

A Day Away

Spring/Summer 2023 Guide

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MARSHALL IL

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THRU THE YEARS WITH PRIDE

Marshall has something for everyone from local downtown shopping to dinners on the lake! We offer many shopping and dining opportunities, parks, hiking trails, camping, band concerts, bowling, a golf course and beautiful community pool. During our annual Lemonade Contest you get to see creative booths made by the youth and try some awesome lemonade. Gather around the Courthouse Square in the summer to enjoy Marshall's Farmers Markets! We have a Marshall Autumn Fall Festival with great food, music, vendors, a car show, a parade, and street dances that attracts locals and many visitors. During Halloween we have a large trunk or treat event and frolic contest. You will want to see our popular murals, the world's largest gavel, and lion statues located around town that represent our school mascot.

Marshall is a great place to live or visit!



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A Day Away

Spring/Summer 2023

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'Here I Have Lived' exhibit at Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

Story by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum



ON THE COVER

An octopus sprays water in the Caribbean Water Adventure at Knight's Action Park. Submitted photo.

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Please recycle when you're done with it!

A photograph of a man with a beard, wearing a red t-shirt and a grey beanie, climbing a dark, craggy rock face. He is looking up and smiling. The background shows a dense forest of green trees and dry brush.

Giant City State Park

in Makanda isn't your typical state park

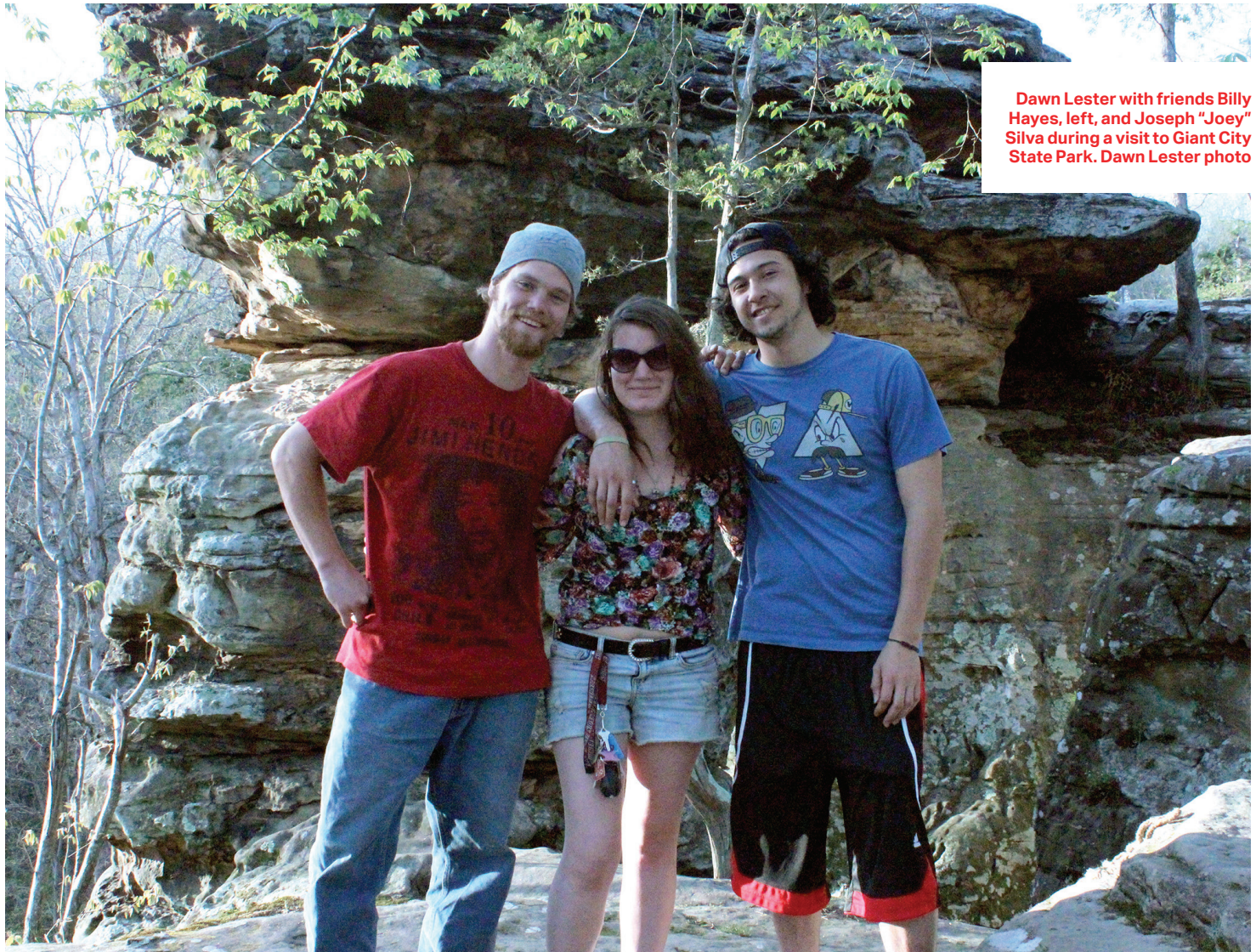
BY DAWN LESTER

In 2015, I was living in Carbondale, attending Southern Illinois University for communication/graphic design with a minor in art history. In my downtime I liked to visit places in nature. Why not? I lived in beautiful southern Illinois.

When my friends suggested going to Giant City State Park in Makanda, I didn't know what I was getting myself into. I knew it was in a town smaller than Carbondale.

I thought, "A Giant City in a small town? What's that? What am I doing?"

Billy Hayes, a friend of Dawn Lester, climbs rocks at Giant City State Park. Dawn Lester photo



Dawn Lester with friends Billy Hayes, left, and Joseph "Joey" Silva during a visit to Giant City State Park. Dawn Lester photo

I ended up having a lot of fun. Maybe I should have gone to the Giant City Visitors Center first, but alas, we did not. My friends knew that they wanted to hike. The park's hours are 7a.m. to 10 p.m.

So, for those of you wondering, like I was, it's called "Giant City State Park" due to the huge bluffs of sandstone, as well as the landscape with plants everywhere.

There are tons of rocks to climb, and lots to see. There are different patterns on the rocks, and the rocks are all different shapes and sizes. The views are amazing in southern Illinois. Giant City State Park is no different. That being said, Giant City State Park isn't your typical

state park. There is so much to do. For example, there is an archery range. Families can go camping there. There

ties: fishing, hiking, hunting, metal detecting, and rock climbing.

see at Giant City State Park. There is a 12-mile hiking trail called Red Cedar Hiking Trail. There is also Arrow Wood Trail, Devil's Standtable Trail, Indian Creek Trail, Giant City Trail, and Post Oak Trail. There are also a couple others: Red Cedar Trail, Stone Fort Trail, and Trillium Trail.

My friends and I went on the Devil's Standtable Trail. When we found the Devil's Standtable, I refused to jump onto it. My friends did with no problems, but it made me too nervous.

I spoke to Calvin Beckmann, the site superintendent. "My favorite part of working at the park is just being outdoors and working in a natural environment," he

The views are amazing in southern Illinois. Giant City State Park is no different.

are also equestrian trails. The horse stables are open March 15 – Nov. 15. The phone number is 618-529-4110. There are many more activi-

Rock climbing is only permitted at two locations. People can also reserve shelters. There are many sights to

said. "It's a dream job to work outside since nature is all around you."

What brings people to the park?

"Escape and peace and quiet," he said. "People go to recharge their batteries. They get that by walking in the woods, looking for wildflowers or mushrooms, and bird watching. It helps to recharge their batteries."

According to Beckmann, hiking is what brings everyone to the park.

"There are 18 miles of trails. Giant City Nature Trail is the most popular. Trillium Trail is known for its wildflowers this time of year," he said.

Southern Illinois Pagan Alliance will be hosting its Beltane event on Sunday, April 30, at Giant City Shelter 2. This event starts at noon.

In May there will be Nature Connection 101, a pollinators presentation, and reptile and



Joseph "Joey" Silva, a friend of Dawn Lester, at Giant City State Park. Dawn Lester photo



Dawn Lester at Giant City State Park. Submitted photo

amphibian program. People must call the visitor center (618-529-4110) to register for the programs.

There are no charges for general day use at the park, however groups of 20 or more need to get an activity permit for \$20.

"I'd like to invite everyone to come on out, and if you can't get to Giant City, just take a hike outside somewhere at a local DNR site. Now's a good time before the heat and ticks get here," Beckmann said.

Near Giant City State Park is Giant City Lodge. The Lodge is a great place to eat and relax with friends and family. According to Beckmann, the Lodge is known for its family style chicken dinner.

When I went, the food and service were amazing. Giant City Lodge opens the first Friday in February and is open until mid-December. It is open 8 a.m. -8 p.m. Mon-

day through Saturday and 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday. The phone number for the lodge is 618-457-4921. The Lodge has three types of cabins, a dining room, a gift shop, lounge, and outdoor swimming pool. There are plenty of things to do just at Giant City Lodge alone.

While in Makanda, I would highly recommend going to the Makanda Boardwalk. There are all these little shops, and there is a secret garden in the back named Rainmaker's Garden. Rainmaker, aka, Dave Dardis, is a local artist who sells sculptures and jewelry on the Boardwalk.

Even the Makanda water tower is an attraction. It is painted yellow, with a smiley face. The smiley face also has a bow tie. This is the most unique water tower I have ever seen.

Makanda has plenty of things to do!

Bond County Events

April 29 — Light Up the Night Glow Run 5K at 7:30 p.m. in Greenville, IL. All proceeds to benefit Bond County FourthFest.

May 6 — Spring Fling Festival at American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue in Greenville, IL. Come join us for this special first day of the 2023 season from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Enjoy breakfast and lunch in the Lil' Red Barn from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.. The "Smok'n on the Farm" BBQ Competition includes "People's Choice" sampling armbands for just \$10 starting at 1 p.m.. A beer tent from the Greenville VFW will also be open. Live music and Flea Market!

June 10 — Train Show at American Farm Heritage Museum.

June 30 & July 1 — Bond County Fourth Fest in downtown Greenville, IL. Country music stars McBride and the Ride will be on the Bradford National Bank Main Stage on Friday night with opening act Benders and Backroads. Rock and Roll musical legends will be the Saturday night headliner. Fireworks are Saturday night.

July 28 to 30 — Heritage Days at American Farm Heritage Museum. Daily events include tractor pulls, field demonstrations, gas engine displays, food, activities, vendors, steam engine, threshing, saw mill, grand scale railroad, hills fort, The Lil' Red Barn Museum and live music inside air conditioned building. Check www.americanfarmheritagemuseum.org for show updates.

Aug. 3 to 8 — Bond County Fair at the fairgrounds in Greenville, IL.

BOND COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

DeMoulin Museum

Located at 205 S. Prairie St. in Greenville. Check out spanking machines and other initiation devices. Group tours are welcome and can be scheduled at any time. Free admission. Donations welcome. For more information, visit demoulin-museum.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 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 american-farmheritagemuseum.com

Champaign County Events

May 4 — Family Fun Night -Star Wars! 6:30-7:15 p.m. Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green St., Champaign. 217-403-2000.

May 5 — CU Ballet presents Sleeping Beauty, 7 p.m. at The Virginia Theatre, 200 W. Park Ave., Champaign. 217-356-9063.

May 13 — Champaign-Urbana Herb Social and Annual Herb Sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincoln Square, 300 S. Broadway Ave., Urbana.

May 13 — Music Under the Vines, 2-4 p.m., Alto Vineyards, 4210 N. Duncan Rd., Champaign. 217-356-4784.

May 20 — Topper (1937), 7-9 p.m. at The Virginia Theatre, 200 W. Park Ave., Champaign. 217-356-9063.

May 21 — Wine Down Sundays, 2-4 p.m., Alto Vineyards, 4210 N. Duncan Rd., Champaign. 217-356-4784.

May 25 — Jazz in the Park, 6-8 p.m. at Robeson Park, 1984 S. Duncan Rd., Champaign. 217-398-2500.

May 26 — Iron Spirit Pro: Live at City Center, 505 S. Chesnut St., Champaign. 217-954-0556.

May 28, June 25, July 30 — Mahomet Cars & Coffee, 8-10 a.m., Whisk Coffee and Wine Bar, 1704 Patton Dr., Mahomet.

June 5-6 — Weather Wizards, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Allerton Park & Retreat Cener, 515 Old Timber Rd., Monticello. 217-333-3287.

June 8 -11 — Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company presents: Charlotte's Web, 7 p.m., Allerton Music Barn, 588 Allerton Rd, Monticello.

June 29 — Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) 7-9 p.m. . at The Virginia Theatre, 200 W. Park Ave., Champaign. 217-356-9063.

July 13-16 — Historic Farm Days, 7 a.m. at 309 Busey St., Penfield. Hosted by the I & I Antique Tractor & Gas Engine Club.

July 13 — Three Dog Night with Special Guest Danny McGaw, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at The Virginia Theatre, 200 W. Park Ave., Champaign. 217-356-9063.

July 15 — I Love Lucy: The Movie (1953), 7 p.m. at The Virginia Theatre, 200 W. Park Ave., Champaign. 217-356-9063.

Aug. 4 — Champaign Urbana Theatre Company Presents: The Music Man, 7 p.m. at The Virginia Theatre, 200 W. Park Ave., Champaign. 217-356-9063.

Aug. 23 — Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime, 11:15 a.m., Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green St., Champaign. 217-403-2000.

Aug. 24 — Half Century of Progress Show, 9 a.m., Rantoul National Aviation Center, 6 Aviation Center Dr., Rantoul. 217-893-1613.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

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 a.m. 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.

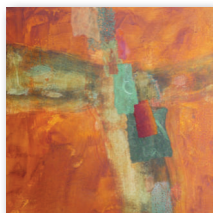
Curtis Orchard

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paigh. Open late July through mid-December. 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 Events

April-October — Small Town Taylorville Cruise, Taylorville Square 101 S Main St, Taylorville. Join vehicle enthusiasts on the Taylorville Square the first Friday of each month, from 4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.. All wheels welcome! Collectible Dash Plaques for the first 50 cars! Bring the family and check out some amazing vehicles!

May 13 — Greater Taylorville Chamber of Commerce 9th Annual Spring Swing Indoor Putt Putt Golf Tournament. Many local bars will be participating in this fun day of indoor putt putt golf. Contact the Chamber for more information at 217-824-4919.

May-September — Farmers Market, Taylorville Square, 101 S. Main St., Taylorville. Every Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon. Our Farmers Market is held on the historic Downtown Taylorville Square and features local vendors! Produce, meat, and handmade and homemade items are welcome! Follow our Facebook Event for announcements and details!

June 2 — 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Late Night Shopping, Business District Taylorville, IL. Need a little more time to shop? Join participating retailers on the first Friday of each month! Follow our Facebook Event to get updates on participating shops!

July 18 - July 22 — Christian County Ag Fair, Christian County Fairgrounds, 1716 West Spresser, Taylorville, IL. Join us for the Christian County Agricultural Fair! For more info visit www.christiancountyfair.com.

Oct. 7 & 8 — Annual Chillifest in Taylorville, IL.

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 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.

Clark County Events

May 2 — 2023 Job Fair includes 30 businesses set up from 2 to 6 p.m. at Harlan Hall, 603 Locust Street in Marshall, IL. Check out the Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for a list of participants. For more information call 217-826-2034.

May 13 — Community Wide Yard Sales in Marshall, IL starting at 8 a.m. For a list of participants and a map of yard sale locations contact the Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce or call 217-826-2034.

May 20 — Come join Ewing Garden Barn from 10 a.m. to Noon for a Plant-Potting Workshop in Marshall, IL at the Marshall Log Cabin, 715 Plum Street in Marshall, IL. Cost is \$35. To register call 217-826-2034.

June 2 to Aug. 18 — Marshall Farmers Market from 6 to 8 p.m. in downtown Marshall, IL around the courthouse square. A great opportunity to get locally grown produce, plants, flowers, honey, fresh baked goods, candles, dog treats,

handmade crafts and so much more! Visit the Marshall Farmers Market Facebook page to see what vendors will be at the Farmers Market. For more information contact 217-826-2034. Each week there will be historical walking tours of Marshall starting at 6:30 p.m.

June 2 to Aug. 18 — After the Marshall Farmers Market, starting at 8 p.m., listen to the City Band! Sit on the courthouse lawn and enjoy the concert.

June 25 - July 1 — Martinsville Agricultural Fair; horse racing, nightly entertainment, carnival, truck/tractor pulls, flat track drags, lawn mower demolition, demolition derby, fireworks; Martinsville Fairgrounds, martinsvilleagfair.com. 217-251-5505.

Aug. 4 — Marshall's Night Out on the square in Marshall, IL from 5 to 8 p.m. This event provides an opportunity to meet first responders. Enjoy free hot dogs, chips and a drink. Talk to responders and check out an ambulance, fire truck, Sparky the fire dog, military trucks, emergency helicopter, city police cars, sheriffs dept, K-9 demonstrations, seat belt simulators from the state police, blood pressure checks, finger printing, petting zoo, barrel train rides, balloon art, face painting, bounce houses and more. Free swimming from 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. at the Marshall Pool sponsored by the City of Marshall.

Aug. 5 — Farm To Table Dinner at Harlan Hall at 5 p.m. in Marshall, IL. We will be cooking up fresh ingredients from our Farmers Market. More details coming soon! Any questions call 217-826-2034.

Aug. 6 to 12 — Clark County Fair at the fairgrounds at Marshall. Rides, food, demolition derby. For more information call 217-826-8005.

Sept. 1 to 4 — Casey Popcorn Festival at Fairview Park. Casey's signature labor day weekend festival with Free popcorn, vendors, carnival, demonstrations and quality family entertainment! Casey in Action 5K Run themed to celebrate the Clark County 200th Bicentennial. Contact Bernie Morgan at 217-232-2676 for more information.

Sept. 15 to 17 — Marshall Autumn Festival with the theme "Under The Big Top." Visit Marshall Autumn Fest on Facebook for updates about the event. This is our biggest event of the year! Enjoy food trucks, vendors, concerts, street dances, a parade, princess contest and much more! On Sunday check out the largest car, truck and motorcycle show in the area. Visit Marshall Autumn Fest on Facebook for updates about the event.

Sept. 30 — Join Ewing Garden Barn for Pumpkin Class from 10 a.m. - Noon at the Marshall Log Cabin. Make a beautiful Fall arrangement using a pumpkin and flowers from Ewing Garden Barn. Cost is \$35. To register call 217-826-2034.



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Come 'HOME' again

with new exhibit at Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

Visitors stroll through the gallery of the exhibit "Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois," which tells the stories of 31 people who lived in Illinois. Submitted photo

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum recently opened a major new exhibit that explores the elusive idea of "home" and the many different ways Illinoisans have made this state their home over the centuries.

"Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois" tells the stories of 31 people who lived in Illinois. Some achieved tremendous success, others endured terrible hardships and many fought to make the world a better place. But all of them were shaped by their years in Illinois.

*'Here I Have Lived'
features people, both
famous and obscure,
who made Illinois their
home*

The exhibit includes:

- Black Hawk, the Sauk leader who refused to be driven away from the land where he grew up.
- Ritta DeFreitas, a young immigrant who worked for Abraham and Mary Lincoln.
- Michelle Obama, who started out in a Chicago bungalow and wound up in the White House.
- Richard Pryor, who grew up in Peoria and used humor to make Americans face difficult truths.

The exhibit runs through Jan. 21, 2024, in the museum's Illinois Gallery, a space used for highlighting Illinois history as part of the ALPLM's role as the state historical library. The exhibit

is free with regular museum admission.

"Illinois has welcomed refugees and entrepreneurs. It has produced artists and reformers. It offered a helping hand to some and a cold shoulder to others. Every one of them had a different idea of what it meant to call Illinois their home," said Christina Shutt, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. "What better way to connect with people of the past, both famous and unknown, than by focusing on the very personal idea of home."

The stories are told through photographs and rare artifacts. Visitors will see a photo locket carried by Mary Lincoln, a first edition of Black



A bust owned by Abraham and Mary Lincoln is part of the exhibit "Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois." Submitted photo

to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return ..."

The stories are told through photographs and rare artifacts.

The exhibit is sponsored in part by Isringhausen Imports of Illinois.

The mission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is to inspire

civic engagement through the diverse lens of Illinois history and sharing with the world the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. We pursue this

mission through a combination of rigorous scholarship and high-tech showmanship built on the bedrock of the ALPLM's unparalleled collection of historical materials – roughly 13 million items from all eras of Illinois history.

For more information, visit PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov. You can follow the ALPLM on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Hawk's autobiography and Ronald Reagan's college letterman sweater. They'll also find a sculpture that was displayed in the Lincoln home, a table designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and a Supreme Court ruling that changed the life of playwright Lorraine Hansberry.

Visitors will be able to listen to interviews with current Illinois residents about their thoughts on home. Questions throughout the exhibit will prompt visitors to think about what home means to them, and they'll be able to share their answers at the end.

The exhibit takes its name from a phrase Lincoln used when saying farewell to the city of Springfield for the final time: "Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young

A student examines a sculpture at the exhibit "Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois." Submitted photo



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. It was entered into the National Register of Historic places on March 16, 1976. Both presidents Abraham Lincoln and Grover Cleveland were guests at the Archer House.

Stone Arch Bridge

Stone Arch Bridge was constructed in 1831 with no mortar and is still in use today. The National Road runs over this bridge and it is located on Archer Ave. at the west edge of the City of Marshall.

Mill Creek Park

Located seven miles northwest of Marshall on the Lincoln Heritage Trail Road. Mill Creek Park opened May 29, 1982 and consists of 2,600 acres of land and 811 acres of water with 39 miles of shoreline. There are picnic areas on either side of the boat launch and at areas around the lake, a 139-site campground with shower facilities and a playground, 15 miles of ATV trails, horse and walking trails, courtesy dock facilities, annual leased docks, fuel dispensing, cabins, and boat rentals. The park also has a picnic area with four shelters and three playgrounds, as well as nine primitive camping sites. Please call 217-889-3901 or 217-889-3601 for more information.

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 enroute 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.

World's Largest

Casey has become home to a growing display of "giant" objects, earning the small town several spots in Guinness World Records book. Displayed throughout the city are gigantic wind chime, golf tee, knitting needles, pitchfork, mailbox, clogs and rocking chair.

Clay County Events

April 28 — Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Event "The Fallen Glass" at 6:30 p.m. presented by Flora High School Drama Class at The Town Theater, 120 East North Avenue, Flora IL 62839. Tickets \$25. Dinner will include White and Red Pasta, Breadsticks, Salad and Drinks. There isn't a better time to get back at someone than when they invite you to their home. Especially when you have someone to cover up your crimes. Hidden from the forefront of the crowd, a bloody handkerchief is found on the ground. One of the partygoers, Sir Dante, has gone missing from the rest of the group. The only thing left behind: A shattered glass found with Sir Dante lying on the floor: dead!

April 29 — Summit of Opportunity Job Fair from 8 a.m. to Noon in the Community Room of the Flora Depot, 223 W. Railroad Street, Flora IL 62839. This event is free and open to all job seekers. Experiences of all levels are highly encouraged to attend and participate. Some employers will offer on-site interviewing and will be taking applications that day. Folders and pens will be provided. For any questions, please call Flora Chamber of Commerce at 618-662-5646.

May 6 — Flora Rotary Club Annual Open Disc Golf Tournament. To commemorate 5 years of growth and improvement to our course, this year's event will be better than ever! The first 50 amateur registrants will receive a Rotary stamped Discmania Mentor and a Lore Controller P2 putter! Plus, a longer (8,000+ ft) layout that has never before seen tournament play will be used for the MA2 and higher division players. All other divisions will use a standard layout. No matter your skill level, this event will be fun, yet challenging! \$40 Amateurs/\$50 Pros. 1st Round at 9 a.m. with 2nd round approximately 1 p.m. Shotgun start. For more info, go to dgscc.com/Rotary2023. The disc golf course is located in Charley Brown Memorial Park in Flora, IL.

June 9 — Murder Mystery Dinner (Time and Location TBA. Check the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates). It's 1955 and Fontaine City has a problem with teenage street gangs. In the east, there's a hot rod racing gang called the D-Birds. Their ladies are members of the girly clique called the Pink Chicks. These rebels attend Ryder High and spend their free time at Frosty's Diner. The Pit Viper motorcycle gang runs the west side of town, and their ladies are the Black Widows. These hooligans attend Tuscadero High School and frequent the local hangout - the Milkshake Shack. If either of these gangs ends up on the other's turf, a white knuckle rumble may break out and cause chaos in the streets. At Ryder High, the cheerleaders have created an organization called Campus Crew to reduce criminal activity in the city. The founders passionately believe that bringing the teens of Fontaine City together will solve the gang problem, so they have scheduled the Friendship Sock Hop. To their surprise, everybody that was invited has sent in an RSVP! This should be a night to remember! The Campus Crew has promised peace and harmony for this evening of forming new friendships and working out a truce between the east and west of Fontaine City. You have been invited!

June 16 — Golf Scramble at Flora Country Club in Flora, IL. Lunch at Noon. Tee times 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

July — Flora 4th of July Celebration. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

Aug. 4, 11 & 18 — Cupcake Wars. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

Sept. 22 & 23 — Ford Town USA Celebration. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

Oct. 14 — Disc Golf at 8 a.m. at the Flora Rotary Disc Golf Park in Charley Brown Memorial Park - Park Pavilion. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

Oct. 28 — Halloween Parade through downtown Flora. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

Nov. 10 — Moonlight Madness in downtown Flora. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

Dec. 8 & 9 — Kriskindle Market Christmas Festival. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

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

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and fishing. Charley Brown Park not only hosts the Little Toot Railroad, but also hosts the county fair, and is home to Flora Rotary Disc Golf Park.

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 Flora Chamber of Commerce 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

May 5 — Mattoon Tourism & Arts: Bagel Bites Music Series in Heritage Park.

May 6 — May Merriment, 6-10 p.m., Mattoon Area Family YMCA, 221 N. 16th St., Mattoon.

May 11, 18, 25 — Weaving Workshops from 6-9 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, 402 S. Lincoln Highway Rd., Lerna. 217-345-1845

May 12 — Cruisin' Broadway, Downtown Mattoon, 6-10 p.m.

May 12-13 — Boutique Boulevard at Rural King Event Center, Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

May 13 — Gardenfest and Artworks at Lytle Park, Mattoon.

May 13 — SBLCH Race for All Paces, O'Brien Stadium, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

May 18-20 — IHSA Girls State Track & Field Meet — Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17 — C.A.R.E. Club meets from 4-6 p.m. every third Thursday of the month at Douglas-Hart Nature Center, 2204 Dewitt Ave., Mattoon.

May 19 — 1st Farmers Market at 8 a.m. at Lytle Park, Mattoon.

May 19 — Made in Central Illinois Celebration, 6 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site Visitor Center and Farm, 402 S. Lincoln Highway Rd., Lerna. 217-345-1845

May 27-Sept. 23 — 18th Street Farmers Market, parking lot of Coles County Department of Human Services (Health Department) at 825th 8th St., Charleston, every Saturday from 7:30-11:30 a.m. Call 217-345-8018. www.charlestonchamber.com

May 25-27 — IHSA Boys State Track & Field Meet — Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

June 1 and July 6 — Community Band Concerts, 7 p.m. at Kiwanis Park, Charleston.

June 2 — Bagel Bites Music Series at Heritage Park, Mattoon. Hosted by Mattoon Tourism & Arts.

June 2-4 — Lake Mattoon Annual Riviera Regatta.

June 3 — Thomas Lincoln: Abraham's Father, Presented by Daniel Cravens Taylor, 2 p.m. at Visitor Center Auditorium, Lincoln Log Cabins, Lerna.

June 9, Aug. 11 — Cruisin' Broadway, Downtown Mattoon, 6-10 p.m.

June 9-11 — Spring Flea Market at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

June 10 — 3rd Annual Outdoor Quilt Show, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Lytle Park, 500 32nd St., Mattoon. Hosted by Mattoon Arts Council.

July-August — Concerts in the Park, Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Kiwanis Park, Charleston.

July 3-4 — Red, White & Blue Days, Morton Park, Charleston. Featuring Headliner — AGT's Drake Milligan at 8 p.m. at Morton Park. Also new activities and events on the Square in Downtown Charleston. 217-232-1485.

July 4 — Red, White & Blue Days 4th of July parade begins at 1 p.m., Charleston.

July 4th Mattoon — 4th of July parade 9 a.m. Begins at 21st Street and Western Ave., Mattoon.

July 4th — Fireworks at the Coles County Memorial Airport, Mattoon.

July 2, 23 and Aug. 6, 20 — Vintage Baseball, 1 p.m. at the Sargent Farm, Lincoln Log Cabins, Lerna.

July 14-16 — Sports Card Show at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

July 18-22 — Mattoon Bagelfest 2023. Guest entertainment includes Christian Artist and American Idol Finalist Colton Dixon at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, July 20 (free concert); Country Comeback Tour featuring Shenandoah, Billy Dean & Wade Hayes concert at 7:15 p.m. Friday, July 21; and One Vision with Marc Martel playing Queen Hits Saturday, July 22 at Petersen Park, Mattoon. Food, parade, crafts, pageant, kids games and more.

July 21-23 — Mattoon Pride Softball Bagelfest Tourney

July 22 — Run for the Bagel begins at 6:30 a.m. at KC Summers in Mattoon. Hosted by Mattoon Area YMCA. For more information, contact Sarah Dowell at (217) 234-9494 or sdowell@mattoonymca.org

July 27-29 — Theatre in the Park, Kiwanis Park, Charleston.

July 30-Aug. 5 — Coles County Fair, Charleston. www.colescountyfair.com

Aug. 4-5 — Boutique Boulevard at Rural King Event Center, Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

Aug. 12 — Harvest of Hope, Petersen Park, Mattoon.

Aug. 13 — Annual Bluegrass Jam, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, 402 S. Lincoln Highway Rd., Lerna. 217-345-1845

Aug. 25-27 — Summer Flea Market, Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

Sept. 2 — Friends of Lake Mattoon Fireworks.

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 State Historic Site

Lincoln Log Cabin State 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.lincolnlogcabin.org. Special group tours are available by appointment.

Hours are 8:30 a.m. through dusk Wednesday through Sunday. The visitor's center is open 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. and the living history program runs from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. on days the site is open.

Admission is on a donation basis. The site is located at 400 S. Lincoln Highway Road, Lerna.

Lake Charleston

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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.



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Knight's Action Park

SPRINGFIELD ATTRACTION HOSTS WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

BY DAWN SCHABING

The owners of Knight's Action Park have dabbled in many areas of family recreation across the span of more than nine decades.

Today's park has several water slides, batting cages, a 50-tee driving range, a wave pool and plenty more for families. Located just off of Interstate 72 in Springfield, the day trip should start early to take in all the activities.

Adding a second day might be a thought, as well, to make sure the Route 66 Twin Drive-in movies can also be watched, as well as the plentiful array of activities.

At just over 90 miles from Effingham, families could make the trip in an hour and 45 minutes.

It all started as a golf driving range by George Knight Sr., back in 1930.

Today, brothers Doug Knight and George Knight are co-owners and several of their children are very much involved in the park's operations.

Doug Knight, president and general manager of the triad of fun – Knight's Action Park, Splash Kingdom and Route 66 Twin Drive-In – is the grandson of George Knight Sr., who in 1922 became a resident pro in Springfield at the Illini Country Club.

George Knight Sr. enjoyed teaching the sport and taught people such as Bob Hope, members of the Vanderbilt family, and Judy Rankin, who was the first woman to win \$100,000 on a tour.

Doug Knight is of the third-generation family running the park. In all, he's spent 55 years working at and



operating the park, but 43 years of that as a full-time employee. Today, the 65-acre park – with water and amusement park thrills, golf and go-karts and more – offers something for all ages.

"I am proud of the entire park," said Doug Knight. "It is a labor of love. I don't think you will find a mix of attractions like we have anywhere else."

He said Knight's Action Park encompasses a Family Entertainment Center, which includes mini golf, golfing range, batting cages, go-karts, Ferris Wheel, Paratrooper and Fortress of Fun for the youngest customers. This area is open April through October.

It is also home to the Splash Kingdom Waterpark, which includes 17 waterslides, a wavepool, one of the longest river rides in the country, four kiddie attractions, Pedal Boats, and new in 2023 – a new wave machine. This area is open Memorial Day



Camille's Reef with the Royal Flush and Devil Ray in the background.
Submitted photo



A group of racers takes to the track in go-karts. Submitted photo

weekend through Labor Day. The park closes for the season when school starts in Springfield. Rides do have some height and age restrictions.

The Route 66 Twin Drive-In Theater offers a double-feature on each screen on weekends starting in April; then Wednesday through Sunday, starting Memorial Day weekend. After school starts, the schedule goes back to weekend showings.

Doug Knight said some of the most popular wet rides include the Wave Pool, Action River, Devil Ray, Kiddie Pools and the anticipated Surf Machine, new in 2023.

On the dry side of the park is a golf range, mini-golf and go-karts that guests like.

The waterpark is pay one price, but the dry side is pay as you use. The drive-in movie is \$8 per person, but those age 12 and under pay \$6 each.

Waterpark prices for those 48 inches or taller are \$39.95 for day one, but \$29 for the second day. Children under 48 inches will be charged

different size pails of golf balls, at \$6, \$8 and \$20. Miniature Golf is \$10, but \$7 for children under age 10. Go-kart rides are \$7; batting

little ones. No coolers are allowed in the waterpark, but there are picnic areas on the dry side for bringing in your own food.

Today, the 65-acre park – with water and amusement park thrills, golf and go-karts and more – offers something for all ages.

\$31.95 for the first day, but \$29 for the second day option. Children under age 2, with a paying adult, can enter for free.

Action Park prices include golf driving range, with three

cages, \$1 and \$5 depending on the number of balls; Big Wheel and Paratrooper, \$3; Fortress of Fun, \$4.

Smoking is allowed only in designated areas and swim diapers are required for the

LONG HISTORY

The timeline of its long history shows the changes the Knight family worked through while operating, changing, improving and even moving parts of the business to different locations.

In the 1950s, it had an archery range, driving range, and eventually, miniature golf.

“At that time, there wasn’t even indoor/outdoor carpeting,” said Doug Knight. “The original putting surface was asphalt with sand spread across the top to make a smooth putting surface.”

The family tested in-ground trampolines, but liability concerns and a few accidents across the country led them to end that recreation. In 1965, a quarter-mile go-kart

Bermuda Triangle Slide Tower. Submitted photo



track was built. A few years later, a batting cage, archery range and miniature golf courses were built. A game room was added later.

“It is remembered that pinball was all that was available,” said Doug Knight. “Back then you got three games for a quarter and five balls per game. Nobody knew what a video game was. Also, at this location we tried bumper cars, a moon-walk and pony rides.”

In 1976, the new park was opened where it now sits, at 1700 Knights Recreation Drive, Springfield. That same year miniature golf, batting cages, golf driving range and go-karts were opened. This is also about the same time that waterslides were being invented out west and made out of concrete.

Fberglass was soon being used, and Knight’s started its waterslide construction in 1979 with the opening in 1980. The following year, bumper boats and pedal boats were added to give more water related attractions. A pavilion was built to give families picnic areas.

The early 1980s brought experimentation with live entertainment, more picnic space and picnic-type games. The Tradewinds Lounge was born to provide year-round entertainment for adults. It closed in 1986. That space is now used as a rental facility for parties holding up to 80 people. The name of the park was changed from Knight’s Recreation Center to Knight’s Action Park.

In 1992, Seal Bay was built with small children in mind. It brought seven slides and an activities pool. Also added was an adult relaxation pool. In 1995, many improvements were made such as the 1,297 foot long River Ride.

Waterparks were first conceived in the early 1980s,

when Wet ’n Wild in Orlando became one of the first in the world, Doug Knight said.

“It was perceived as the next logical step into the waterpark business,” said Doug Knight. “It not only gave the park a large body of water, but something that could be themed with many features and a way to tie the water side of the park to the dry side of the park – with a deck and walkway going all the way around the slide mountain.”

With these changes came new infrastructure, expanded food service, additional restrooms, a gift shop, a break room, deck storage, pump stations, shade and seating, office space and a first aid room. Also added was a laser tag game and more shelters.

“We are improving the park all the time,” said Doug Knight. “It seems like you can’t add anything of any significance for less than a million dollars these days.”

Fast forward to the early 2000s, when the Route 66 Twin Drive-In Theater opened and additions to the playground were added. More rides were added to the waterpark along with additions to the kiddie water park area and updates to the mini golf, water cannons and more shade added.

In 2018, Camille’s Reef, a multilevel water play structure, was added. More additions came in 2019, with the Birthday Village, and in 2020 the Sunken Rum Barrel Tiki Bar was opened. New games were added to the game room.

Finally, in 2023, this year’s big addition has been the installation of a surf machine by Surfstream, out of San Diego, California. Also, repairs and other upgrades around the park will be done.

“It’s a perpetual process, basically working with a



Children enjoy the splash of the Raindrop in the River Activity Pool. Submitted photo

punch list for maintenance and improvements and prioritizing them to accommodate the park's and guests' needs," said Doug Knight. "Priority goes, however, to safety issues first, then maintenance and upkeep – then improvements."

THE STAFF

Along with brothers Doug and George Knight and their families, the park in all employs around 225 people during the season and trains nearly 100 lifeguards per season.

"We use the latest techniques

in lifeguarding to make our park the safest," said Doug Knight. "We will have nine instructors on staff in 2023. The guards are required to have four in-service hours per month to practice their skills and train to be ever-vigilant in their duties."

"The park also undergoes in-house audits and out-of-house audits in order to test our skills."

Doug Knight said it isn't unusual to see a team of guards simulating a rescue and practicing with the AED and oxygen during regular business hours, so folks shouldn't be alarmed.

In addition, you'll see staff taking great pride in the appearance of the park, the picnic grounds, and helping to care for guests. Food workers serve "the best quality we can find and it is prepared to tantalize your taste buds."

"Our rule is that we wouldn't serve anything that we won't eat ourselves," said Doug Knight. "What sets us aside from the typical park is that it is family owned and operated and we don't charge for parking, or tube rentals in the waterpark. We try to offer the best value in family entertainment, in a safe and clean environment."

THE DEALS

The Knight's Action Park offers deals throughout the week. Learn more about the special rates and what days those are available at its website: knightsactionpark.com

1700 Knights Recreation Drive, Springfield IL 62711
Take Exit 96 off of I-72 and turn south on MacArthur Blvd. to 1700 Knights Recreation Drive in Springfield.



A golfer takes a swing at the driving range. Submitted photo

Crawford County Events

May 27 — Memorial Day Weekend. Palestine Lions Club Fish Fry, Car Club Cruise-In & Flea Market at Leaverton Park – 8 a.m. till the fish runs out. Fish/sides/hotdogs/desserts served to help the Lions with their many projects. Crawford County Collectibles Car Club will provide the opportunity to enjoy automobiles from the past and present. Browse the selection of treasures from various vendors. Contact: Lion Otis Tuttle 618-562-3881

June – August (Every Saturday) — Cross Street Market. Local vendors come to South Cross Street in Robinson to sell their goods. Food stands are also available.

June 10 & 17, July 8 & 22, Aug. 5 — Summer Concerts at Cross Street Station. Bring your lawn chair and listen to local musicians entertain you for the evening! Several food trucks will also be there each weekend. Visit www.cityofrobinson.com for a list of entertainment.

June 25 — Summer Hootenanny. Visit the Village of Oblong for an old fashioned "Hootenanny"!

July 4 — Robinson 4th of July Celebration. Food, live entertainment, baseball and softball tournaments, and a spectacular fireworks show in the Robinson City Park. Call City Hall at 618-544-7616 or visit www.cityofrobinson.com for more information.

July 22-29 — Crawford County Fair. Located at the Oblong Fairgrounds. 4-H exhibits, Crawford County Queen pageant, carnival rides, food booths, truck and tractor pull, and a demolition derby highlight the week-long event ending with a large 4-H auction. Contact: www.crawfordfair.com for more info.

Aug. 4-5 — Robinson & Oblong City Wide Garage Sales. Contact the Robinson Chamber of Commerce at 618-546-1557 for a list of those participating in these town wide annual events.

Aug. 4-5 — Hutsonville River Fest. Car Show, entertainment, vendors, parade and food, in Downtown Hutsonville. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/Hutsonville.River.Fest/

Aug. 11-13 — Oblong Antique Tractor and Engine Show. This annual event draws visitors from all over to view actual working antique tractors and engines. Located at the fairgrounds in Oblong.

Aug. 12 — Flat Rock Homecoming. Visit the Village of Flat Rock for a weekend full of activities including food, vendors and a parade.

Sept. 1-4 — 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. Chuckwagon 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.pioneercity.com or Email: Palestine-CofC@verizon.net

Sept. 16 — 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.ccfestofale.com for tickets and more information.

Oct. 6 - Oct. 7 — 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. 7-8 — Annual Wabash Valley Wine & Arts Festival. Several wineries provide various wines for tasting as you stroll Main Street and enjoy artworks from numerous artists from the Wabash Valley area. Some may 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

Oct. 28 — Annual Oblong Fall Follies and "Spooktacular" Band Fest and Parade. Features night-time parade, band field competition, food, crafts, and entertainment on the square in Oblong. Call 618-592-4355 for more information.

Nov. 17-19 — Christmas Magic Weekend. Join us for the lighting of the beautiful Christmas displays in Downtown Robinson. Santa arrives, food booths available, games for kids, train ride, silent auction of decorated Christmas Trees, skating rink, and a night-time parade on Saturday. On the square in Downtown Robinson. Call the Chamber of Commerce for more information 618-546-1557.

Nov. 18 — Palestine Preservation Projects Society Cookie Walk. Fife Opera House 9 a.m. - ? Browse table after table of homemade cookies for purchase

Nov. 24 — Friday after Thanksgiving, Leaverton Park Holiday Lighting Festival. 5 p.m. - Leaverton Park comes alive with over 40,000 lights and displays. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies with Santa, listen to area church choirs and singing groups caroling. Watch the Fireworks and enjoy cornbread and beans, hotdogs, & desserts served by the Lions club.. Contact: Palestine Chamber of Commerce 618-586-2222

Nov. 25 — Christmas on the River. Visit the Village of Hutsonville for beautifully decorated Christmas Trees, food, and entertainment.

Dec. 1-2 — Holly Jolly Market. Visit Quail Creek Country Club in Robinson to see various vendors from around the area, and do some holiday shopping!. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 618-546-1557 for a list of vendors.

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.

Irene's Vineyard

Irene's Vineyard and Winery is locally owned and operated by the Boldrey Family at their secluded countryside home nestled along the North Fork Creek at 8500 N 2250th St, Oblong, Illinois 62449. Wayne and Irene moved to their home in



ROBINSON TOURISM COUNCIL
300 S. Lincoln, PO Box 188, Robinson, IL 62454
618-544-7616
tourism@cityofrobinson.com • www.cityofrobinson.com/tourism

2023 Crawford County Calendar of Events
(Dates are subject to change. Please call ahead or visit www.cityofrobinson.com for more information)

April 11
Flat Rock Pancake Day
Visit the Village of Flat Rock for delicious pancakes and sausage!

April 15
Robinson Daffodil Festival
Visit Robinson for the first ever Daffodil Festival at the Robinson City Park. Enjoy the beautiful flowers, and visit the over 40 vendors and food booths.

May 27
Memorial Day Weekend
Palestine Lions Club Fish Fry, Car Club Cruise-In & Flea Market Leaverton Park – 8:00 a.m. till the fish runs out Fish/sides/hotdogs/desserts served to help the Lions with their many projects. Crawford County Collectibles Car Club will provide the opportunity to enjoy automobiles from the past and present. Browse the selection of treasures from various vendors. Contact: Lion Otis Tuttle 618-562-3881

June – August (Every Saturday)
Cross Street Market
Local vendors come to South Cross Street in Robinson to sell their goods. Food stands are also available.

June 10 & 17, July 8 & 22, Aug. 5
Summer Concerts at Cross Street Station
Bring your lawn chair and listen to local musicians entertain you for the evening! Several food trucks will also be there each weekend. Visit www.cityofrobinson.com for a list of entertainment.

June 25
Summer Hootenanny
Visit the Village of Oblong for an old fashioned "Hootenanny"!

July 4
Robinson 4th of July Celebration
Food, live entertainment, baseball and softball tournaments, and a spectacular firework show in the Robinson City Park. Call City Hall at 618-544-7616 or visit www.cityofrobinson.com for more information.

July 22-29
Crawford County Fair Located at the Oblong Fair Grounds
4-H exhibits, Crawford County Queen pageant, carnival rides, food booths, truck and tractor pull, and a demolition derby highlight the week-long event ending with a large 4-H auction. Contact: www.crawfordfair.com for more info.

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August 12
Flat Rock Homecoming
Visit the Village of Flat Rock for a weekend full of activities including food, vendors, and a parade.



1958 where they raised their 4 children at this beautiful countryside place, we now call Irene's Vineyard. Although they have both passed now, our family still carries on the traditions of family, food, fun and wine! We welcome you to make yourselves at home and enjoy this beautiful place we proudly call home.

At Irene's, we go above and beyond to craft quality wine that our customers will love and enjoy. We produce wines ranging from dry, off-dry, semi-sweet, sweet and fruit. One of our most popular wines is White Trash. This wine is well known for its elegant name but also its fruity aroma and pleasantly smooth and sweet taste.

Cumberland County Events

April 28 — Dakota Danielle live music at Exit 119 Pub in Greenup, IL from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

May 6 — Annual Fishing Derby from 9-11:30 a.m. at Small Pond across from Lake Mattoon Marina, Neoga. Open to ages 4-15. Registration at 9 a.m. and awards at 11 a.m. Hosted by Friends of Lake Mattoon & Mattoon Bass Club.

May 6, June 3, July 1, and Aug. 5 — Hootenanny from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. the first Saturday of every month at the Greenup Municipal Building. A night of free dancing and great Country & Western and Bluegrass music featuring new band — Gold Country. Open to the public. For more information call 217-923-3016.

May 18 to 21 — Toledo Spring Festival with theme "Game Show Mania." Features include parade, Pronto Pup Stand, craft vendors, pageants & music during the festival. Carnival rides by Luehrs' Ideal Rides Portable Amusement Park for kids of all ages and concessions. For more information call 217-849-2000.

May 20 — Benefit for Marty Hartke, mayor of Neoga, at The Roadhouse at 1318 Route 45, Neoga IL, located between Neoga and Mattoon. Raffle, Jeep Run, Meal and more! Jeep Run signup begins at 11 a.m. at The Roadhouse. Jeep run will begin at 1 p.m.. Raffles, Silent Auctions, Live Music outdoors by The Hip Huggers from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Reverend Robert from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Sawyer Brothers from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Rosewood Pine from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. Londyn Fultz will also provide music inside. Pulled pork dinner starting approximately 6 p.m. Bags Tournament at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Lisa Fearday at 217-273-1741.

May 25 to 27 — Neoga Days with theme "Hometown Heroes." Parade, Queen Pageant, Carnival, Beer Garden, Live Music by Feudin Hillbillies on May 26 and Boombox 80's Band on May 27, Food Vendors, Axe Throwing, & More at Jennings Park in Neoga, IL. Fireworks on May 27. For more information visit Neoga Days on their Facebook page.

May 27 — Spring 2023 Demolition Derby & Bomber Race at the Cumberland County Fairgrounds in Greenup, IL. Inspection begins at 1 p.m. Bomber Race at 5 p.m.. Derby at 6 p.m. Contact Stacey Holsapple at 217-923-1507, Scott Justice at 217-251-6094 or Dustin McCullough at 217-251-4614.

June 17 — Jeepin' In Memory of Junk from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Toledo American Legion in Toledo, IL. Join us for a fun ride in Memory of Junk! Korey Russell was not only a fellow Cumberland County jeeper but a Master at Masonic. All money raised will be donated to Toledo Masonic Lodge in Memory of Junk!

June 24 — Toledo Auxiliary Freedom Day Breakfast, Color Run & Fireworks. Breakfast from 6 a.m. to Noon. Breakfast includes biscuit and gravy, hash browns, milk, orange juice and coffee. Carryouts available. All proceeds go to the Auxiliary to continue to support our veterans and community. Annual 5K/ Walk Color Run with proceeds to Cumberland County Veterans Monument. Fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Events at Post 764 Toledo American Legion in Toledo, IL.

June 24 — City Wide Garage Sales in Toledo & Greenup begin at 7 a.m.

July 22 — Jeepin' For A Cure starting at 11 a.m. at Post 764 Toledo American Legion in Toledo, IL.

Aug. 11 to 19 — Cumberland County Fair at the fairgrounds in Greenup, IL. Activ-

ities include a Junior & Miss Queen Pageant, music and live entertainment, tractor pull and demolition derby, horse races and more. For more information contact Stacey Holsapple at 217-923-1507.

Oct. 5 to 7 — Greenup Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival in downtown Greenup. Parade, arts & crafts, kids games, food vendors, car show.

Oct. 28 — Halloween Celebration at Greenup Municipal Building

Dec. 9 — Christmas in the Village at Greenup Municipal Building

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 217-923-3401 or visit 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. - 4 p.m.

Cumberland Co. Historical Society Illinois Military Museum

101 N. Mill St., Greenup. Features photos and memorabilia of local and Illinois veterans. For more information call 217-923-9306 or email: historic1859@gmail.com

Cameo Vineyards

Enjoy complimentary tastings, purchase wine by the glass, and browse leisurely through the gift shop. Tours of the cellar provided whenever possible. Visitors may choose to enjoy a peaceful afternoon on the grand porch overlooking the vineyard, or opt to have cozy conversation by the crackling fireplace. Perched on a bluff overlooking panoramic views of the hillside vineyard and the Embarras River Valley, the boutique winery was built using the family's grandfather's circa 1900 pin-beamed barn.

Clock Tower

Visit a Clock Tower on a local farm at 138 Co Rd 500N, Sigel, IL 62462 that is powered by the old clockwork from St. Michael Catholic Church in Sigel IL. The clockwork is over 100 years old. The tower is approximately 35 foot tall, is lit at night and decorated during the holiday season.

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Cumberland County Courthouse

Visit the completely restored Cumberland County Courthouse located on the square in Toledo, IL. Built in 1887-88, the building is Cumberland County's second courthouse. The first courthouse, located at the same site as the current one, was built in 1856 and burned in 1885. The second courthouse was designed by architects S. S. Goehring and L.L. Pierson. The building's design features a central clock tower, arched entrances on the east and west sides, column-supported balconies above the entrances, and a balustrade along the roofline. The building has continuously served as the seat of county government since its opening. The courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 11, 1981.

Dewitt County Events

May 6 - Oct. 14 — Every Saturday - Clinton Area Farmers Market & Artisan Fair Every Saturday (Weather permitting) from 8 a.m. to Noon at Mr Lincoln's Square in Downtown Clinton, IL

May 29 — Memorial Day Observation starts Memorial Day at 9 a.m. at Circle Park, then parade to the City Cemetery for Services in Clinton, IL.

June 1-3 — Farmer City Heritage Days - Live entertainment, a carnival, a free

community dinner, craft and food vendors, a car show, cornhole tournament, 5k/ fun run, free kids activities and more. Festival GPS Position: 100-300 Block of S. Main St., Farmer City, IL

July 5 — Celebrate Clinton Association will host the 2023 Fourth of July Fireworks at dusk. Donations will be accepted by: Celebrate Clinton Association, PO Box 436, Clinton, Illinois 61727

DEWITT COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

In the heart of rural Illinois, DeWitt County offers visitors and residents recreation opportunities such as fishing, boating, camping, picnics and more. There is Clinton Lake/Mascoutin State Recreation Area (11,000 acres with 5,000 acre lake); Weldon Springs State Recreation Area (550 acres); several city and village parks; and Arrowhead Acres, South Shores and Green Acres Campgrounds.

A rich heritage of community awaits. See the Lincoln statue by A. L. VanDenBergen, as well as other historic monuments on Mr. Lincoln's Square. If you want to learn about the places Abraham Lincoln has been and the people he knew as he traveled through central Illinois, enjoy the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail. There will be over 200 storyboards, called wayside exhibits, scattered throughout the central Illinois landscape. Don't miss the DeWitt County Museum's C. H. Moore Homestead, a home owned by Clifton H. Moore. Moore and Lincoln were law partners during the 1840s and shared a law office in Clinton, now occupied by Moore & Warner Farm Management.

Clinton Lake State Recreation Area

Clinton Lake S.R.A. is east of Clinton off Rt. 10 and Rt. 54. Enjoy 9,300 acres of great outdoors for all seasons - picnics, hiking, camping, swimming, water skiing, boating, fishing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and so much more. Contact Clinton Lake S.R.A. at 217-935-8722.

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



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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

First Saturday April-October — First Saturday Downtown Market, in Downtown Arthur, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Third Saturday Each Month — 3rd Saturday Market. 40-60 crafters, some antiques, bakers, and other vendors gather at the Events Building at the Moultrie – Douglas Fairgrounds behind the high school in Arthur. Indoor and outdoor year around, with outdoor space for vendors unless it is actually snowing. Market hours run from about 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every month.

First Friday May-October — 1st Friday Farmers Market, 5-7 p.m. at 32 W. Sale, Downtown Tuscola. Featuring the freshest and tastiest local produce, baked goods, sweets, and all sorts of crafts.

May 13 — From Sheep to Wool to Clothing & Quilts: Spinning, Weaving & Craft Festival, held at the Illinois Heritage Center, 284 W. Rt 133, Arthur IL. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit: www.illinoisamish.org

June 2-3 — Downtown Arthur Strawberry Jam Festival. Free strawberry give-away all day long, merchant sidewalk sales, strawberry pie eating state championship, craft & food vendors, pie baking contest, strawberry social, live music, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

June 2 — Outdoor Movie Night in downtown Tuscola.

June 9-10 — Raggedy Ann Rally. Arcola Community Center, 107 W. Main St. Enthusiasts gather to exchange their treasures, find a few new treasures and visit the small town that was once the home of Raggedy Ann and Andy founder Johnny Gruelle. For vendor info visit Raggedy Ann Rally on Facebook or contact Kathy Ellis at 217-251-7947 or visit arcolachamber.com

June 10 — GSA Color Run 5K at the Tuscola Community Building.

June 24 — Pop the Top Car Show in downtown Arcola, adjacent to Moomaw American Hippie Memorial. Registration 10 a.m. to noon. Awards at 3 p.m. For more info: Drippy Smith 217-268-4278 or smith129@consolidated.net

June 30-July 1 — Horse Progress Days. Field demonstrations and equipment innovations showcasing draft horses held at Arthur Sale Barn. 1204 Vine St., Arthur. Visit www.illinoisamish.org for more info.

July 1 — Arthur's Freedom Celebration & Fireworks. On the Saturday closest before the 4th, crowds estimated at 40,000 flock to Arthur for the Freedom Celebration. Beginning in the morning there will be craft shows, parades, food vendors, a petting zoo, mechanical bulls, helicopter rides and much more. Illinois-amishcountry.com for more information.

July 4 — VFW 4th of July Parade in Tuscola, IL.

July 7 — Outdoor Movie Night in downtown Tuscola.

July 8 — Tuscola Sparks in the Park. The event includes a 5K Run/Walk, cake walk, community band, mud volleyball tournament and more! Fair Food vendors will be there all day! The evening will conclude with a fireworks display!

July 8 — Tuscola Community Band Concert, part of "Sparks in the Park", 4 p.m. at the South Pavilion, Tuscola.

July 10-15 — 91st Annual Moultrie-Douglas County Fair at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Arthur, located in Jurgens Park behind Arthur High School. A full week of activities, such as livestock shows, live entertainment, carnival rides for all ages, and exhibits, are planned. For more information visit moultriedouglas-countyfair.com

July 29 & 30 — RC Fest at Wimple Park in Tuscola.

Aug. 4-5 — Arcola City Wide Garage Sales. For map info contact Arcola Record Herald, 118 E. Main St., Arcola 217-268-4950.

Aug. 5 — Miss Tuscola Pageant at the Tuscola Community Building.

Aug. 18-19 — 28th Annual Atwood Apple Dumping Festival. 112 S. Main St, Atwood IL Fun for the whole family with a parade, games, apple dumplings, homemade ice-cream, and live music. Visit the Atwood Chamber of Commerce at atwoodchamber.org

August 18 & 19 — Fall City Wide Garage Sales. See the Tuscola Journal for a full map.

Aug. 25-26 — Annual Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale, From 4 p.m. Friday to 4 p.m. Saturday. 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 arthurreliefsale.org for more details.

Sept. 2 — Chet Kingery Memorial Bluegrass Festival, The Great Pumpkin Patch, Arthur. Catch a glimpse of the Great Pumpkin Patch just before opening season with rootsy sounds of Bluegrass, instrumental workshops, vendors and food. Order tickets online at www.mackvillebluegrass.com

Sept. 2-4 — 50th Anniversary of Arthur Cheese Festival, Crafts, food, flea mar-

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kets, sidewalk sales, parade, kids rides and games, and lots of cheese. An Auto show, live entertainment, 10K, Amish strongman competition, antique tractor show...something for everyone. Free cheese each day. Downtown Arthur, 138 S Vine St. illinoisamishcountry.com

Sept. 8-10 — 52nd Annual Arcola Broom Corn Festival, Downtown Arcola. Vendors, live music, National Broom Sweeping contest, beer tent. For more information go to arcolachamber.com

DOUGLAS COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Aikman Wildlife Adventure (formerly Rockome Gardens)

Located between Arcola & Arthur. Come see and take pictures of animals from 6 different continents. Cost is \$20/vehicle. Hours are 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; Noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. For more information call 217-259-9603, email james@aikmanwildlife.com or visit 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 located 5 1/2 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 workman-

ship. 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



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- 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

May 7 — Mommy & Me Canvas Class at 1 p.m. at Castle Finn Winery, Paris. Visit facebook page for details.

May 21 — Candle Making Class at 1 p.m. at Castle Finn Winery, Paris. Visit facebook page for details.

June 3 — Outlaw Grill opens at Southfork Homestead & Pumpkin Patch, Paris.

June 10 — Eiffel Tower Triathlon, Twin Lakes Park, Paris. Come join the charming city of Paris for a triathlon you are sure to fall in love with! Sprint Distance 500 Meter Swim, 20k Bike, 5K Run, Olympic Distance 1500 Meter Swim, 40k Bike, 10k Run.

June 24 — City Wide Garage Sales, Kansas.

June 24 — Edgar County 4-H BBQ at Edgar County 4-H Fairgrounds, Paris.

July 8 — Ventriloquist Ian Varella at 7 p.m. at Castle Finn Winery, Paris. Visit facebook page for details.

July 22-29 — Edgar County Fair and Races, Edgar County Fairgrounds, Paris, IL. Features harness racing, evening grandstand shows, the Miss Edgar County pageant, a variety horse show, carnival, farm and business exhibits, and competition in homemaking, fine arts, agriculture and more. For more information, visit edgarcountyfair.com

Aug. 5 — Comedy Night at 7 p.m. featuring Ricky Glore at Castle Finn Winery, Paris. Visit facebook page for details.

EDGAR COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Paris Center of Fine Arts — Performances on the Prairie

A 500-seat theater hosts world-class musicians, illusionists, speakers, actors, comedians, and other professional performers. Located next to Paris High School at 14040 E. 1200th Road, Paris, Illinois

Southfork Homestead & Pumpkin Patch

Beautiful pumpkin patch and farm grounds, located in the heart of Central Illinois, offer fun, family-friendly activities for visitors of all ages! Enjoy wagon rides, corn mazes, hiking trails, picking out the perfect pumpkin, and more. Plus visit Outlaw Grill for hungry visitors. There is something for everyone to love!

Vance Park

It is a calm and quiet place that's perfect for meditation. Inside you will find a lushly landscaped sunken garden with it's 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.

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

April 28 — "EPC Idol Finals" 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Calling all karaoke singers! We have a competition for you to see who will be named the EPC Idol and win a \$1,000 cash prize. Preliminary karaoke contests will be held at sponsoring locations with the winners of each preliminary contest set to take the stage for a night of performances to determine who will be voted the EPC Idol. During the finals, audience members will participate in electronic voting to determine which one of the finalists will win the prize money!

May 6 — "LeAnn Rimes – The Story...So Far Tour" 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. The tour celebrates the last 25 years of LeAnn's career, so get ready to hear all the hits from her first release "Blue" to her brand-new album "God's Work."

May 7 — 4th Annual Sunday Funday Spring Vendor Event at Teutopolis Banquet Hall in Teutopolis, IL starting at Noon. Join us on the patio and pickleball courts for

shopping, food trucks, live music and adult beverages! No entry fee. Everybody is welcome!

May 12 — BBBs Glo Bingo, featuring Glo Daddy at the Effingham Event Center from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Come join us for a great time of glow in the dark bingo, music and food while supporting the potential and promise of our young people! Event by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Effingham County.

May 19 — "1973 – The Music of Journey" 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. This pays tribute to one of the greatest arena rock bands of all time, Journey! 1973 brings the music and experience of Journey live and in concert to audiences of all ages.

May 19 — 56th Annual Effingham County Chamber Golf Outing from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Effingham Country Club. Are you ready to hit the links this Spring at the 56th Annual Effingham County Chamber Golf Outing, presented by HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital? We sure are! Early bird gets the worm. If you are a morning golfer, it's never too early to register! For more information, contact Nicole Morrison at (217)342-4147 or email nmorrison@effinghamcountychamber.com

May 19 & 20 — Celebrating Panhead & Shovelhead at Legacy Harley-Davidson in Effingham. Cruise-In Party May 19 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. with Show Day on May 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$25 entry fee per bike. Cash prizes and trophies. Food and Drink Vendors and Live Music.

May 28 — Time to Kill Campout 2023 at 8724 E. Marine Rd, Effingham, IL — The Stage at Lake Sara. A Sunday afternoon small festival vibe with several local central Illinois bands hosted by Garrett Burris w/ Time to Kill and Poss Music Works.

June 3 — Magic & Mischief: A Fairy Market from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. in downtown Effingham. Event will include Food Vendors, Fire Dancers, Sidewalk Sideshow, Stilt Walkers, Face Painting, Costumes Encouraged, Fairy Vendors, DJ Music, Photography, Local Florists, Artists and Oracle Readings. Contact Hazel-Jayne in Effingham for more information.

June 3 — "Scott Wattles & The Blue Suede Crew" 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. They will perform a variety of songs including Elvis hits and gospel music.

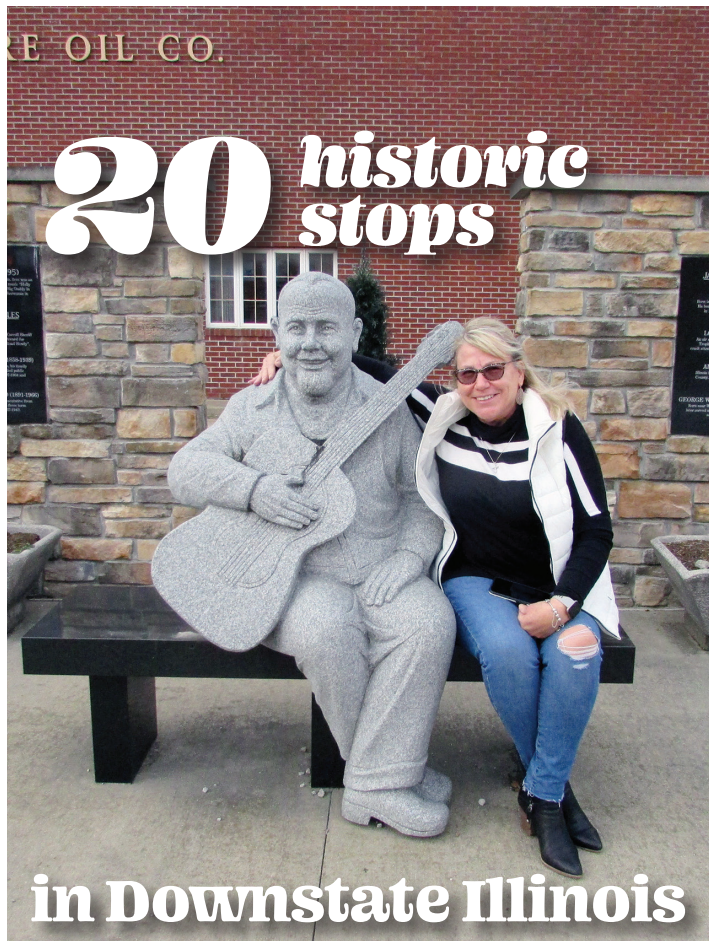
June 3 through Oct. 28 — Farmers Market every Saturday in downtown Effingham starting at 8 a.m.

June 16 — 5th Annual Cruise/Car Show at Teutopolis Banquet Hall in Teutopolis, IL. Rain date will be June 17. Come cruise the beautiful streets of Teutopolis or browse through the huge car show. No cover charges. Food and drinks available for purchase. DJ and entertainment all night!!

June 16 & 17 — VW Fun Fest at Mid America Motorworks in Effingham, IL. Lots of family and kid friendly activities, swap area, food and refreshment vendors, Celebrity Choice awards and the Fun Run Road Tour.

June 17 — Mill Road Thresherman Tractor Drive. Registration 8 am. Starting location: 157 County Road 700N, Neoga, IL 62447. Contact Ken Goeckner at 618-335-3790 for more information.





A woman sits next to the Burl Ives monument in Newton.

BY DISCOVER DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS

There is no shortage of historic sites in our region, and we know that history buffs are always on the lookout for places that they haven't explored yet. So, here are 20 different historic stops that are worthy of a road trip!

1. Vandalia State House, Vandalia

The word 'iconic' is an understatement for this site. It's the oldest remaining Capitol building in the state, and the original hardwood floors upstairs are the same floors that Abraham Lincoln walked on when he began his political career.

2. Fort de Chartres, Prairie du Rocher

This piece of history dates back to the 1700s, and the powder magazine on the site is believed to be the oldest

building in the ENTIRE state.

3. Hutson Memorial Village, Crawford County

This reconstructed 1812 settler village opened to the public in 1967 and has played host to meetings, tours and even weddings.

4. Lincoln Log Cabin, Charleston

Honest Abe's father, Thomas, and stepmother Sarah Bush

Lincoln lived in this log cabin in Charleston. A working, living history farm has been established around the cabin today.

5. Liberty Bell of the West, Kaskaskia

Many people have heard of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, but did you know that there is a Liberty Bell of the West? It's true! It resides in Kaskaskia, and it was a gift from King Louis XV of France to the Catholic Church of New France in the 1700s.

6. Fort Kaskaskia, Randolph County

While only earthen remains are the only remnants of Fort Kaskaskia to experience, the Mississippi River overlook is the true attraction here. It's an understatement that this place is magical for foliage views in the fall.

7. Burl Ives Monuments, Jasper County

The famed actor and musician that is well-known for his role as Sam the Snowman in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is from Jasper County. In Newton, there is a memorial statue on the town square, and there is also a granite monument at his gravesite at Mound Cemetery near Willow Hill.

8. Eagle Cliff Miles Cemetery, Monroe County

If you're driving on Bluff Road in Monroe County, you'll notice this site HIGH atop the bluffs. This cemetery is the final resting place for more than 450 people, and it is open for folks to experience. Exploring the mausoleum as well as the stunning views from the site are easily worth the drive.

9. Cahokia Mounds Interpretive Center, St. Clair County

This site is a hot spot for school groups, and for good reason. The Cahokia Mounds Interpretive Center showcases exhibit galleries,



The Kinmundy Log Cabin Village Church is shown.

a life-size village recreation, an orientation show and more – all highlighting Native American culture in the region. As a note, this site was closed to the public for renovations in 2022 and is scheduled to reopen in the spring of 2023.

10. Greenup Train Depot & Museum, Greenup

Train enthusiasts will LOVE this place. There is a model



The Greenup Train Depot & Museum is shown.

railroad running throughout the building, which boasts the ticket counter, as well as the second story living quarters that folks used quite a bit.

11. Village of Maeystown

Founded in 1852, the ENTIRE VILLAGE of Maeystown is on the National Register of Historic Places, which is rare. There are over 60 historically significant buildings from that time along with stone walls, flagstone gutters, and a cozy bed and breakfast!

12. Lincoln Trail State Memorial, Lawrenceville

This monument commemorates the crossing of Abraham Lincoln and his family from Indiana into Illinois in early 1830.

13. Original Springs Hotel, Okawville

This unique accommodation was established in 1867 after the landowner discovered the property sat over mineral



The Vandalia Statehouse is shown.

walls, but this former jail from the 1870s is the place to do it.

15. Illinois Oilfield Museum, Oblong

This is one of just seven such facilities in the nation, making it unique from the get-go. The amount of historical equipment on display is simply amazing.

16. Mary's River Covered Bridge, Chester

Covered bridges are iconic, aren't they? This one in Randolph County was built in 1854 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It's a GREAT spot for

quite rare as well, because it is an example of the French Colonial vertical log poteaux-sur-solle technique.

18. Kinmundy Log Cabin Village, Marion County

There are a dozen different 19th century pioneer-era log cabins on this property, and they all have a unique story! Call ahead to check them out, and visit during their fall festival each year.

19. History Museum of Monroe County, Waterloo

There is such a wide array on display here, that it really does take a while to experience it all. One of the real gems is a 1917 Chevrolet Chummy Roadster. Because of only 500 made, this is just one of a handful remaining.

20. Wabash County History Museum, Mt. Carmel

Hi-Yo, Silver, Away! Did you know that Brace Beemer, the radio voice for The Lone Ranger for 13 years is from Mount Carmel? There is an exhibit celebrating his career at the Wabash County History Museum, along with a dozen other exhibits.



Visitors tour the Lincoln Log Cabin Farm.

wells. Today it's the last natural mineral spa in Illinois.

14. Perry County Jail Museum, Pinckneyville

It's not very often you get to experience the artwork of former inmates on jail cell

a picnic and photo op!

17. Cahokia Courthouse, Cahokia Heights

Check out the oldest courthouse in Illinois, and the only one remaining from the state's territorial period. It's architecture is

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The ROAD that built the nation

BY DISCOVER DOWNSTATE
ILLINOIS

History buffs and day trip enthusiasts, pack your bags and make a voyage on the National Road, also known as U.S. Route 40 or the Cumberland Road. It is one of the oldest highways in the nation, and it connects our region to the East Coast! The National Road was the first federally funded road and is known to many as the “Road That Built the Nation.”

TOP STOPS ALONG THE HISTORIC NATIONAL ROAD

1. Schlafly Highland Square, Highland – No matter where you begin your journey, this makes for a great starting or ending point. Schlafly branched into Illinois in 2021 when they opened this location, and it has been a BIG hit. Their

Madonna of the Trail is in Vandalia.



beer is obviously a selling point, but their burgers have earned quite the reputation.

2. Mercantile & Sweet Shoppe, Pocahontas - This old-fashioned general store will have you feeling like a time traveler! The Mercantile & Sweet Shoppe features everything from clothing and home décor to baked goods and novelty bottles of soda. Be sure to mark this spot on your map. You won't want to miss it.

3. American Farm Heritage Museum, Greenville – Make sure to allow plenty of time for this stop. There are three buildings housing multiple exhibits on seven acres of land! Be sure to check their website while planning your road trip, because they have several family-oriented events throughout the year. While you're exploring, make sure to check out Hill's Fort, which was originally constructed in the 1800s and has since been reconstructed. The American Heritage Railroad is a hit as well, as this 15-inch gauge railroad takes folks for a mile ride around the property!

4. Interpretive Center + Roadside Attractions, Vandalia – Learn more about U.S. 40 by visiting the National Road Interpretive Center, right next to Vandalia's City Hall.

There are exhibits that explain exactly how the road came to be! While in Vandalia, there are several roadside attractions to experience. There's the fire-breathing Kaskaskia Dragon near Interstate 70, and downtown you'll find Honest Abe sitting on a bench right across from the



Friends relax at
Cameo Vineyards.

Old State Capitol Building, as well as the Madonna of the Trail, one of just 12 memorials across the country to honor pioneer mothers of the covered wagon days.

5. Driftstone Pueblo, St. Elmo – At this authentic Native American store, you can shop for thousands of souvenirs including jewelry, moccasins and pottery. This 8,400 square-foot showroom is one of the largest in the Midwest, making it a must-see experience!

6. Cameo Vineyards, Greenup – After crossing the always popular Cumberland County Covered Bridge, this vineyard will welcome you with open arms and a heavy pour! Owned by a local couple, Cameo has been serving beautifully crafted wines for more than 20 years. With over a dozen varietals to choose from, you're almost certain to find something that pleases the palate.

7. Big Things in a Small Town, Casey – When you're cruising down a two-lane highway, it's REALLY hard to

miss a GIANT bird cage and the World's Largest Mailbox, among other big things. Casey is home to 11 of the World's Largest items including a rocking chair that stands 56 feet tall! These objects were built within the last decade to help draw in tourists and save the small community, and boy has it worked. Most of the items are outside while others are hosted inside businesses, but all are free to enjoy!

8. Big Anvil & Horseshoe, Martinsville – Just east of Casey lies Martinsville, home to even more BIG items. Here you will find a giant anvil weighing in at 5,530 pounds, as well as the Big Horseshoe that used to be the World's Largest but has since lost the title. That said, they're still fantastic photo opportunities!

9. National Road Welcome Center, Marshall – Housed in a building established in 1872 as a livery stable and opera house, it now serves as a community center and the National Road Welcome Center. Be sure to stop in and learn about the history of the Road That Built the Nation!

Navajo pottery is on display at Driftstone Pueblo.



Public displays of ART

BY DISCOVER DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS

There is plenty of PDA to go around when you Discover Downstate. We don't mean public displays of affection though. We mean public displays of art. Here are some of the best spots in our region to admire several forms of art.

VENUES

Tarble Arts Center, Charleston

Located on Eastern Illinois University's campus, the Tarble Arts Center has a year-round schedule of changing visual arts exhibitions.

The Hettenhausen Center for the Arts, Lebanon

Located on McKendree University's campus, the Hettenhausen Center for the Arts brings distinguished speakers, concerts and performances to the Metro area.

Nostalgia Theater, Flora

This nonprofit organization brings the arts to Flora and the surrounding area.

Salem Community Theater & Cultural Center, Salem

The Salem Community Theatre and Cultural Center hosts live performances and movie screenings.

Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, Mt. Vernon

Cedarhurst Center for the Arts has four galleries, an interactive family learning center, and a performance hall. They also host multiple art events throughout the year.

OUTDOORS

Freedom Rock, Shiloh

This is the first-ever Freedom Rock in Illinois painted by Ray Sorensen II and features prominent historical contributions to the area.

Lions, Marshall

It's easy to see that the community of Marshall is proud of their Lion mascot! Take a scavenger hunt throughout town to find all 40 of Marshall's beautifully decorated lion statues.

MURALS

More and more communities in Downstate Illinois are embracing murals. Some towns have one while others have dozens! Of course, each one makes for a fantastic photo op. Some of our favorite spots to snap a pic are in Albion, Waterloo and Marshall – these towns each have murals unique to their town history. You've got to check them out!

EVENTS

Art on the Square, Belleville

This is one of the biggest art events in Downstate Illinois year after year. It is slated for May 19-21 in 2023 and features original work from over 100 artists annually.

Art in the Park and Street Art Fest, Highland

Highland is home to not one but two annual art events: Street Art Fest in September and Art in the Park each October. The Street Art Fest showcases artists who thrive with chalk, and Art in the Park is a weekend full of exhibits, live music, and more!

Folks looking at art at Tarble Arts Center in Charleston. Tarble Arts Center photo



June 22 to June 25 — Moccasin Creek Festival 2023 at 8724 E. Marine Rd, Effingham, IL. — The Stage at Lake Sara.

July 3 — Lake Sara Fireworks

July 4 — City of Effingham Fireworks

July 4 — Village of Dieterich Fireworks

July 8 — Buckin For Heroes Rodeo at Teutopolis Banquet Hall grounds in Teutopolis, IL. Grounds open at 4:30 p.m. Rodeo begins at 7 p.m. Music by Dylan Wolfe starting at 9 p.m. Food Trucks, Merchandise Vendors. Full Bar. All proceeds raised donated to Make-A-Wish IL, Teutopolis American Legion Post #924, Effingham DAV and VFW.

July 14 & 15 — Effingham Artisan Fair at Tuscan Hills Winery in Effingham from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on July 14 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 15. First 100 entries receives a free tote bag! The Effingham Artisan Fair is a juried art fair featuring 30 plus artists from central Illinois and the Midwest

July 21 — 2023 EffingHAM-JAM from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. in downtown Effingham.

July 22 — HAMCITY JAM23 Skateboard Event at the Skateboard Park in Effingham, IL.

July 29 to Aug. 5 — Effingham County Fair at the fairgrounds in Altamont, IL. Tractor pulls, demo derby, queen contest, and so much more! Grandstand feature on Aug. 4 will be country music hitmaker Chris Janson with Dakota Danielle. Tickets for the concert and all the grandstand events are on sale now at www.effinghamcountyfair.com!

Aug. 10, 11, 12 & 13 — Mill Road Thresherman Show at the Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont, IL. Visit www.millroadthresherman.org for a complete daily schedule of events.

Aug. 23 — "Happy Together — Tour 2023" 7:30 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. The Turtles, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, The Vogues, The Classics IV and The Cowsills return for the Happy Together Tour 2023, performing their biggest hits of the 1960s and 1970s.

Aug. 25 to Aug. 27 — Summer Sundown Festival at 8724 E. Marine Rd, Effingham, IL — The Stage at Lake Sara.

Sept. 8 & 9 — Midwest Market Indoor/Outdoor Market at Village Square Mall, Effingham. Sept. 8 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 100 Vendors including boutiques, home décor, vintage, food trucks, produce, mums, jewelry, live music and so much more.

Sept. 9 — Effingham Cruise Night

Sept. 14 to 16 — Corvette Funfest 2023.

Sept. 23 — Super Saturday Swap Meet at the Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont, IL, 722 E. Cumberland Road. Auto, Truck and Motorcycle Show with registration from 7 to 11 a.m. and awards at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call (217) 273-9683.

Sept. 23 — "One Funny Mother" — starring comedian Dena Blizzard" 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Dena will take you on a hilarious journey through the trials and tribulations of motherhood and marriage. This show is for anyone who is a mother, who has a mother or who is married to a mother.

Sept. 30 — Oktoberfest 2023 from 5 p.m. to midnight at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall grounds. Bands will include Butch's Polka Kings from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and Bad Habit from 9 p.m. to midnight. Free admission! Free inflatables for the kids! German style food! German style beer! Stein holding contest! Sponsored by the Teutopolis Civic Club.

Oct. 21 — Magic & Mischief: A Witches Market in downtown Effingham. Events include DJ, Food Trucks, Tarot Readings, Witchy Vendors, Magical Drinks, Fire Dancers, Hula Hoopers, Henna, Face Painting and More! Witch or Wizard Attire Encouraged. For more information, contact Hazel-Jayne in Effingham.

Oct. 29 — Effingham Sunrise Rotary's Annual Halloween Parade

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.-2:30 p.m., and from noon-3 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call 618-483-6856.

The Cross at the Crossroads

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 crossusa.org.

VISIT HISTORIC VANDALIA ILLINOIS

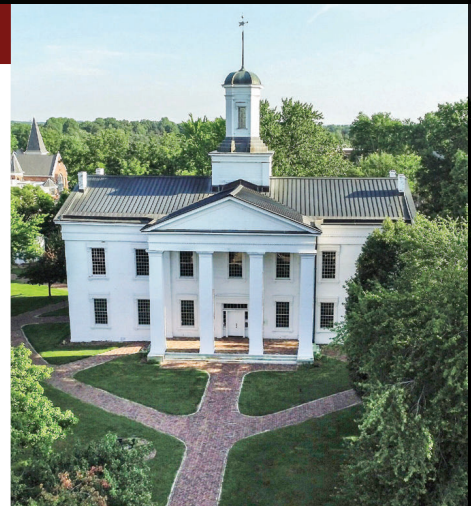
UPCOMING EVENTS



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[f](#) Vandalia, Illinois Farmers' Market



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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 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 theepc.org or call the theatre at 217-540-2788.

Lake Sara

Lake Sara is 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.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. For more information, visit 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.

Tuscan Hills Winery

Established in July 2011, by Wes and Wanda Pitcher, Tuscan Hills Winery, located at 2200 Historic Hills Drive in Effingham, is a beautiful winery with an Old-World Tuscan feel. Enjoy tasting any of their wines with help from their knowledgeable staff. They also offer a variety of sangrias, wine slushies, seasonal beers, liquors and non-alcoholic beverages. Hot pizzas and Italian baguettes are served all day. Tuscan Hills is a family-friendly and pet-friendly winery where you are invited to "come as our guest, leave as our friend." Visit www.effinghamwinery.com for a list of upcoming events and live music.

Barn & Bottle Winery

Established in 2022, Barn & Bottle Winery is located at 10810 N. 1st Street, Altamont, IL. They offer wine, slushies, beer, soda or bottled water. Seating inside by the fireplace or outside on the porch. Pizzas and meat/cheese boards also available for purchase. Open weekends.

Fayette County Events

June 10 — Farmers Market in downtown Vandalia from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

July 6 to 11 — Fayette County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Brownstown, IL. July 6 Stock Car Racing. July 7 IPA Truck & Tractor Pull. July 8 Whippoorwill Rodeo. July 9 Demolition Derby. July 10 Miss & Little Miss Pageant. July 11 Jr. Miss & Future Miss Pageant.

July 8 — Farmers Market in downtown Vandalia from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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Parks in Effingham, IL

EVERGREEN HOLLOW PARK

W. Evergreen Ave., Exit 160, Effingham, IL

This 42-acre park features a wide variety of playground equipment, two large pavilions, baseball and softball diamonds, tennis courts and more! The park also has a scenic and educational tree walk, featuring approximately 75 species of trees indigenous to Illinois.

Kluthe Memorial Pool, the park's aquatic complex, includes a large leisure pool, water slides, play equipment and a lap pool. The complex is open from noon to 7 p.m., Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Evergreen Mini Golf, adjacent to Evergreen Hollow Park, makes for a wild outing with the family! Try your skills on the course, and enjoy refreshing snacks and drinks from The Purple Hippo, on-site. Call 217.821.3922 for hours, as they change, according to season.

HENDELMAYER PARK

1906 S. Fourth St., Exit 162, Effingham, IL

Hendelmeyer Park is a 20-acre park that includes a skate park, four lighted tennis courts, three lighted



softball diamonds, two playground areas and a picnic area. Ron Diehl Recreation Center is also located on this



property and houses three basketball courts, two meeting rooms and a kitchen that can be reserved for a fee.

COMMUNITY PARK

E. Temple Ave. and N. Pembroke Ave., Exit 162, Effingham, IL

Community Park is a 35-acre park that features a disc-golf course, four lighted ball diamonds, four lighted tennis courts, large playground areas, three outdoor basketball courts and pavilions/ picnic areas.

HARMONY PLAYGROUND

1301 N. Maple St., Exit 160, Effingham, IL

This new, inclusive playground is accessible to all children, adults and veterans. Harmony Playground features wheelchair-friendly ramps, accessible swings, as well as musical elements designed to help children who face sensory challenges. Accessible, temperature-controlled bathrooms, with adult-sized changing tables, are also on-site.

BLISS PARK

Fifth St. and Clark Ave., Exit 159, Effingham, IL

This cozy, city block-sized park features large trees, a beautiful garden area and a fountain. It is also conveniently located just minutes from the interstates. Additionally, there are multiple pavilions, playground areas and outdoor basketball courts. It is a lovely place to enjoy a picnic with family or friends.

LAKE SARA FOREVER BEACH PLAYGROUND

15250 N Beach Rd., Exit 160, Effingham, IL

Children and parents alike will enjoy this new addition to the Lake Sara Pearson Peninsula! This playground is just the first of several phases in the Lake Sara Forever Project, a project aimed to preserve and enhance Lake Sara for generations to come. Kids (as well as adventurous parents) can explore a larger-than life pirate ship in the 5 to 12-year-old playground, in addition to a swing set, climbing ropes, a 2 to 5-year-old fort area and much more - designed for all ages and abilities. An accessible fishing dock, 9-hole disc golf course and 4-hole accessible disc golf course were also completed with the park. www.lakesaraforever.com



Aug. 12 — Farmers Market in downtown Vandalia from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Sept. 9 — Farmers Market in downtown Vandalia from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Oct. 14 — Farmers Market in downtown Vandalia from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

FAYETTE COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Vandalia State House

The Vandalia State House, built in 1836, is the fourth capitol building of the U.S. state of Illinois. It is also the oldest capitol building in Illinois to survive, as the first, second, and third capitol 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 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sun and Mon. Located 315 W Gallatin St., Vandalia, IL 62471

Fayette County Museum

Located in the 1867 Presbyterian Church directly behind The Vandalia State House, it houses over 8,000 donated items from county residents as well as a tool used by Abraham Lincoln. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.-4 p.m. Call 618-283-9380 for more information.

Axe on Main/Forge A Memory

Axe Throwing Center located at 409 N. Main St. in St. Elmo IL.

Jasper County Events

May 20 — 7th Annual Jeanette Coleman Memorial Fishing Tournament. Signup 8 a.m. at Boars Nest east of Sainte Marie. Plaques for biggest catfish, biggest bass and most pounds of pan fish per string (live). Fish fry after Weigh-In. Everyone welcome — fishing or not. All proceeds go to the Bend Community Club. For more information call Chad Coleman at 618-354-1713.

May 27 — Troy Huddleston Memorial Semi Truck Show and Concert at the

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Jasper County Fairgrounds in Newton, IL. Some of the nicest semi trucks will be on display from all over the Midwest and a country concert featuring Tony Justice, Confederate Railroad and The Kentucky Headhunters in front of the Jasper County Fairgrounds Grandstand starting at 4 p.m.

June 3 & 4 — Rockin' With Rash Jackpot Show at the Jasper County Fairgrounds in Newton IL featuring a full weekend of pig showing. For more information contact James Judson at 618-793-2339.

June 3 & 17 — Sainte Marie Farmers Market at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie, IL from 8 a.m. to Noon.

June 10 — MVP Happy Holler 7th Annual Veterans Jeep Run. Signup from 10 a.m. to Noon. \$10 per person.

June 19 to 24 — Jasper County Fair at the fairgrounds in Newton, IL. Harness Racing at 6 p.m. on June 19 and 20, Tractor/Truck Pull on June 21, ITPA Tractor Pull on June 23 at 7 p.m., Whippoorwill Rodeo on June 24 at 7 p.m.

July 1 — Summer Olympics at MVP Happy Holler starting shortly after Noon.

July 1 & 15 — Sainte Marie Farmers Market at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie, IL from 8 a.m. to Noon.

July 8 — The Cork & Pork Festival at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie. Wine Tastings, Beer Garden, Pork and Live Music. For more information call 618-783-3772.

July 26 — Micro Wrestling Federation Show at 7 p.m. at MVP Happy Holler. THIS SHOW IS ALL-AGES! The Micro Wrestling Federation is a full-scale, WWE type event supported by an entire cast under five feet tall. It's going to be pandemonium as the Micro Wrestlers body slam, bear hug, and headlock throughout an evening of nonstop action. Here is what you can expect: Two Single Matches: Who are the toughest Micro Wrestlers? Come find out! Micro Brawl: Body slams, suplexes, and punches to the face can take place anywhere in the venue! Get ready for up-close and personal Micro action! Micro Rumble: The Micro superstars enter the squared circle and stand tiny toe-to-tiny toe against one another in the main event! The belt is on the line and only one Micro wrestler will leave as champion.

Aug. 5 & 19 — Sainte Marie Farmers Market at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie, IL from 8 a.m. to Noon.

Sept. 2 & 16 — Sainte Marie Farmers Market at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie, IL from 8 a.m. to Noon.

Sept. 23 — Drag Show with Sharon & The Sharealikes at 8 p.m. at MVP Happy Holler.

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 N Theatre

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

Embarras 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 Sainte Marie. There are plenty of places to stop, look and enjoy.

Jefferson County Events

May-September — Thursday Night Live 2023! Cedarhurst Center for the Arts. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day – Cedarhurst stays open late until 8 p.m. every Thursday. The museum converts the back patio and lawn into a third space, giving the community members a place to gather, network, and enjoy the beautiful southern Illinois summer and scenery. Thursday Night Live is a no-pressure way to engage first time visitors of "non-art folks" to gain appreciation for the arts and learn about the many different programs that we offer year-round.

May-October — First Friday Storytime. Pre-K kids and their parent or caretaker are invited to join us inside Mitchell Museum at 10 a.m. on the first Friday of each month for Story Time! Learn about art, nature's seasons, cultural traditions, colors, and artists through age-appropriate books. Like us on Facebook at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts to stay in-the-know of all upcoming events.

June 2 & 3 — Cajun Fest 2023 at Pheasant Hollow Winery! Cajun music and Cajun food, along with other food vendors will be here from 2-10 p.m.! Save this date and don't miss out on the fun...rain or shine! No outside coolers or alcohol allowed please! Don't forget your lawn chairs! All Ages welcome! Admission. \$10 per ticket.

June 3 — Mt. Vernon's hottest new festival is back for 2023! The Mt. Vernon Homebrewers festival showcases the art of homebrewed beer, produced by local homebrewers! For one great price, you get access to the festival, a commem-

orative tasting glass and a huge variety of beer samples. The festival will also feature great local food available for purchase and great local music. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact us if your business is interested in sponsoring this event. Mt. Vernon Festivals, Inc is a 501(c)(3) organization. People's Choice award to be picked and awarded at the festival! THIS IS A 21 AND OVER EVENT! Admission Tickets are \$20.

June 10 — PawFest 2023. Enjoy a furry filled day with pets at Veterans Park! Bring your pet (on a leash), adopt a new one or just come and enjoy the many vendors and stage presentations! PawFest returns to Veterans Park on Saturday, June 10th from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Browse a variety of vendor booths with special pet products, crafts, food, games, and more. Your doggie won't want to miss this celebration of pets! For more information contact The Mt. Vernon Convention & Visitors Bureau at tourism@mtvernon.com or (618) 242-3151. Visit our Facebook page, Enjoy Mt. Vernon, for additional updates about the event. Free admission.

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 Veterans Memorial Drive. 1-618-241-0691. Open Sat. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. & Sun. noon - 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

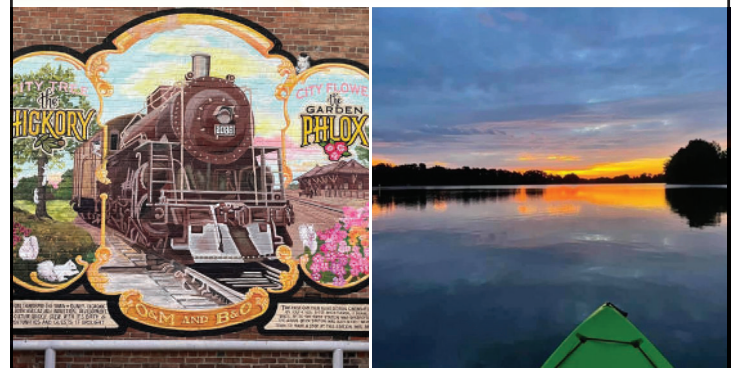
Cedarhurst Center For The Arts

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. (618) 242-1236

Jefferson County Historical Village

Unique to Mt. Vernon, you can experience the past at the Historical Village as you walk through a pioneer village of authentic log cabins, featuring a calaboose (circa 1820), the Mount Olive Church (circa 1873), a one-room schoolhouse and more. Admission is free. (618) 246-0033

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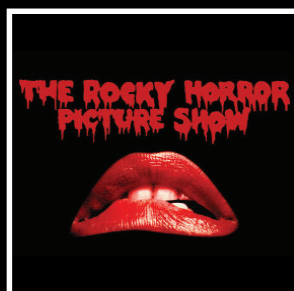
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Macon County Events

April 29 — Images in Motion Film Festival at Millikin University, Shilling Hall, Albert Taylor Theatre, 1184 W. Main St. in Decatur, IL. Showcase of Millikin University student filmmakers, awards for winners in a variety of categories, awards presentations and discussions, 6 p.m., 217-424-6318.

April 29 — D-Town Throwdown Highland Games at Decatur Hotel and Conference Center, 4191 US 36 West in Decatur. Scottish Ancient Athletics features 9 competitive heavy events, Celtic dancers, Clan Row and vendors. Presented by the St. Andrew's Society of Central Illinois. Kilts encouraged. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For competitor registration, please call 217-358-3192.

May 5 to 7 — Heroicon 2023 at Decatur Conference Center & Hotel, 4191 US 36 West in Decatur. Tabletop gaming convention, Friday & Saturday Noon-11 p.m., Sunday Noon - 5 p.m. For more information call 217-422-8800.

May 6 — Led Zeppelin 2 at Kirkland Fine Arts Center, 1215 N. Kirkland Drive in Decatur. Live experience recreates the sights, sounds and the pure rock n roll euphoria of a Led Zeppelin concert, drummer Millikin alum Greg Fundis, 7:30 p.m. Call 217-424-6318.

May 12 — VIP Night. Madden Arts Center, The Loft, 125 N. Water St. in Decatur. Sample rare and hard to find beers and ciders not available at the Festival, hors d'oeuvres, souvenir glass, live entertainment, entrance to Festival, access to the VIP area, extra tasting tickets, for ages 21 and older, 7-10 p.m. Reservations required. Call 217-423-3189.

May 13 — Craft Beer Festival. Downtown Decatur, Central Park. Central Illinois craft beer samples, live music, visual artists, food trucks and more, must be 21 and older, Noon - 4 p.m. Reservations required. Call 217-423-3189.

May 13 — Jazz Bash at Door 4 Brewing Company, 1214 W. Cerro Gordo St. in Decatur. Millikin jazz and commercial ensembles gather for a year-end celebration featuring BluBop, OneVoice, Combos, Electric Guitar Ensemble and Jazz Bands I & II at 2 p.m. Free. 217-424-6318.

May 19 — Kansas in concert at 7 p.m. at Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

May 28 — Jump: America's Van Halen Experience with Decade of Decadence in concert at 7 p.m. at Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

June 7 to 11 — Macon County Fair at 3700 N. Westlawn Avenue in Decatur, IL. One of the longest running County Fairs in Illinois! Featuring harness racing, carnival rides and games, Queen Pageant, Rodeo, music entertainment by local bands, demo derby, tractor pulls and so much more!

July 8 & 9 — Centennial Lake Fest at Nelson Park Lakefront in Decatur, IL. Saturday from Noon to 8 p.m. and Sunday from Noon to 5 p.m. Featuring tons of activities in the marina and along the lake front, food trucks, arts festival, FREE family activities, live music, sail boat presentations, boat parade, and an attempt to get Lake Decatur into the Guinness Book of World Records for the most amount of recycled plastic bottle boats with the goal of launching around 320 recycled plastic boats at the event from the beach.

July 16 — Ice Cream Safari at Scovill Zoo in Decatur, IL from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Stroll the grounds and sample different ice cream flavors throughout the zoo!

Aug. 29, 30 & 31 — Farm Progress Show in Decatur, IL. The Farm Progress Show is the nation's largest outdoor farm event. Highlights include field demonstrations and a 90-acre exhibit field filled with hundreds of exhibitors. With hundreds of exhibitors, there's no better place to engage with the latest farm products and the specialists who developed, tested and designed them. Whether you are looking to innovate with the latest ag-technology, learn from industry experts, or share your farming legacy with your family, the Farm Progress Show has it all.

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.

Marion County Events

May 12 — May Market 5-9 p.m. Artisan Market Featuring Vintage & Antique, Handmade Goods, Boutiques, Cocktails, Food Trucks, Live Music & More! A Fair Barn, 3416 Hotze Rd, Salem, IL.

July 4 — Centralia 4th of July Celebration Parade at 10 a.m. The parade begins at the intersection of West Broadway and South Chestnut Street in Centralia and travels west on Broadway. It ends in Fairview Park near the south entrance (0.74 miles). The parade will consist of vehicles and pedestrian traffic and include veterans, service members, families of service members, veteran or military support organizations and/or individuals wishing to display their support. This event is sponsored by the Centralia Veteran Affairs Committee. Those in attendance will not want to miss the other festivities in Fairview Park including a 3-day carnival, food vendors and a fireworks display later that day at dusk.

July 9 - Aug. 20 — 2-5 p.m. Downtown Summer Concert Series with FREE LIVE MUSIC at Crooked Creek Winery Downtown at 107 N. Oak Street in Centralia, IL. Food trucks, Drinks tent, draft beer, spiked lemon shakeups, wine slushes, and activities. July 9 - STIR OF ECHOES. July 16 - CHEERS BAND. July 23 - CAT DADDY'O. July 30 - BEAUCOUP BOTTOM BAND. Aug. 6 - BAD MEDICINE. Aug. 13 - BOOMBOX ALL 80'S BAND. Aug. 20 - CHAMPAGNE FIXX

Aug. 19-20 — Centralia Balloon Fest. Wristband \$5 gives Admission - good for all weekend! Wristbands available at event gates (Cash Only) or skip the line and purchase in advance at various locations. Kids Under 6 - Free Admission. Featuring 40 hot air balloons, entertainment, crafts, tethered balloon rides, car show, fireworks, food and craft vendors. No pets. No alcohol. No coolers. No unauthorized vehicles. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and sunscreen!

MARION COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Centralia Carillon & Musical Fountain

Come see and hear the distinctive sites and sounds of the Centralia Carillon towering 165 feet high above the city. The Centralia Carillon, the sixth largest bell tower in the world, is played by a professional carillonneur who climbs 173 steps to play the bells in concert. The base of the tower contains a small museum, and tours of the Carillon are available free to the public by making a reservation.

The beauty of the Centralia Carillon is enhanced by the surrounding tower park just west of the carillon tower. The "sitting wall" is a perfect spot to listen to the music. Soft amber lighting at night makes the park an attractive place to take an evening stroll. Visitors may also experience the one and only musical fountain which moves to the unique expressions of the Carillon. For private tours or concert information please call (618)533-4381.

Centralia Area Historical Society Museum

At the Centralia Area Historical Society Museum, located at 240 South Locust Street in Centralia, IL, you can experience the area's rich railroad history through vintage pictures, tools, clothing and even a tour of a real caboose. Civil War items, military uniforms, equipment, ration books, flags, awards and other artifacts mark special times in the history of this country and the Centralia area.

Centralia is rich in mining history, and detonators, lunch buckles, rescue equipment, and newspaper reports of the #5 Mine Disaster can be viewed at the Museum. The experiences you can have here are too numerous to list, but we know you won't want to miss the history of this unique area.

Kinmundy Log Cabin Village

Every year the last couple weekends of September, Kinmundy Log Cabin Village has a Fall Festival that includes food and craft vendors and people in period costume doing demonstrations. Fast forward to the last two weekends in October to enjoy their Haunted Trail! Many of the cabins were local cabins moved here for preservation. Learn the history of these cabins and get a first-hand glimpse of what cabin life was like for 19th century pioneers. kinmundylogcabinvillage.com

Stephen A Forbes State Park

Picture yourself on the banks of a beautiful lake, surrounded by shady oaks and rolling hills. As the sun comes up, take a swim at sandy Rocky Point Beach. The rest of the day offers many options, from hiking on the nature trails, to softball or volleyball at the Circle Drive Picnic Area to water skiing. Or, you may want to spend the night at the Oak Ridge Campground. All of this, and more, awaits visitors to Stephen A. Forbes State Recreation Area at 6924 Omega Rd, Kinmundy, IL.

2023 TRAVEL TIME TOURS

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International Military Tattoo, Greenbrier Bunker Tour, Williamsburg, Victory Rover Boat Tour, Battleship Wisconsin, Michie Tavern Lunch, Virginia Beach, Monticello Tour...7 meals

June 5-10 • Circle Michigan • \$969 Double or \$1,379 Single
Henry Ford Museum, Bronner's Christmas Store & City Tour of Frankenmuth, Ferry Ride to Mackinac Island & Carriage Tour, Music House in Traverse City...8 meals

August 5-7 • Michigan Nascar Race • \$499 Double or \$635 Single
Includes Cup Ticket, Hotel & 3 Meals

October 2-11 • New England • \$2,199 Double or \$3,099 Single
Niagara Falls Maid of the Mist Tour, Ben & Jerry's, Morris Sugar Maple Farm, Nubble Lighthouse, Kennebunkport Tour, Lobster Cruise, Boston City Tour, West Point Tour, Warther's Museum, Dutch Valley Amish Dinner...12 Meals

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Cedarhurst Center for the Arts features impressive collection

The exterior of the Mitchell Museum is shown. Devin Walk photo

BY DEVIN WALK

When people imagine a respected art museum, they think of museums located in cities or university towns. They might imagine the columned edifice of the St. Louis Art Museum or the stone lions standing guard outside the Art Institute of Chicago.

But what about Mt. Vernon, Illinois, a town with roughly the same population as Effingham?

The Cedarhurst Center for the Arts is only an hour drive from Effingham County. The arts center has been a southern Illinois cultural Mecca since 1973.

The Cedarhurst Center for the Arts is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition given to our nation's museums. Only 3% of museums in America have been bestowed this honor.

The Cedarhurst Center for the Arts campus sits on a vast 80-acre property in the middle of Mt. Vernon. It resembles a gated park, with sculptures dotting the forested landscape and four elegant buildings: The Mitchell Museum, the historic Mitchell House, the Shrode Art Center, and Schweinfurth House.

Eleanor and John Mitchell started the Mitchell Foundation in 1965. The couple were prominent members of Mt. Vernon's society. John was the heir to his family's furniture business, which he expanded to three locations. John was also a founding partner of the Security Bank and Trust Company, which became Bank of America after multiple sales.

However, the Mitchells made most of their fortune through oil. John learned



A set of dining silver from 1742 is shown. The description lists it as "George II Wrought Silver Epergne." Devin Walk photo

of potential oil fields in Southern Illinois. He started purchasing land and mineral rights throughout the area. According to the Cedarhurst website, by 1940, the Mitchells owned the fastest producing oil well in Illinois.

The Mitchells enjoyed art and started a collection from their travels abroad and friendships they created with art consiseurs. State Senator John J. Parish was a friend of the Mitchells and helped them acquire artworks from Chicago galleries.

They especially admired the bold and colorful brushstrokes of late 19th century French Impressionist artists. But they preferred to start an American collection. Most of the American artists they collected had been educated in Europe or were instructed by teachers that studied in Europe.

The Mitchell Museum opened in 1973. The Mid-Century/modern structure houses a small but highly impressive collection of 19th century and 20th century American artworks. Groundbreaking artists like Thomas Eakins, William Glackens, Mary Cassatt, and Robert Henri adorn its walls.

A few standouts include Mary Cassatt's "Young Woman Nursing Her Child." Cassatt was part of the group of impressionist painters that upended the art world in the latter half of the 19th century. She spent most of her life in France, where she was recognized by Edgar Degas and other contemporaries. This striking painting depicts a mother nursing her child. Like most impressionist paintings, when viewed from a distance, the broken colors optically blend together to create a vivid painting.

Thomas Eakins' portrait "Professor George F. Barker"



Mary Cassatt's "Young Woman Nursing Her Child," painted circa 1908, is shown. Devin Walk photo

American aristocracy. They used dark palettes of grays and browns and energetic brushstrokes to depict a country in the midst of rapid change, while shining a light on the dismal conditions of working class Americans.

Other artworks in the Mitchell Museum include paintings from Midwest artists, sculptures, and a Chinese mother-of-pearl panel screen.

Over the years the Mitchell Museum building has expanded to include a kids' interactive center, a temporary exhibit space, a corridor gallery that currently displays photography from SIUC students, and a state-of-the-art performance hall for music acts.

Outside of the Mitchell Museum is the Goldman-Kuenz

er" is also stunning. It was known as being one of Eakins' favorites. The lighting and technique used to depict the professor's beard is masterful. His gaze evokes a sense of professorly contemplation.

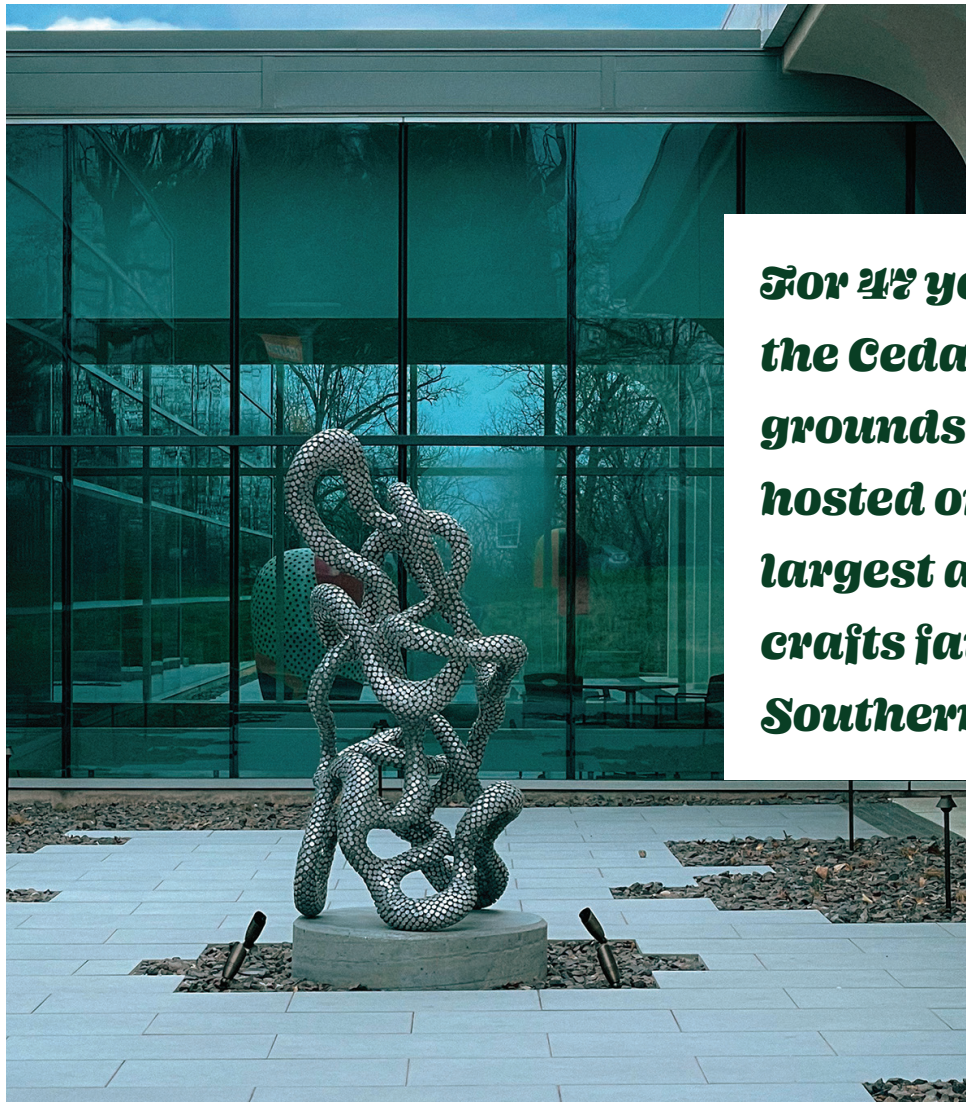
Eakins is regarded as one of America's greatest painters of the 19th century. His revolutionary use of the newly invented camera helped guide his paintings towards a sense of realism. He was widely influential towards the Ashcan school of painters, which are prominently featured throughout the museum.

The Mitchells' collection of 20th century Ashcan artworks is astounding. Artworks from artists including Robert Henri, William Glackens, George Bellows and George Luks line the walls. The Ashcan school focused on painting realistic scenes

of daily life in America. In contrast with other American artists, they focused on painting working class Americans instead of an idealized



Thomas Eakins' "Professor George F. Barker," painted in 1886, is shown. Devin Walk photo



One of the many sculptures throughout the campus is shown. Devin Walk photo

**For 47 years,
the Cedarhurst
grounds have
hosted one of the
largest arts and
crafts fairs in
Southern Illinois.**

displays over 1 million Christmas lights. Another building on campus is the Shro-

de Art Center, which includes a gallery, classrooms and studio space. Adults and children can take classes on quilting, clay work, haiku writing, watercolor painting, cosplay costume creation and many other artistic practices. It also hosts art competitions.

The historic Mitchell House and the modern Schweinfurth

House can be rented for events or meetings.

If you're looking for a place to be inspired, create art, or meet other creatives, think of the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts. It's less than hour drive away. Its collection of art is astounding.

Sculpture Park that extends throughout campus. Its wooded pathways, mixed in with sculptures and a pond, make it an idyllic location. Some of the featured artists are John Kearney, Fletcher Benton, Alexander Liberman, Chakaia Booker, Bob Emser, Deborah Masuoka, Tom Orr, Harry Gordon, Patrick McDonald and Josh Garber. The area has become a favorite place for joggers, wedding photographers, and more.

For 47 years, the Cedarhurst grounds have hosted one of the largest arts and crafts fairs in Southern Illinois. The arts and crafts fair is in September and hosts artists from across the country.

It also hosts "Ironclad Art: The Motorcycle," a family-friendly event for motorcyclists to showcase their motorcycles as a vehicle for self-expression. During the winter holiday season, the campus



The exterior of the Mitchell House is shown. Devin Walk photo

MOCCASIN CREEK FESTIVAL SET FOR JUNE 22-25 AT THE STAGE AT LAKE SARA

Poss Music Works NFP will present the ninth annual Moccasin Creek Festival June 22-25, 2023 at the Reel Marina at Lake Sara. The festival will feature 30 musical acts over 4 days and nights plus craft vendors, food vendors and a full bar. Tickets and information about the festival can be found at www.moccasin creek festival.com.

This year's Moccasin Creek Festival celebrates the return of some past favorites like Steve Poltz, Chain Station, The Burney Sisters, Trout Fishing in America, Carsie Blanton plus fresh faces like American Aquarium, Adeem the Artist, Jamie McDell, Jonathan Byrd, Caleb Caudle and perennial standouts Chicago Farmer, Taylor Steele and The Love Preachers, Charlie Roth, Greg Klyma and LoveSeat.

Bill Poss, executor director of Poss Music Works NFP, says the festival space is better than ever. "Some of the things that people love about the

festivals we present are things we never boast about, but they make the Moccasin Creek Festival and Summer Sundown Music Festival the warmest and most laid-back festivals in the Midwest: Free parking a hundred yards from the festival, clean flush toilets and sinks, great food vendors, fair pricing at the bar, a sweet little free beach, and a campground 200 yards away. When people come to the festival, they can't believe the ease and comfort they experience. Now they have built playgrounds and a disc golf course by the beach. It's amazing."

Raleigh, NC's American Aquarium will headline on Friday night. They have a large national following for their rough-cut brand of rock and roll/Americana music. Their highly acclaimed album "Burn.Flicker.Die" was produced by multi-Grammy winner Jason Isbell. Back by popular demand, Trout Fishing in America, has been touring festivals in the U.S. and Europe since the 80s. They became one of the biggest

children's music acts in the 90s and will be performing both a headlining set on Saturday night and a kids/family show on Sunday afternoon at noon.

The youngest members of the 2023 lineup are a sensational trio of siblings from Columbia, MO called The Burney Sisters. They are also playing two shows this year, on the main stage Friday and again on the Shady Stage Saturday afternoon. This will be one of the last performances The Burney Sisters will make as a trio, as the oldest sister Liv will be parting ways to pursue her own artistic dreams. Adeem the Artist is a new arrival with their highly praised new album "White Trash Revelry" named by Rolling Stone as one of the best records of 2022.

Learn more about the lineup at the website: www.moccasin creek festival.com. For sponsorship or vendor inquiries, please contact Bill Poss at possmusicworks@gmail.com.

2023 MOCCASIN CREEK FESTIVAL

**AMERICAN
AQUARIUM**

**CARSIE
BLANTON**

**TROUT
FISHING
IN AMERICA**

**STEVE
POLTZ**

**ADEEM THE
ARTIST**

**THE BURNEY
SISTERS**

**CHICAGO
FARMER**

**CHAIN
STATION**

**JAMIE
M'DELL**

**CALEB
CAUDLE**

**BETH
BOMBARA**

**TAYLOR STEELE AND
THE LOVE PREACHERS**

**JONATHAN
BYRD**

**GREG KLYMA AND THE
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**Taylor Steele AND
THE Love Preachers**
THE PEOPLE vs. Hugh DeNeal
THE GRUESOMES

Moultrie County Events

May 27 — Sullivan Country Club Centennial Celebration starting at 2 p.m.
June 8 to 18 — Jersey Boys at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL.
June 10 — St. Jude Dash and Bash at the Sullivan American Legion in Sullivan, IL from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.
June 13, June 15 to 17 — The Legend of Robyn Hood at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL.
July 6 to 16 — Driving Miss Daisy at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL.
July 11, July 13 to 15 — Alice in Wonderland at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL.
July 20 to 30 — Million Dollar Quartet at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL.
Aug. 3 to 13 — Escape to Margaritaville at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL.
Aug. 8, Aug. 10 to 12 — 101 Dalmations at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL.
Aug. 17 to 27 — A Second Helping: The Church Basement Ladies Sequel at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL.
Sept. 8 — Backyard Bluegrass Festival starting at 2 p.m. at 790 Southern Rd in Sullivan, IL featuring Rhonda Vincent.
Sept. 16 — Relay for Life of Moultrie County at 2 West Harrison Street in Sullivan, IL.

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 and also marks the west edge of the area's large Amish settlement. Abraham Lincoln traversed 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 sullivanil.us.

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

Okaw Valley Orchard

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.

Richland County Events

June 10 — RGC Ladies Association Invitational Tournament, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Richland Country Club. Get your 4-Person Scramble team ready to go for this annual fun event! This year's theme is still TBD.
July 4 — Fireworks Spectacular. Richland County Firegrounds/Olney City Park
July 4 — Independence Day at Heritage House. Each summer, a large number of visitors meet in the backyard of the Heritage House to celebrate Independence Day, taking in live entertainment and enjoying ice cream and cookies. The event is normally held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the Fourth of July. Richland Heritage House Museum, 330 S. Kitchell Avenue in Olney, IL.
July 21-29 — Richland County Fair, Olney City Park. For More information, Call 618-392-0766 or visit richlandcountyfair.org
Oct. 27 — TrustBank Halloween Parade in Olney, IL.
Nov. 23 to Dec. 25 — Christmas Lights Display in Olney City Park.

RICHLAND COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

White Squirrels

For more than 100 years, the 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; all but four of the 33 main buildings in the district are single-family homes.

Shelby County Events

April 29 — First Annual 5K Run Walk for Life at General Dacey Trail in Shelbyville, IL. Proceeds help programs at the Family Life Center in Shelbyville. Location: N 9th St., Shelbyville, IL.
April 29 — Spores N More Festival in Windsor, IL. Kick off spring with food trucks, small businesses, vendors, live music, great deals and more! mushrooms. A mushroom soup lunch will be available at the American Legion. For more information, contact ahuff1031@yahoo.com
April 29 & 30 — Spring Fest at Vahling Vineyards and Winery at 2683 Country Hwy 6, Stewardson, IL. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 29 and 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on April 30. Wine Tasting, Food, Vendors & Music. Music by Dakota Danielle from noon to 3 p.m. and Battle Creek Band from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 29. Music by Tait Kelly Bluegrass Band from 1 to 5 p.m. on April 30.
May 27 — Strasburg village wide Rummage Sales starting at 7 a.m.
May 27 & 28 — Blues Fest starting at 1 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery, 1796 N. 1475 East Road, Shelbyville, IL 62565. Music on Saturday by Michael Charles from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Brandon Santini from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mary Jo Curry from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Music on Sunday will be Matthew Curry from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Cash Box Kings from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pauly's BBQ will be on site for food purchases both days. \$10 cover charge per day at the door.
May 29 — Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Memorial in Strasburg, IL starting at 11 a.m. Program and meal.
June 1 — Berries & Burgers at the Strasburg IL Community Center from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fill up on porkburger or hot dog meal and fresh strawberry shortcake.

June 3 — Strasburg Lions Club Chicken Fry starting at 4 p.m. at the Village Park in Strasburg, IL.

June 3 — Hoofin to the Cow 5K Race in Stewardson IL.

June 4 — First Annual Kayak, Canoe & Paddleboard Competition from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Lake Shelbyville, starting at the high-water boat dock near 9th Street Recreation Area. The planning committee is working to develop a water trail that connects the 9th Street Dock to Opossum Creek Campground and Coon Creek Campground. This event is in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and organized by the Youth Ambassador Program.

July 8 — Tractor Pull at the Lions Club Recreation Facility in Stewardson, IL.

July 14 & 15 — Lions Club Homecoming in Strasburg IL. Tractor Pull and Parade on Saturday.

July 15 — Captain Rat & The Blind Rivets at 6 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery. High energy 50's and 60's rock 'n roll show, bursting with humor and satire. Great American Music the whole family can enjoy!

July 22 & 23 — Stu's Good 'Ol Boys Tractor Show at Stu's Equipment Repair on Rt. 32 in Stewardson, IL.

July 28 & 29 — Walleye Festival in Findlay, IL. Festival begins at 4 p.m. on July 28 with the Walleye Tent open from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Firehouse. Kids inflatables near the Firehouse from 4 to 9 p.m. and music in the beer tent starting at 8 p.m. Car Show from noon to 3 p.m. on July 29 and Festival Parade starts at 10 a.m. Walleye Tent is open on July 29 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. with kids inflatables from noon to 8 p.m. Beer tent opens at noon. Entertainment on the main stage from noon to 9:30 p.m. and from 8 to midnight in the beer tent.



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Aug. 17, 18 & 19 — Windsor Harvest Picnic, featuring Jerrod Niemann on Saturday, Aug. 19! Come enjoy the parade, food, country music and entertainment, along with many other activities at the City Park in Windsor, IL.

Aug. 26 — Tractor Pull at the Lions Club Recreation Facility in Stewardson, IL.

Sept. 9 — Fall Village Wide Rummage Sales in Strasburg, IL.

SHELBY COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Vahling Vineyards

Vahling Vineyards is a winery located at 2683 Co. Hwy 6, Stewardson IL. (217)682-5409. vahlingvineyards.com. They have a Wine & Brandy Tasting Room. Enjoy a glass inside or on their large patio!

Willow Ridge Vineyards and Winery

Willow Ridge Vineyards and Winery is located at 1796 North 1475 East Road, Shelbyville IL. (217)738-2323. Open noon - 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. on Sundays. Check out their Facebook page for a list of live bands and food vendors each weekend.

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

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.

Tree-filled 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.

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.

Johnson's Goat Tower

Johnson's Goat Tower is located at 1968 N. 2500 East Road at Windsor, IL 61957. The tower is a structure consisting of 5000 handmade bricks from North Carolina, 276 concrete steps that are 40 inches long and cantilevered into the brick and a copper roof. The six compartments, three on each side, have a concrete floor. At 31 feet tall with a 7 ½ foot diameter, it is the world's largest goat tower. Saanen goats, Swiss dairy goats that love to climb, live in the tower. Phone (217)454-2337 and leave a message or text. goattowerfarm.com



Paddling Lake Shelbyville

Established in 2020, the Lake Shelbyville Water Trail – Kaskaskia Branch travels downstream from Denham Pit Primitive Boat Ramp to Forrest W. Bo Wood Boat Ramp. In total, it is just under a 12-mile kayak trip that takes around 4 hours to complete (at normal lake level.) This versatile trail offers distances for all paddling experience levels with several put in/take out points along the route and quiet coves to explore!

Moweaqua Coal Mine Museum

Moweaqua Coal Mine Museum at 129 S. Main St. in Moweaqua, IL has displays and memorabilia from a bygone era in mid-western prairie history. Most well-known for the Dec. 24, 1932 disaster that killed 54 workers, the coal mine closed in 1935 and the museum was dedicated in 1986. Hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Moweaqua.org

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, 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 Aug. 1, 1970. The lake was officially dedicated Sept. 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 Marker 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.

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217-923-3220

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chestersinternational.com

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217-923-3220
nafnafgrill.com

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Love's Travel Stops & Country Store
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217-923-3225
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MUSEUMS

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211 W. Cumberland St.
(217) 923-9306

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Illinois Military Museum**
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CARNEGIE MILITARY MUSEUM



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Greenup Chamber of Commerce
217-254-8461

Greenup E-Z Laundry
211 E. Cumberland St.

The Village Venue
119 S. Kentucky St.
217-690-3312 and Facebook

**The Shipyard
(Batting Cages/Pitching Mound)**
106 E. Cumberland St.
Facebook

ELSTON CORNER PORCHES



JACKSON TRUSS COVERED BRIDGE



Hootenanny
1st Saturday of the Month
Cumberland County Fair
August 11 - August 19, 2023

**Chamber of Commerce
Fall Festival**
October 5-7, 2023

**Halloween Celebration
Greenup Municipal Building**
October 28, 2023

**Christmas in the Village
Greenup Municipal Building**
December 9, 2023