 121 (Cumber- land St.) Contact: greenupchamber@gmail.com
Oct. 2 — Sooey Fest, Noon-8 p.m. at Jennings Park in Neoga, IL.
Greenup Halloween Celebration, Greenup Municipal Building.
Date and time TBD. Costume Judging, Cake Walk, Food & Games.
Toledo Halloween Celebration, Trunk or Treat around the
Courthouse Square, Toledo. Date and time TBD. Hosted by the
Cumberland Development.

Nov. 13 — Adult Prom, Neoga Community Center in Neoga, IL.

Nov. 27 — Hometown Christmas in Neoga, IL.
Visit with Santa! — Hosted by Greenup Chamber of Commerce.
Date and time TBD. Contact: greenupchamber@gmail.com

Cumberland County Attractions

National Road Covered Bridge
The Embarras River near Greenup was the site of a covered
bridge built by Abe and Thomas Lincoln and Dennis Hanks. The
original bridge was 200 feet long. Reconstruction of the bridge
began in 1998 and was dedicated in 2000. Call 217-923-9401 or
visit www.villageofgreenup.com for more information.

Greenup Train Depot and Museum
Located at 211 Cumberland St., Greenup, the original depot
was used until 1967 when the train master retired. There are
several train artifacts in the depot and there is a large miniature
train display and upstairs is the train masters living quarters. Hours
are Thursday through Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DEWITT COUNTY EVENTS

connecting xkids and adults with local agriculture. Triple M Farm:
local food, vendors, music, and wholesome farm experience for
MumFest. Two-day event. Free family friendly event with games,

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Ultimate Play Space
Clinton’s own Ultimate Play Space is located in Kiwanis Park behind the YMCA at 417 S. Alexander. The Ultimate Play Space was built in 2003 by hundreds of volunteers from Clinton and the surrounding area. Bring the kids and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of imagination and play in this 13-acre park. The “UPS” is also adjacent to the “Spray and Play” spray park.

Weldon Springs State Park
Just two miles east of Clinton is Weldon Springs State Park, a 550-acre park for all seasons, where you can fish, boat, camp, hike, view or photograph nature and wildlife and so much more. Pack a picnic lunch, and come spend the day with the family. Contact Weldon Springs State Park at 217-935-2644.

DOUGLAS COUNTY EVENTS
Aug. 27 & 28 — 59th Annual Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale, Otto Center, Arthur. From 4:30-7 p.m. Friday meal and auction at 6 p.m. Saturday auction begins at 9 a.m. This is an annual community celebration of generosity to support the relief, development and peace work of the Mennonite Central Committee. Includes a general auction, activities for children, excellent food and wonderful quilts. Visit the Arthur Relief Sale arthurreliefsale.org for more details.

September — Every Tuesday/Friday, Produce Auction, 10 a.m. and wonderful quilts. Visit the Arthur Relief Sale arthurreliefsale.org for more details.

Sept. 4-6 — 48th Annual Amish Country Cheese Festival, Arthur.


Sept. 18 — 3rd Saturday Market, Otto Center, Arthur.

Sept. 18 — “The Amish Country Tour” Annual Bike Ride begins at Arthur Community Building.

Sept. 25 — Fall Toy Auction, Tri-County Auction Facility, Arthur, IL.

Sept. 26 — Fall Semi-Annual Consignment Sale, Tri-County Auction Facility, Arthur, IL.

DOUGLAS COUNTY Attractions
Douglas County Museum
Located at 700 S. Main St., Tuscola. Exhibits featuring Douglas County historical items. Free Genealogy & Research Library. Program and Event offerings throughout the year. Tours by request during and outside of museum hours. Free Admission open Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 217-258-2535. www.douglascountymuseum.org.

Aikman Wildlife Adventure (formerly Rockome Gardens)
Located between Arcola & Arthur. The Museum of Prehistoric Live is a new addition to the park. Guests will experience a collection of life-size reconstructions of prehistoric mammals, as well as a featured computer generated imagery presentation. Open Memorial weekend thru Labor Day weekend. Come see and take pictures of animals from 6 different continents. Cost is $20/vehicle. Hours are 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Thursday, Friday & Saturday; Noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The park is open year round on Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information call 217-268-3500, email info@aikmanwildlife.com or visit www.aikmanwildlife.com.

Harris Ag Museum
To tour a 1920’s farm kitchen, early grain elevator office and blacksmith shop, visit Harris Agricultural Museum at Atwood. Antique tractors from 1922 through 1937, engines and Ford Model-T grain/dump truck from 1919 also are on exhibit. Hours are 7 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or weekends by appointment. Call 217-578-2231 or 217-578-3040.

Sears “Catalog Homes”
Tuscola is home to four “catalog homes”. From 1908 until 1940, the Chicago-based catalog giant Sears, as well as Montgomery Ward, offered and sold roughly 100,000 build-it-yourself home kits. There were 450 various models ranging in price from $150 to a little more than $5,000. One home is located at 309 N Main. It was ordered in 1931 and is called “The Cambridge”. Another is located at 106 E. Buckner. The home was built in 1915 and locat-
ed 5 ½ miles west of Tuscola, before being moved to it’s present site in 1946. Yet another home is located a few miles north of Tuscola on Route 45. It was built 1920-22. The fourth home is located on Scott St. and was built in 1915.

**Douglas County Courthouse**

The Douglas County Courthouse sits on a full block on the south side of Tuscola. It is the home of murals printed by E. Martin Hennings, circa 1912. It was built in 1912-13 in classical style architecture. The woodwork is all white oak, floors in public places are of tile and terrazzo and corridor walls are wainscoted with finely polished marble. All columns and pilasters are of scagliola exquisite workmanship. In the center of the building and extending throughout the three stories is a beautiful glass dome.

**Illinois Amish Heritage Center**

The Illinois Amish Heritage Center was first created in 1994 as the Illinois Amish Interpretive Center located in Arthur, Illinois. The Center offered an introductory film to Amish life, exhibits on Amish heritage and culture, a gift shop, and Amish Country Tours of Amish homes, farms, businesses and meals in Amish homes. In 2010, the Center was moved to Rockome Gardens and renamed The Illinois Amish Museum. The museum remained open at Rockome through 2014 when Rockome went up for sale. Rockome was purchased later that year and the new owner began implementation of a wildlife park. The Amish Museum was subsequently put into storage and the search for a new facility began.

In the year 2000, two historic Amish houses were saved from destruction and moved to a location behind Yoder’s Kitchen in Arthur, Illinois. In 2014, plans had been made to move the houses to Rockome Gardens, $102,000 was raised, and a state tourism grant was written. The pending sale of Rockome and state budget problems put a hold on these plans.

In 2016, five acres of land were secured one mile west of Chesterville and three miles east of Arthur, Illinois. In September, the houses were moved to the new site and a plan for the construction of a new museum building and Amish living history farm were developed. Restoration on the Schrock house and planning for a steam threshing event in the summer of 2017 began. A development plan laid out a four year time table for the completion of the site.

The mission of the Illinois Amish Heritage Preservation Center is to enhance the preservation, understanding, and appreciation of all aspects of the culture and heritage of the Amish people in Illinois from 1865 to present.

**A Walk Through Time Museum**

A Walk Through Time Museum features many local pieces from Arcola’s past including:
- History on Raggedy Ann and Andy
- Originals by Johnny Gruelle and R.B. Gruelle
- A Local Heroes’ section displaying Vietnam War memorabilia
- Hispanic Display featuring Arcola’s rich history
- Arcola Industrial Display
- Arcola Tradition of Excellence in Sports
- Walldog Murals in Arcola display
- History of the Railroad
- Old Arcola Display
- River to Rail Display
- Aikman’s Wildlife Adventure Display

A donation is required for entry to the museum.

**EDGAR COUNTY EVENTS**

- **Sept. 2** — Music in the Park featuring Kate Brothers, Blues & R&B, 6:30-9 p.m., Twin Lakes Park, 30 Twin Lakes Dr., Paris.
- **Sept. 11-Oct. 31** — Southfork Homestead Farms and Pumpkin Patch, open for season. Open every weekend in Sept. 10 a.m.-6 p.m; open every weekend in October plus Monday, Thursday & Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Located off I 70 at 3000 N 1200th St., Paris.
- **Sept. 23** — Sail On, The Beach Boys Tribute, Paris Center of Fine Arts, 14040 E. 1200th Rd., Paris. Join us to celebrate the end of summer with the most booked Beach Boys Tribute Band in the

**Downtown Tuscola** offers a truly unique dining experience! From authentic casual dining to handcrafted cocktails, you can find all that you’re craving in downtown!


**Oct. 31** — Scare on the Square. Trick or Treat with local businesses around the square in Paris.


**Nov. 20** — Comedy Night, two shows at 4:30 and 8 p.m. at Castle Finn Winery, 1288 N. 1200th St., Marshall. Call ahead for tickets 217-463-2600.

**Nov. 26-27** — Christmas on the Square in Paris. “Welcome to Hooville” is the theme and a “Frozen Celebration” on Nov. 27. Events include lighted parade, ice skating rink, new “Snowmazing”, scavenger hunt, children’s activities, food vendors, live reindeer, cookies & canvas painting events, ugly sweater contest, meals with Santa and more.


**Edgar County Attractions**

**Vance Park**
It is a calm and quiet place that’s perfect for meditation. Inside you will find a lushly landscaped sunken garden with its own traces of history. A serpentine wall, that reflects a design by Thomas Jefferson, located in Charlottesville, NC, and a Lions Head fountain at the far end of the small park, duplicates one found in Paris, France.

**Southfork Homestead**
Located at 3000 N. 1200th St., Paris. Features general store, food, educational interaction, a pumpkin patch, a bouncy pillow, a corn maze, hay rides and much more.

**Twin Lakes Park**
The city’s oldest and principal recreation center is Twin Lakes Park, the development of which began back in 1895, when the dam impounding Paris’ first reservoir was completed. The facilities of Twin Lakes Park include: a bathing beach, bathhouse and shelter, large shelter house, miniature golf course, picnic areas with plenty of picnic tables and benches, boating rentals and tour boats, commercial amusement rides, professional league baseball diamond, lighted horseshoe courts and the West Lake Boys and Girls Scout Camp.

**Edgar County Courthouse**
The Edgar County Courthouse is the center of the community. Built in 1891, its Romanesque architecture and the four-face clock tower are renowned within this region. As one of four Paris buildings on the National Register of Historic places, it features native limestone and interior painting motifs reflecting the Chicago Exposition.

**EFFINGHAM COUNTY EVENTS**

**Aug. 27** — Sawyer Brown at the EPC, 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/

**Aug. 28** — Legacy Harley Davidson Ride for Wishes. Registration from 10:30-11:45 a.m. at the Legacy Harley Davidson Barn. Kickstands up at noon. All proceeds from the ride go to Make a Wish foundation. Contact Pam Sowers at 217-663-2953.
**Aug. 28, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25 & Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 — Effingham Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays. Located on the Effingham County Courthouse Museum lawn, downtown Effingham. Fresh, locally-grown food, art and quality artisan goods. For more information on becoming a vendor, email them at effinghamfarmersmarket@gmail.com**

**Sept. 3, 4 & 5 — Rumors, presented by Three Chicks & a Stage. Fri. & Sat. at 7 p.m.; Sun. at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Sept. 4 — Fall Flea Market at Country Peddlers, 1709 W. Ave of Mid America, Effingham. Call 217-254-4305 for more information.**

**Sept. 10 — Lorrie Morgan at the EPC, 7-10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Sept. 11 — Last Chance Pull at Beecher City Community Park.**

**Sept. 11 — Take a step back in time and enjoy “Effingham Cruise Night!” in Downtown Effingham. Cruise down Jefferson Avenue in two directions and enjoy a night of nostalgia, that includes live music, a beer garden, great food and more. The event runs from 5 - 10 p.m.**

**Sept. 11 — Blood, Sweat & Tears begins at 7:30 p.m. at the EPC. Blood, Sweat & Tears are known for hits like You’ve Made Me So Very Happy, And When I Die, and Spinning Wheel.**

**Sept. 11 — Freedom Fest, Enduring Freedom Ministries, Shumway. Hosted by the Effingham Sunrise Rotary.**

**Sept. 12 — Effingham Central Business group. Stop at businesses with balloons for individual store Trick or Treat hours.**

**Sept. 14 — The Ultimate Queen Celebration, Starring Marc Martel at the EPC, 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Sept. 15 — Leonid & Friends, A Tribute to Chicago at the EPC, 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Sept. 16 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Sept. 17-19 — Summer Sundown Music Festival on the banks of the beautiful Lake Sara. Three days of local rock, soul, country, folk and Americana music. Don’t miss the FREE Thursday night pre-party. Come celebrate the waning days of summer with the musicians and music loves of the Central/Southern Illinois music scene, plus amazing artists from across North America to play alongside the local talent! 8724 E. Marine Rd., Effingham.**

**Sept. 18 — Freedom Fest, Enduring Freedom Ministries, Shumway, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Enjoy the afternoon with talented bands, great food and fun activities for all kids.**

**Sept. 18 — Annual Wine, Beer & Musical Festival, Dr. Charles M. Wright House, Jackson & Main St., Exit 82, Altamont. Live music and sampling different varieties of wine and beer. Bring your lawn chairs, and your wallets!**

**Sept. 18 — The Frontmen of Country at the EPC, 7 pm. Featuring Larry Stewart, Richie McDonald & Tim Rushlow. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Sept. 19 — The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the EPC, 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Sept. 20 — Downtown Effingham Trick or Treat. Hosted by the Effingham Central Business group. Stop at businesses with balloons out front. Visit the Experience Downtown Effingham facebook page for individual store Trick or Treat hours.**

**Sept. 21 — Halloween Parade. Downtown Effingham. Begins at 2 p.m. Hosted by the Effingham Sunrise Rotary.**

**Sept. 22 — Home Free – Dive Bar Saints World Tour at the EPC, 7:30 p.m. Featuring Tim Foust, Rob Lundquist, Austin Brown, Adam Chance and Adam Rupp. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Oct. 3 — Beecher City Farmer’s Market with Craft Show & Flea Market, and Jeep Drive Thru, 4-7 p.m., Beecher City Community Park.**

**Oct. 9 — Dwight Yoakam at the EPC, 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Oct. 10 — Lorrie Morgan at the EPC, 7-10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Oct. 11 — Effingham County Courthouse Fair, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., courthouse lawn, downtown Effingham. Features their famous songs, Carry On Wayward Son and Dust in the Wind. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Oct. 15 — Leonid & Friends, A Tribute to Chicago at the EPC, 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Oct. 16 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Oct. 22 — Freedom Fest, Enduring Freedom Ministries, Shumway, 8a.m. - 3 p.m. Enjoy the afternoon with talented bands, great food and fun activities for all kids.**

**Oct. 29 — The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the EPC, 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Oct. 30 — Downtown Effingham Trick or Treat. Hosted by the Effingham Central Business group. Stop at businesses with balloons out front. Visit the Experience Downtown Effingham facebook page for individual store Trick or Treat hours.**

**Oct. 31 — Halloween Parade. Downtown Effingham. Begins at 2 p.m. Hosted by the Effingham Sunrise Rotary.**

**Nov. 5 — Roots & Boots at the EPC, 8 p.m. Features country legends Sammy Kershaw, Aron Tippin and Collin Raye. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Nov. 6 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Nov. 18 — Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/**

**Nov. 26 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Nov. 27 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Nov. 28 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Nov. 29 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Nov. 30 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Dec. 1 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Dec. 2 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

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**Dec. 4 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Dec. 5 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**

**Dec. 6 — Effing-Con, all day, Village Square Mall, Effingham. Make plans to attend the first Effing-Con, Effingham, Illinois' only gaming convention. For more information please call (217) 663-7096 or email retropoweredgames@gmail.com.**
can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/

Nov. 6 — Soul Asylum at the EPC, 8 p.m. Have achieved platinum-level success with hits including “Runaway Train” and “Misery.” Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/

Nov. 13 — Recycled Percussion at the EPC, 8 p.m. Their junk rock music became a national phenomenon week after week during their smash hit performances on America’s Got Talent in 2009. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/

Nov. 19 — Hairball, A Celebration of Arena Rock, at the EPC, 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/

Nov. 20 — Branson on the Road Christmas Style, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. At the EPC. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/

Nov. 21 — A Charlie Brown Christmas Live on Stage at the EPC, 3 p.m. & 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. For more information call the Effingham Performance Center at 217-540-2788 or go to http://www.theepc.org/

Nov. 25 - Jan. 1 — Wonderland in Lights Show, Community Park, 2400 N. 3rd St. Effingham, IL 62401. A drive-through light display, features a variety of lighted holiday scenes including reindeer flight school, Santa coming down the chimney, a Nativity scene and more. Free, but donations accepted., 217-342-5310 or visit http://www.visiteffinghamil.com/

Effingham County Attractions

Sculptures on the Avenues
Located along Jefferson and Washington avenues in downtown Effingham, this exhibit features pieces created by Midwest sculptors. Call 1-800-772-0750, 217.342.5310 or effinghamsculptures@gmail.com

Ballard Nature Center
Located three miles east of Altamont, the center features a bird viewing area, displays, children’s activity area and library. Trails open to foot traffic only from dawn to dusk daily. The visitor center is open Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call 618-483-6856.
The Cross
The 198-foot-tall cross can be seen at Exit 159 in Effingham and features plaques of the 10 Commandments and also has a visitors center. For more information visit www.crossusa.org.

Effingham County Museum
Located at 110 E. Jefferson Avenue in downtown Effingham, the Effingham County Museum is housed in the historic 1871 courthouse which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The galleries located on two floors of the building are loaded with artifacts which tell the story of the area’s rich heritage. The Museum is open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., from March through December, or by appointment on other days of the week, or at different times of the day. For more information, call (217)240-2471 or visit www.effinghamcountymuseum.org, or on Facebook Effingham County Courthouse Museum Effingham IL

Effingham Performance Center
Located on the north side of Effingham along Outerbelt West, is a 1,500-seat theatre that hosts a variety of performances a year. Local, regional and national acts are scheduled to perform. For more information on performances, visit www.theepc.org or call the theatre at 217-540-2788.

Lake Sara
An 800-acre recreational lake nestled into a wooded shoreline and encircled by a winding road. Spend a day, a week, or a season on the shores of Lake Sara. Also, visit nearby golf courses, Cardinal and Fore-Way, just a few minutes from the lake. The new Lake Sara Beach Park includes a disc golf course, playgrounds, a shade sail shelter and several smaller amusements.

MY Garage Museum & Retail Store
Located on the northeast side of Effingham, this is a one-of-a-kind museum that houses vintage Corvettes and thousands of pieces of Corvette history and memorabilia. The museum is owned by Mid-America Motorworks and is headed by Corvette enthusiast Mike Yager, owner of Mid-America. The museum is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. For more information, visit www.mamotorworks.com.

Teutopolis Monastery Museum
Located off Route 40 at 110 South Garrott Street in Teutopolis. Museum features more than 30 small rooms with displays of articles, books and antiques used by the Franciscan Friars and early settlers. In addition, the tour includes a Franciscan Mausoleum and St. Francis Church with stained glass windows depicting events in the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Museum is open the first Sunday of each month from May thru November. Hours are 12:30-4 p.m. Special tours can be arranged by calling 217-857-6404 ext 236. Stop by to enjoy the renovations to the entrance, lobby, first floor and elevator access, as well as the new acquisitions on display.

Wright Mansion
Located at the corner of West Jackson Ave, at North Main St. in Altamont. Dr. C. M. Wright built this stately Renaissance revival home in 1889. It was subsequently owned by his son, also a doctor, and his grandson, an attorney. The lineage ended with the third Mr. Wright, who donated his home as a museum. Many of the original furnishings, including carpets, remain in the 18 rooms on the tour. The doctor’s surgery, the nursery and the library are particularly memorable. Open every Sunday; 2-4 p.m.: April thru October. Admission is $5 for adults; $1 for students [ages 6-18]. Throughout the year, tours of 2 to 55 may be scheduled on other days. Special tours are offered for grade school or high school classes. Volunteer guides share information about the three generations of the Wright family who lived in the home from 1889-2001. It is one of two buildings in Effingham County listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information, or to schedule tours please call 618-483-6397 and ask for Linda or visit wrightmansion.org.
Purchase tickets at the Box Office, by calling 217.540.2788, or online at www.TheEPC.org or www.ticketmaster.com/EPC.
**Fayette County Events**

**Sept. 11 from 8-11 a.m. & October 9 from 8-11 a.m.** — Vandalia, IL Farmers Market. We will have vendors selling fresh fruits, vegetables, plants, honey, farm raised meat, eggs, dairy products, home baked items, crafts, and art. We will also have activities to educate patrons on farming as well as live entertainment on Charters Patio.

**Sept. 10** — 7 p.m., Drew Sheafor, Charters Patio- 401 W Gallatin St., Vandalia IL.

**Sept. 12** — 6 p.m., Jim Bergman, Charters Patio- 401 W Gallatin St., Vandalia IL.

**Sept. 18** — 7 p.m., Lick Creek Band, Charters Patio- 401 W Gallatin St., Vandalia IL.

**Sept. 18 & 19** — 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Kinmundy Log Cabin Craft Fair. Variety of vendors and food along with tours of the cabins.

**Sept. 25** 5 p.m. - **Sept. 26** 1 a.m. — Join us for the 4th Annual Wine & Ale with Abe Streetfest. Located in downtown Vandalia & Charters Patio, Wine & Beer Tasting, Live Music from Local Musicians @ Charters Patio, Local Restaurants, Food Trucks, Craft Vendors, Local Artists, Kid Friendly. We are also excited to announce our music headliner, local band Superbad, along with many local musicians!

**Nov. 12** — Olde Tyme Christmas. Free, community holiday celebration that attracts surrounding communities, encourages the shop local movement and showcases Vandalia and local Vandalia businesses.. a kickoff to the holiday season!

**Fayette County Attractions**

The Vandalia State House, built in 1836, is the fourth capital building of the U.S. state of Illinois. It is also the oldest capital building in Illinois to survive, as the first, second, and third capital buildings have all disappeared. The brick Federal style state house has been operated by the state of Illinois as a monument of Illinois pioneer years since 1933.

It is located in Vandalia, Illinois, on the National Road (and National Old Trails Road), and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was the scene of most of the service of Abraham Lincoln as a member of the Illinois state legislature. Open Tues- Sat 9-5 Closed Sun and Mon. Located 315 W Gallatin St. Vandalia, IL 62471

**National Road Interpretive Center**

Located at 106 S. Fifth St., Vandalia, pays homage to the first totally federally funded highway. It began in Cumberland, Md., in 1811 and reached Illinois in the early 1830s. History of travel and transportation in the early days of our country and how it helped to open the West is its focus. The center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 618-283-9380 for more information.

**Jasper County Events**

**Aug. 28** — Sky Saloon, Trouble Walkin. 618 Tour. Let’s get Rural Route Rowdy! Let’s get ready for some fun times, sunshine, dirt roads and dive bars. Follow 618 tour on Facebook.

**Sept. 4** — The Hill, TBA. 618 Tour. Let’s get Rural Route Rowdy! Let’s get ready for some fun times, sunshine, dirt roads and dive bars. Follow 618 tour on Facebook.

**Sept. 5** — Ste Marie Labor Day Picnic

**Sept. 11** — Fall Festival on the Square in Newton, IL

**Sept. 19** — West End Event Center, Williamson and Haddix Acoustic, 618 Tour. Let’s get Rural Route Rowdy! Let’s get ready for some fun times, sunshine, dirt roads and dive bars. Follow 618 tour on Facebook.

**Sept. 23** — 5-9 p.m., Cruise-in, West End Event Center in Newton, IL.

**Sept. 26** — MVP Happy Holler, The Filthy Janes. 618 Tour. Let’s get Rural Route Rowdy! Let’s get ready for some fun times, sunshine, dirt roads and dive bars. Follow 618 tour on Facebook.

**Oct. 2** — West Side Lounge, TBA. 618 Tour. Let’s get Rural Route Rowdy! Let’s get ready for some fun times, sunshine, dirt roads and dive bars. Follow 618 tour on Facebook.

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**Effingham Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Take the day off – or better yet, take the whole weekend – and discover what makes our vibrant Midwestern community so irresistible to travelers, near and far.

Grab a menu at our farm to table restaurant, Firefly Grill...

Devour local culture and sink into a laidback way of life. Stay awhile, and you’ll find that ‘awhile’ is never enough.

Visit Effingham... **It’s what you’re craving.**

VISITEFFINGHAMIL.COM
Dec. 4 — 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. 2021 Holiday Vendor Market, West End Event Center, 202 Museum Dr, Newton, IL.
Dec. 10 — Christmas Parade & activities on the square.

Jasper County Attractions

Sam Parr State Fish and Wildlife Area

The 1,103-acre state park is located two miles northeast of Newton on State Route 33. The park offers a 183-acre lake for fishing with two boat ramps and nine miles of shore line. Sam Parr also offers hunting, hiking, primitive camping, picnic area and 13 miles of equestrian trails. For more information, call 618-783-2661.

Drive-In Theatre

One of four remaining drive-in theaters in the state, the Drive-In Theatre operates April through September with a double feature each weekend. Drive-In Theatre is located five miles east of Newton on Route 33. For more information, call 618-455-3100.

Emarrass River

The river meanders through Jasper County, offering many opportunities for beautiful photography, an encounter with wildlife or to wet a line. The river tracks from west of Hidalgo and Rose Hill, southeast to Saint Marie. There are plenty of places to stop, look and enjoy.

JEFFERSON COUNTY EVENTS

Aug. 27-Sept. 6 — Du Quoin State Fair, Du Quoin State Fairgrounds, 655 Executive Dr., Du Quoin, IL. The Du Quoin State Fair is an excellent end-of-summer tradition for thousands of Illinois families. It features a carnival, tractor and truck pull show, live-stock shows, exhibits, contests, and national music stars on the grandstand. The admission is just $2.

Sept. 10 — 5-9 p.m. Ready, Set, Sushi! 468 North Ken Gray Pkwy, Ina, IL. This workshop is designed to introduce Sushi lovers to the basics of making Japanese style Sushi at home. The workshop covers terminology, equipment needed to produce Sushi at home, basic techniques, sanitation, and safety concerns. No special equipment is needed, but comfortable clothing is recommended. $20 (Plus $15 supply fee to instructor). Instructor: Jeff Fairbanks

Sept. 10, 5-8 p.m. - Sept. 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. — Cedarhurst Art & Craft Fair, 1100 Main St., Mt Vernon, IL. The Cedarhurst Art & Craft Fair is celebrating its 45th year! Supported by the City of Mt. Vernon, the Mt. Vernon Convention / Tourism Bureau, plus regional communities. We celebrate the finest in American hand-made craftsmanship. In addition to traditional artists and crafters, we welcome applications from indie crafters, DIY crafters, and those with a unique or unconventional sense of aesthetics. Food vendors, beer tent, music, and a Kid Zone with make-and-take crafts. Visitors are encouraged to experience our 90-acre sculpture park and indoor art museum galleries.

Sept. 11 — 1-7 p.m. Market Days, 800 S. 27th St., Mt. Vernon, IL. Mt. Vernon’s ever-growing indoor / outdoor flea market and vendor fair. Located at Veteran’s Park, 800 S. 27th St, Market Days occurs on the second Saturday of every month from May to September. A variety of vendors sell diverse items such as antiques, collectibles, handmade items, plants, jewelry, blacksmith, flea market finds, produce, baked goods, kettle corn and much more. Admission is free and concessions provided by Billy Bob’s BBQ.

Sept. 11 — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fall Follies Parking Lot Market, 1800 Waltonville Rd. Mt Vernon, IL. Outside vendors and still room for more featuring antiques, vintage salvage, primitives, collectibles, rusty junk, chippy old stuff, barn-wood furniture, unique and odd treasures, repurposed furniture, handmade items, metal yard art plus delicious lunch with baked goods! FREE admission!

Sept. 24-25 — Fall Fest, 300 S. 9th St, Mt. Vernon, IL. Fall is a beautiful time in the Festival Arts City! Slip into autumn splendor with two days FULL of fun, food, family & tunes!

Oct. 9 — 2021 Apple Festival, Hawkins-Schwartz Orchard & Market, 20791 IL-37, Dix, IL. Games, straw maze and face painting — adults love it too! Fresh baked goods, mums, pumpkins, and apple cider available for purchase.

Jefferson County Attractions

The Aquatic Zoo

Visit Mt. Vernon’s favorite summer destination—the Aquatic Zoo in Lincoln Park at 1700 South 34th Street just off of Veteran’s Memorial Drive. 1-618-241-0691. Open Sat. 11-6 & Sun. 12-6 p.m. through Labor Day weekend.

Appellate Courthouse

Constructed in 1857 as the southern division of the Illinois State Supreme Court, Abraham Lincoln successfully argued a famous tax case in 1859. In 1888, Clara Barton used this Mt. Vernon building as a hospital. Tours are available. Please call in advance. 618-242-3120

Cedarhurst Center For The Arts

Cedarhurst, an 85-acre estate, located in Mt. Vernon, features the Mitchell Museum, outdoor sculpture park, and art center. Cedarhurst presents changing exhibitions in its galleries, performing arts programs including chamber music, concerts, and dinner theatre, and the Cedarhurst craft fair each September. The Cedarhurst Art Center provides year round classes and workshops for adults and children ages 6 months to adult.
Sisters with Fat Wallet, Twisted Sisters Bar, 378 IL-37, Kell, IL.

Dec 31, 9 p.m. - Jan. 1, 1 a.m. — New Year’s Eve Bash at Twisted Sisters with Fat Wallet, Twisted Sisters Bar, 378 IL-37, Kell, IL.

Marion County Attractions

The Marion Cultural and Civic Center
Located at 800 Tower Square Plaza in Marion IL, this center serves Southern Illinois as an outlet for cultural and artistic opportunities of all types. Marion Cultural and Civic Center is a 1094 seat performing arts center located in the historic town square of Marion, IL. In addition to providing a state of the art theatrical facility at a low rental cost, it also provides a portion of the lobby to display paintings and artwork from Southern Illinois artists.

Marion Campground & RV Park
Located in the heart of southern Illinois, it is opened year-round. Conveniently located 1 block east of Interstate 57, exit #53, with easy access to local shopping, restaurants and area attractions. When visiting Southern Illinois, be sure to experience the comfort and convenience Marion Campground & RV Park has to offer. There are 58 sites to this campground. 27 Pull-thru Sites with 50/30 amps. Water and Sewer Hookups, Satellite Television Service and Wireless Internet available at each site. Amenities include a playground and large Pavilion. As a pet friendly environment, we offer a pet walking area. Featuring clean, private showers and a laundromat, this campground offers many features, including a dump station.

Marion Soccer Complex
This soccer facility has 14 fields for grades K-12. 4 Fields are large enough for adult games. Bleacher seating available on the 6 larger fields and seats approximately 40 per team. There are 2

Macon County Attractions

Scovill Zoo
Nestled along the shores of Lake Decatur, Scovill Zoo is home to more than 400 animals spanning six continents. Originally called Scovill Farm, the zoo was built by the Decatur Park District in 1966 and opened to the public in 1967. The original collection of farm animals has evolved over the years to become more exotic, featuring cheetahs, camels, meerkats, zebras, and more. Scovill Zoo earned accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in 2001. The zoo has since passed two more accreditation inspections in 2006 and 2011. Accreditation shows that Scovill Zoo meets the highest standards for animal care, exhibit maintenance, education, conservation, and administration. Scovill Zoo is an educational, family-friendly destination for residents of Decatur, Macon County, and Central Illinois.

Macon County Events

Aug. 27 — Kool & The Gang with special guest Deja Voodoo at The Devon G. Buffett Lakeshore Amphitheater from 7-10 p.m.
Aug. 31 - Sept. 2 — Farm Progress Show 2021 at 4275 E Mound Rd, Decatur, IL 62526. Tuesday and Wednesday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sept. 4 — Kevin Costner & Modern West’s Tales From Yellowstone 2021 Tour live at The Devon G. Buffett Lakeshore Amphitheater from 7-10 p.m.
Sept. 4 — Argenta Fall Festival 2021. 8 a.m. - noon at The BRIDGE at 520 W. Elm Street in Argenta, IL.
Sept. 6 — Millikan Decatur Symphony Orchestra Labor Day Pops Concert at The Devon G. Buffett Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL. An exciting evening with stops at the movies, the theater stage, and a tribute to our Nation’s Armed Forces from 6-8 p.m.
Sept. 16 — Hairball Concert at the Devon G. Buffett Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur IL. Relive your favorite rock hits of the 80’s in one night with the one and only Hairball and local students from Rock University from 6:45-10 p.m.
Sept. 18 — Three Dog Night with special guest Danny McGaw at The Devon G. Buffett Lakeshore Amphitheater from 7-10 p.m.
Nov. 12-14 — Heroicon - Decatur’s first and only tabletop gaming convention! With almost 15,000 square feet of gaming space, there is ample room for board games, RPGs, card games, open gaming and more! Located at the Decatur Conference Center & Hotel in Decatur IL. Proceeds raised from this convention will be used for Games For Troops, an Illinois non-profit corporation whose mission is to deliver board, card, and other games to the men and women of the US Armed Forces. Event will take place starting 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12 through 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 14.

MARION COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 18 — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Applefest, Salem, IL.
Oct. 23, 3 p.m. - Oct. 24, midnight — Witches & Warlocks Party At The Salem American Legion, Salem American Legion—Post 128, 1001 E. Main St. Salem, IL
Dec 31, 9 p.m. - Jan. 1, 1 a.m. — New Year’s Eve Bash at Twisted Sisters with Fat Wallet, Twisted Sisters Bar, 378 IL-37, Kell, IL.
large picnic shelters and playground equipment. The Marion Soccer Complex has a total of 14 soccer fields both lighted and non-lighted. It is the site of the annual Whirlwind Soccer Tournament. The site has extensive parking, two shelters, a concession stand, two restrooms facilities and playground for residents to enjoy. The park is bordered on the east with our irrigation pond and a nature area.

**MOUTLIE COUNTY EVENTS**

Oct. 2 — 9 a.m., Harvest Field Market 2021, Buxton’s Garden & Flower Shop, 1489 Cr 725E, Sullivan, IL. We are excited to host our 5th Harvest Field Market!! A family fun day on the farm shopping, eating, pumpkin picking and enjoying the Fall Live music, food and so much more! This is an outdoor market; perfect fall day outing! Enjoy shopping for all your fall favorites, pumpkins, mums, gourds, and along with +50 local vendors!

**Moultrie County Attractions**

**“Boats, Buggies & Broadway”**

Sullivan serves as the county seat for Moultrie County and is home to The Little Theatre On The Square, the only professional theatre located between Chicago and St. Louis. In addition, the city serves as the north gateway to Lake Shelbyville. It also marks the west edge of the area’s large Amish settlement. Abraham Lincoln traveled the county as a circuit riding lawyer and tried many cases in one of the county’s first courthouses. The present courthouse, located downtown, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Sullivan Civic Center**

Public, indoor pool that is larger than an Olympic size pool can be found here, as well as a gymnasium and weight equipment. The civic center is located at 600 N. Washington St., Sullivan. For more information, contact 217-728-4541 or www.sullivanil.us.

**Sullivan Beach and Recreation Area** is located on Rt. 32 South, Sullivan. Picnic shelters and showers are available.

**Okaw Valley Orchards**

U-pick and retail: gift items, pasteurized fresh cider, cider slush, peaches, apples, plums, apple doughnuts, apple dumplings, jams and jellies. Playground, picnic area and group tours For more information, call 217-728-8269.

**PIATT COUNTY EVENTS**

**Sept. 11 — Sundowners Car Show, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monticello Courthouse Square Historic District. Many unique cars and motorcycles to see as well as touch-a-truck for kids! All proceeds go to C.O.P.S.**

**LUNCH WITH SANTA** — Join us for Lunch with Santa on the Train at the Wabash Depot in Monticello, Illinois, a holiday favorite with kids of all ages. Enjoy a train ride, individual visit with Santa, and kid-friendly sack lunch.

The Monticello Chamber and the Monticello Railroad Museum are excited to continue, the Deluxe Dining Car experience. There will only be 10 of these tables available on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 10 available on Sunday at 1 p.m.

This experience includes four tickets (one table) on the dining car, a turkey sandwich from Subway with chips, cookie, and water, a commemorative keepsake, and a digital photo* with Santa by our professional photographer.

**Santa at the Depot** — Come see Santa Claus at the Monticello Depot! Kids get to enjoy a one-on-one experience with Santa.

**Sept. 12** — 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Sept. 13** — 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Sept. 14** — 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**Sept. 18** — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Sept. 19** — 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Sept. 20** — 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**RICHLAND COUNTY EVENTS**

**Sept. 18 — Olney Bicycle Classic, Olney City Park**

**Sept. 22-26 and Oct. 20-24 — Walldog Mural Events** — Murals will be painted each month May Through October. More information available on Facebook at mad dog 2020(+1) olney international mural event

**Sept. 25 — Olney Arts Council Fall Festival, Olney City Park 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Featuring Arts, Crafts, Food, and Entertainment all day long.**

**Oct. 29 — TrustBank Halloween Parade, 6 p.m. on Main Street in Olney.**

**Nov. 25 - Dec. 27 — Christmas Lights at Olney City Park. Free Admission/Donation Accepted.**

**Richland County Attractions**

**White squirrels**

For more than 100 years, Olney area has been home to the largest known population of white squirrels. The best viewing spots are Olney City Park, Millers Grove and several residential neighborhoods with mature trees and feeding stations. Look for them in the early morning hours when they are most active.

**The Elliott Street Historic District**

This historic district comprising five blocks of South Elliott Street in Olney, Illinois. The district is primarily residential, but all four of the 33 main buildings in the district are single-family homes.

**SHELBY COUNTY EVENTS**

**Aug. 27-29 — 50th Annual Cowden Pioneer Days at City Park in Cowden, IL.** There will be food, fun and entertainment. Drew Baldridge will perform Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. Whippoorwill Rodeo will be Aug. 28 at 7 p.m.

**Aug. 29 — Mud Drag at the Stewardson Lions Club Recreation Area in Stewardson IL.**

**Sept. 3 — First Friday Fun in Shelbyville, IL.**

**Sept. 4 — 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., third Little Market on Main event at The Junction at the Old Country Church located at 108 N. Main St., Findlay, IL 62534. We will have a variety of vendors offering wares, grave saddles, crochet, t-shirts, handmade soaps and soap dishes, tumbler, home décor, lawn décor, handmade jewelry, and more and some of your favorite direct sale vendors including Avon, Pink Zebra, Thirty-One Gifts, ColorStreet, Scentsy, My Kay, and more. Five Bugle BBQ will serve you BBQ for lunch, dinner or both!!**

**Sept. 4 — Fall Village Wide Rummage Sales in Strasburg, IL.**

**Sept. 5 — O.M.R.O. Mud Drags at Cowden Park in Cowden IL. 4 p.m.**

**Sept. 24, 25, 26 — Fall Festival at Vahling Vineyards, Stewardson IL. Enjoy music and food vendors and wine all 3 days; craft vendors Sat. & Sun.**

**Sept. 24 — Community Weiner Roast at the park in Strasburg, IL.**

**Oct. 2 — Burn Out in the Burg Auto Show at the village park in Strasburg, IL. This is open to vehicles of all ages. $10 entry fee per
event. Registrations at 10 a.m. Contact 217-343-5686 or 217-644-3209 for more details. Exhaust competition at noon and burn out competition at 1 p.m.

Oct. 8-9 — Scarecrow Daze in Shelbyville IL. Festival Pageant will be Friday, Oct. 8. Parade is Saturday, Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. with lineup at Forest Park at 9 a.m. Call Regina Agney for more information at 217-774-3961.

Oct. 23 — Halloween Parade in Stewardson IL.

Oct. 31 — Trick or Treat in Stewardson IL.

Nov. 7 — American Legion Christmas Auction at 1 p.m. at the Community Center in Strasburg, IL.

Nov. 13 — Santa Brigade Breakfast and Christmas Market at St. Paul’s Lutheran Social Hall & Gym in Strasburg, IL.

Dec. 5 — American Legion Christmas Auction at 1 p.m. at the Community Center in Strasburg IL.

Dec. 10-11 — Christmas Store/Cookie Walk at the Community Center in Strasburg, IL.

Dec. 11 — Soup Supper from 4-6 p.m. at the Community Center in Strasburg, IL.

Dec. 12 — Lutheran churches Christmas Cantata at 7 p.m. at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Strasburg, IL.

Dec. 18 — Visit with Santa from 9:30 - 11 a.m. at the Community Center in Strasburg, IL.

Jan. 16 — Lions Club Soup Supper at the Stewardson Community Building in Stewardson, IL.

March 6 — Lions Club Breakfast at the Stewardson Community Building in Stewardson, IL.

April 16 — Easter Egg Hunt in the park in Stewardson, IL. If inclement weather, hunt will be held in the Stewardson Community Building.

Shelby County Attractions

Tallman House
The historic Tallman House is located at 806 Main St., Shelbyville. It was built in 1905 by the inventor of the first mechanical hay baler and is listed in National Register of Historical Places. It was restored in 1989 and now serves as office of Shelby Historic House and Inn. For more information call 217-774-3991.

Shelby County Courthouse
The Shelby County Courthouse in downtown Shelbyville was built between 1879 and 1881. It houses historic paintings, including the Robert Root depiction of the Abraham Lincoln-Anthony Thornton debate. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and courtrooms are generally open for viewing when court is not in session.

Forest Park
Tree-filled Forest Park in Shelbyville is a beautiful place to spend a day. There are areas for picnicking, hiking and fishing. During summer there are swimming, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer and tennis facilities.

The Lincoln Public Square
The Lincoln Public Square houses the Soldiers & Sailors Monument, designed by local artist Robert Marshall Root. The square was erected in 1907 in memory of the fighting men in the county. The square also has a plaque in honor of Abraham Lincoln, who practiced law in Shelbyville. There is also a plaque of Horace Tallman, the inventor of the first mechanical pick-up hay baler. Flags are placed around the square during Memorial Day and Labor Day. On July 3, 2002, an eternal flame was dedicated to the men and women who have served in the past wars. The black granite base of the flame contains etchings, such as General Douglas McArthur wading ashore in the Philippines in 1945, Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima in World War II and Shelbyville resident August West.

The Best Wedding Chapel
The Best Wedding Chapel is nestled in the historic town of Shelbyville. Dedicated in the 1870s, this former Catholic Church features Gothic style architecture, a 14-foot original stained-glass windows, and a 33-foot cathedral ceiling with a small archway separating the vestibule from the nave. It is now the home and business of the Best family. The wedding chapel is available as a traditional, as well as non-traditional, wedding or vow renewal site. It is located at 159 North Washington Street.

The Pam & Bob Boarman Chevy BelAir Museum
The Pam & Bob Boarman Chevy BelAir Museum opened in 2005 and features Bob’s private collection of Chevy’s. The building is decorated in 50’s sock-hop style with black and white checkered floors. The walls are lined with 50’s memorabilia, Chevy clocks and neon signs. A jukebox takes you back to that popular time in history. The museum has 10 vintage cars, as well as a 1993 Indy Pace Car with only 28 miles on it. The museum is located at 224 West Main St. in Shelbyville and is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday thru Friday and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Lake Shelbyville
Lake Shelbyville is a reservoir located in Shelby County, Illinois and Moultrie County, Illinois created by damming the Kaskaskia River at Shelbyville, Illinois. The lake’s normal surface pool is 11,100 acres (44.9km²) at an elevation of 183 meters (600.4 ft). The area that surrounds the lake is the Shelbyville State Fish and Wildlife Area. The lake is managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the wildlife is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

$57 million was appropriated for the dam and lake project. Groundbreaking on the dam occurred May 4, 1963. Filling of the reservoir began August 1, 1970. The lake was officially dedicated September 12, 1970. The dam is 3,025 feet (922.0 m) long and 108 feet (32.9 m) tall with normal pool height 17 feet (5.2 m) below the top.

Bordering the lake are two state parks: Wolf Creek State Park and Eagle Creek State Park; and five federal campgrounds including Coon Creek, Opossum Creek, Lithia Springs, Lone Point and Forest (Bo) Woods. There is also Wilborn Creek and Whitley Creek Recreational Area. Lake Shelbyville’s shoreline is heavily wooded and subject to severe erosion. Man-made beaches are located at Dam West (Shelbyville), Wilborn Creek, Wolf Creek State Park and Sullivan Beach. Aside from the main channel of the lake are many coves, suited for fishing. The lake is deeper than other major lakes in Illinois, so it is popular with boaters during the summer.

There are full-service marinas, resorts and campgrounds on the lake. There are three full service marinas: Findlay, Lithia Springs and Sullivan Marina. Findlay Marina is located north of Mark- er 5 just past the bridge on the west side of the lake. Sullivan Marina and Campground is located 4 miles south of Sullivan and includes hotel suites. Lithia Springs Marina is located on the southern end of Lake Shelbyville.
**RETAIL**

- **Lost Creek Orchards**  
  Growers Of Quality Fruit  
  680 IL Route 130  
  217-923-3736  
  email: orchard@lr1.net

- **Cameo Vineyards**  
  Gift Shop, Complimentary Tasting  
  400 Mill Road  
  217-923-9963  
  www.cameowine.com

- **Dollar General**  
  107 N. Haughton Hwy  
  217-923-3097

- **Greenup IGA**  
  201 E. Cumberland  
  217-923-5045

- **Hometown Auto Mart**  
  217-923-5200  
  • Mike Schrock

- **Troy’s Auto Parts**  
  1002 E. Cumberland  
  217-923-3143

- **Greenup Archery Shop**  
  105 E. Cumberland  
  217-923-3143

- **Exit 119 Pub**  
  Linda’s Place - Video Gaming  
  200 N. Haughton Hwy.  
  217-923-6057

**DINING**

- **Subway Restaurant**  
  200 N. Haughton Hwy  
  217-923-3370

- **Carl’s Pizza**  
  117 W. Cumberland  
  217-923-3093

- **Backyard BBQ**  
  IL Rt. 130 & Elizabeth St.  
  217-923-5100

- **Dairy Queen**  
  At The Interstate Exit  
  217-923-5186

- **Chances R. Sports Bar & Grill**  
  113 W. Cumberland St.  
  217-923-6027

- **Chester’s Chicken**  
  Love’s Travel Stops & Country Store  
  203 N. Haughton Hwy.  
  217-923-3220  
  chestersinternational.com

**CLUBS**

- **Hootenanny**  
  1st Saturday of the Month  
  Greenup Cruise Nite  
  TBD

- **Greenup Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival**  
  September 24-25, 2021

- **Halloween Celebration**  
  TBD

- **Cumberland County Fair**  
  August 14 - 21, 2021

- **Santa House Opens**  
  December (TBD)

**MUSEUMS**

- **Cumberland Co. Historical Society**  
  Railroad Museum & Johnson Bldg.  
  211 W. Cumberland St.  
  (217) 923-9306

- **Cumberland Co. Historical Society**  
  Illinois Military Museum  
  101 N. Mill St.  
  (217) 923-9306

**NATIONAL ROAD COVERED BRIDGE**

- **Covered Bridge**  
  1002 E. Cumberland  
  217-923-6057

**LODGING**

- **Budget Host Inn**  
  716 E. Elizabeth  
  217-923-3176

- **Greenup Inn**  
  400 S. Haughton Hwy  
  217-923-3512

- **Cumberland Road Guesthouse**  
  501 E. Cumberland  
  217-923-3399

**BEAUTY**

- **Designs Unlimited**  
  102 W. Cumberland  
  217-923-5468

- **Cindy Jane’s Beauty Shop**  
  102 N. Clark St.  
  217-923-3481

- **Bliss Salon & Spa**  
  116 W. Cumberland St.  
  217-923-3399

**SERVICES**

- **Park Law Office**  
  201 E. Illinois  
  217-923-3800

- **Markwell Insurance**  
  612 E. Cumberland St.  
  217-923-3610

- **First Neighbor Bank**  
  705 E. Cumberland St.  
  217-923-3125

- **Reese’s Auto Body**  
  204 W. Cumberland  
  217-923-5184

- **Southern Illinois Healthcare**  
  302 N. Mill St.  
  217-923-3311

- **K & K Auto Detailing**  
  308 W. Cumberland St.  
  217-923-2048

- **Cutt’s Insurance**  
  1004 E Cumberland  
  217-923-5010

- **Country Financial**  
  1102 E. Cumberland  
  217-923-5101

- **Greenup Press**  
  104 E. Cumberland  
  217-923-3704

- **Bank of America**  
  300 N. Marrieta  
  217-923-3186

- **Greenup Chamber of Commerce**  
  301 W. Cumberland  
  217-923-3086

- **Meyer Funeral Home**  
  115 E. Lincoln  
  217-923-3141

- **Events by MLB, LLC**  
  118 S. Kentucky St.  
  217-840-9189

- **Greenup County Library**  
  300 N. Haughton Hwy  
  217-923-3086

- **Meyer Funeral Home**  
  115 E. Lincoln  
  217-923-3141

- **Greenup Press**  
  104 E. Cumberland  
  217-923-3704

- **Barley Funeral Chapel**  
  300 N. Kentucky St.  
  217-923-3086

- **Damage Company Auto Refinish**  
  200 E. Cumberland St.  
  217-923-6203

- **Greenup Automotive Repair**  
  301 W. Cumberland  
  217-923-6060

- **Greenup Chamber of Commerce**  
  217-254-8461