

# A Day Away

Spring/Summer  
2024 Guide

A close-up photograph of a woman with blonde hair in a braid, smiling warmly. She is holding a grey alpaca with a blue halter. The alpaca's face is the central focus, looking directly at the camera. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

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Tuesday

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DAY  
Wednesday

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Market Receipt

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Thursday

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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. 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, and a parade that attracts locals and many visitors. During Halloween we have a large trunk or treat event and frolic contest. Plus, come experience a hometown Christmas in Marshall with Hometown Holly Days where we will have shopping, food trucks, Santa and more! 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!*



BOATING/CAMPING/FISHING/HUNTING



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CAR SHOW



LION STATUES



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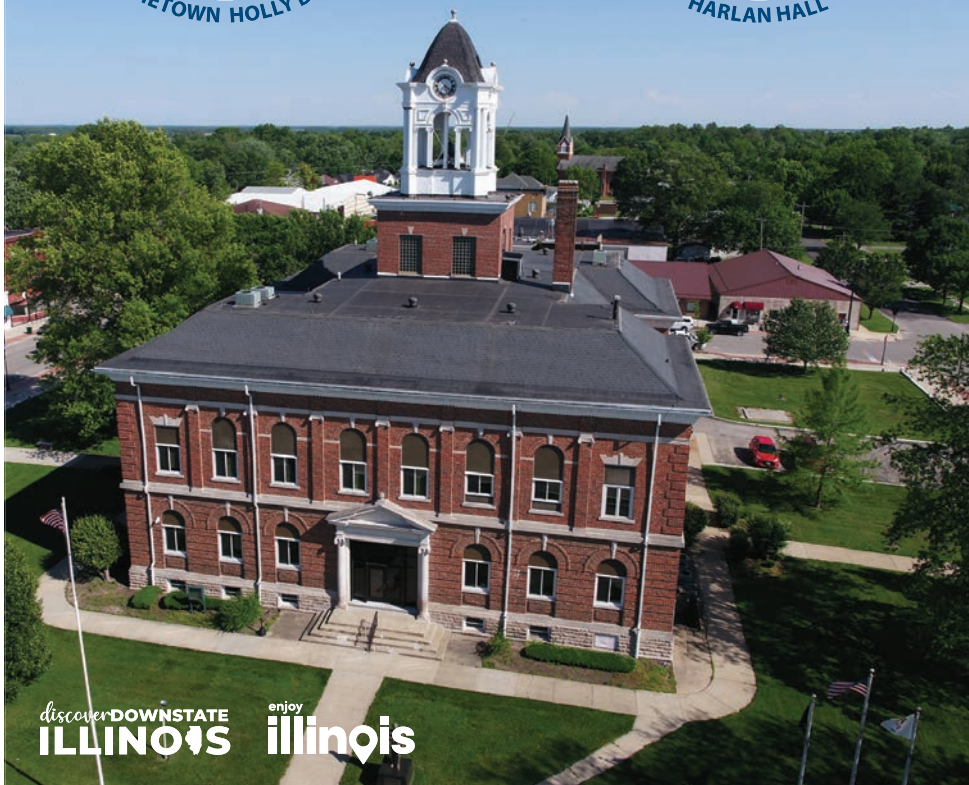
HOMETOWN HOLLY DAYS



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# A Day Away

Spring/Summer 2024

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### The History of the Mill Road Thresherman Association Show

By Alan Shumaker



## ON THE COVER

Brandy Schroeder loves sharing her animals with the community, educating others and offering unique experiences. Submitted photo

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*On the Road*

# A VISIT TO Jones-Confluence Point State Park IN MISSOURI



A view looking north on the Missouri River. Submitted photo.

BY SETH YAGER

**I** awoke to the sound of my iPhone alarm at 5 a.m. on a Saturday in late September. Normally I follow my regular routine of letting the dog out, showering, exercising, and then rewarding myself with a black coffee or tea and some reading at Joe Sippers Cafe before clocking in at work around eight for the morning sales meeting.

However, this particular day was different because I was scheduled to be off of work and had made some other plans. On a trip to Alton, Missouri last year I spent some time looking over a local map for places to possibly visit in the future and I discovered a trail that leads to the point where the Missouri River flows into the Mississippi – “the finest confluence in the world,” according to French explorer Father Pierre Francois de Charlevoix, who visited the spot in 1721.



I myself have always been drawn to river bottoms and have spent plenty of time exploring areas of the Embarras, Kaskaskia, and Little Wabash. So the thought of getting to do so along the Mississippi greatly appealed to me.

The bottoms are not only a great place to encounter birds and other wildlife, but they are also areas that often undergo change due to flooding. This sort of cleansing is something that us humans need for the soul now and then, and spending some time in nature is a positive way to accomplish that.

With my plan in place, I gathered my things and left my home in Dieterich. I stopped in Effingham to pick up my cousin, and after a few cups of coffee and a pecan waffle at Niemerg's we merged onto I-70 westbound toward the big river.

North of Troy we continued west onto I-270, crossed the New Chain of Rocks Bridge into Missouri and then took the exit for Highway 367/67 North at Spanish Lake. We stayed on the highway until we turned back east onto Riverlands Way in West Alton.

Riverlands is a 3,700-acre migratory bird sanctuary that is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. The first building that you come to in Riverlands is the Audubon Center. I had previously read about the Center online and had the intention of visiting, but at that moment I decided to keep moving toward our destination while it was still relatively cool outside.

After a mile and a half, the blacktop becomes Riverlands Drive and Riverlands Way cuts south and turns to gravel. We followed the road into Jones-Confluence Point State Park and along the way passed a group of people who were planting native grasses. Hundreds of butterflies flew all around us as we cruised on and after 4 ½ miles of gravel, we finally reached the parking area at the trailhead.

The trail is a little over 1,500 feet of pavement that leads you through a wooded area and out to the point, a short trip from the car to the water. We followed the path through the woods and emerged from the tree line to see the flowing waters of the two big rivers.

I walked out beyond the pavement and onto the rocks to the very tip of the point so that I could really take in my surroundings. While standing there looking toward the south, I imagined that I was on the bow of a ship destined for New Orleans.

I thought about the importance of this spot in human history and these rivers being the original highway system on the continent, allowing for a sophisticated trading system and the growth of civilization.

The mysterious ancient cultures that resided in the area built large cities of mounds, and the later native inhabitants encountered French explorers and fur traders floating down from the north who would eventually settle and change the way of life in the region.

I thought of the steamboats that dominated the rivers, and of my grandmother reading the story of Huck Finn and Jim braving this behemoth on their raft heading for Cairo.

I soon directed my attention toward the southeast to the Illinois side of the Mississippi and began searching for Camp Dubois at Wood River, where Lewis and Clark had departed on their journey into the wild in 1804, passing by where I was now standing and paddling up the Missouri River.

So much activity in my mind while in that moment silence surrounded me. All that could be heard were the chirps and calls of birds in the distance and the occasional sound of water hitting the rocks.

After a while, we decided that it was time to leave and made our way back to the car and out of the park. I pulled into the Audubon Center, where they had an event going on

with several guided tours throughout the day. The staff members there were extremely kind and almost had us talked into taking a one-hour guided tour discussing pollinators.

But our stomachs were telling us that it was time to eat, so we settled for a few minutes of walking the grounds, taking in what was left of the cool morning air before heading into the city for lunch.

If you are ever in or around St. Louis and are interested in getting out in nature for a bit, I would highly recommend visiting Riverlands. See for yourself what the bottoms have to offer and you will not be disappointed.

---

*Editor's note: Submit stories and photos of your day trips across the region to A Day Away by emailing [jeff.long@effinghamdailynews.com](mailto:jeff.long@effinghamdailynews.com). Include your name, address and telephone number in case we need to reach you.*

**Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-  
Confluence Point State  
Park is a public recreation  
area located on the north  
side of the Missouri River  
at its confluence with the  
Mississippi River in St.  
Charles County, Missouri.  
Address: 1000 Riverlands  
Way, West Alton, MO 63386**







## Bond County Events

**May 4:** Spring Fling and BBQ Competition at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tractor, Gas Engine and Car Parts Swap Meet, Flea Market and Craft Vendors. Train Rides, Historic Hill's Fort, Lil' Red Barn and more! BBQ samples from 30 teams at the Smok'n on the Farm BBQ Competition. Free Parking and music by The Crossroads Band.

**June 8:** AHRR Train Show at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville.

**July 26-28:** Farm Heritage Days at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Tractor Pulls & much more! Free Parking.

**Aug 1-6:** Bond County Fair at the fairgrounds in Greenville, IL.

**Sept 20-22:** Hill's Fort Living History Event at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Experience life in the early 1800s with a variety of events and re-enactors.

**Oct. 4 & 5:** Halloweenville at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Jack-O-Lantern Express, pumpkins & Indian Corn for sale, food, & more starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 11 & 12:** Halloweenville at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Jack-O-Lantern Express, pumpkins & Indian Corn for sale, food, & more starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 18 & 19:** Halloweenville at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Jack-O-Lantern Express, pumpkins & Indian Corn for sale, food, & more starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 25 & 26:** Halloweenville at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Jack-O-Lantern Express, pumpkins & Indian Corn for sale, food, & more starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 29 - Dec. 31:** Christmas Display at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville.

## 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 [demoulinmuseum.org](http://demoulinmuseum.org)

### Marcot 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 [marcotjerseycreamery.com](http://marcotjerseycreamery.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 [americanfarmheritagemuseum.com](http://americanfarmheritagemuseum.com)

## Champaign County Events

**May 3:** The Cadillac Presents: Hairbanger's Ball, 8 p.m. at 106 W. State St., Paxton.

**May 4 & 5:** 2024 CU Tango Music Festival at Urbana Dance Company at the University of Illinois, features live performances of classic and contemporary tango music in Urbana.

**May 11:** World Migratory Bird Day, 12-3 p.m. at Champaign Park District, 1515 N. Market St., Champaign.

**May 18:** Music at the Vines with Voodoo Exiles, 7-10 p.m., Alto Vineyards, 4210 N. Duncan Rd., Champaign.

**May 18 & 19:** Picnic with the Peonies at Allerton Park & Retreat Center, 515 Old Timber Rd., Monticello.

**May 18-Oct. 19:** Third Saturday Garden Tours, Allerton Park & Retreat Center, 515 Old Timers Rd., Monticello.

**May 23:** FAME (1980) from 7-9 p.m. at The Virginia Theatre, 203 W. Park Ave., Champaign.

**May 25:** Final round of 2nd Annual Yellow & Co. Comedy Competition, 604 E. Main St., Suite C, Mahomet.

**May 29:** Chicago: Live in Concert, 7:30 p.m. at the State Farm Center, Champaign.

**June 2:** Monticello presents Art on Main, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Monticello Mercantile, 116 E. Main St., Monticello, IL. Music, dance and artists celebrate in mini-street festival.

**June 7 & 8:** Horizon RC Fest, Eli Field, Iron Horse Plaza, Monticello. The 2 day event features RC Airshow, RC product demonstrations, giveaways, refreshments and more!

**June 8:** Mahomet Soda Fest features FREE kids games, soda, live music, food trucks and more!

**June 27:** Harry Potter & The Sorcerer's Stone (2001), 7-9 p.m. at Virginia Theatre, 203 W. Park Ave., Champaign.

**June 27-30:** Camp Lost Garden at Allerton Park & Retreat Center, 515 Old Timber Rd., Monticello.

**June 28:** Friday Music with Keith & Kathy Harden, 5-7 p.m. at Alto Vineyards, 4210 N. Duncan Rd., Champaign.

**July 19:** The Wallflowers at 8 p.m. at Virginia Theatre, 203 W. Park Ave., Champaign.

**July 19-27:** Champaign County Fair, 1302 N. Coler, Urbana. Featuring Country artist Josh Turner and Tigerlily on July 26. Tickets and show information available at [www.champaigncountyfair.cc](http://www.champaigncountyfair.cc)

**July 27:** Soul Food Family Festival, 1500 N. Lincoln Ave., Urbana. Delicious food, live music, cultural performances and more!

**Aug. 3 & 4:** Crystal Lake Park Art Fair 2024 - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Lake House in Crystal Park, 40 North 88 West, Urbana. Local and regional art vendors featuring paintings, textiles, ceramics, photography, jewelry, glass, mixed media and more.

**Aug. 23 & 24:** Mahomet Music Festival, a family friendly festival featuring live bands, food and more!

**Sept. 13:** Justin Moore Live in Concert with Special Guest Tenille Arts at 8 p.m. at the State Farm Center, Champaign.

## 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](http://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](http://www.arboretum.illinois.edu).

### Gordyville USA

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

### Curtis Orchard

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

## Fine Art of the Midwest



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## Christian County Events

**May 3:** Small Town Taylorville Cruise on the Taylorville Square 4 to 8 p.m. Cars, Trucks, 4x4, Bikes, Trikes, Vintage, Restored, Off-Road, New or Unique. Collectible Dash Plaques for the first 50 cars!

**May 11:** Community City Wide Garage Sales in Taylorville, IL starting at 7 a.m.

**May 24-26:** Mud Memorial Day 2024. Live music, Camping, Mudding & more at South Fork Dirt Riders in Taylorville, IL. Tickets at [www.etix.com/ticket/v/32628/south-fork-dirt-riders](http://www.etix.com/ticket/v/32628/south-fork-dirt-riders)

**July 12-14:** Journey in July: A Shopping Adventure in Taylorville, IL. Enjoy some of Central Illinois' favorite boutiques and specialty shops!

**July 16-20:** Christian County Ag Fair 100th Anniversary celebration

**Aug. 1-3:** South Fork Music & Mud Festival. Live Music, Camping, Mudding & more at South Fork Dirt Riders in Taylorville, IL. Tickets at [www.BCConcerts.com](http://www.BCConcerts.com)

**Oct. 5 & 6:** Chillifest in downtown Taylorville on the square. 2 Day ICS (International Chili Society) Sanctioned Chilli Cook off, Cornhole tournament, craft & food vendors, pageants, parade, kiddie tractor pull, kid zone, entertainment. For more info contact 217-824-4919

**Nov. 2:** Persimmon Party from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Christian County Historical Society, 1791 Morrison Drive, Taylorville, IL. Call 217-824-6922 for more details.

## 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 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](https://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 7:** Job Fair in Marshall; includes 30+ businesses at Harlan Hall, 603 Locust St., Marshall.

**May 11:** Marshall Community-Wide Yard Sale starting at 8 a.m. and continuing throughout the day.

**May 26-June 2:** 78th Martinsville Agricultural Fair Week. Features free carnival rides w/ticket entry, demolition derby, entertainment, rodeo, fair food, vendors and more!

**June 7:** Marshall Farmers Market. Every Friday night, 6-8 p.m., until August.

**June 7:** First Band Concert in Marshall. Every Friday at 8 p.m., thru August.

**June 8:** Conner Lorre - Neil Diamond Tribute, 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater, 14 N. Mill St., Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets.

**June 14:** Mayberry Melodies at Central Park in Casey, 7-9 p.m.

**June 15:** Mayberry Days & Crazy Casey Day in Downtown Casey.

**June 15:** Casey City Wide Yard Sales, All Day.

**June 20 & 21:** Vintage Camper Rally at Lincoln Trail State Park, Marshall.

**June 29:** Meet me in Marshall for Jeep Night.

**June 29:** Taylor Steele & The Love Preachers at Central Park, Casey from 7-9 p.m.

**June 29:** Trouble & Company - 50's & 60's Music, 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater, 14 N. Mill St., Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets.

**July 5-7:** Freedom Fest and City of Casey 4th of July event, All Weekend events, food, crafts, music.

**July 13:** Five Mile Train - Pop, Classic Rock, 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater, 14 N. Mill St., Martinsville.

**July 13:** Mitch Faulkner, JB Faires & Gaye Harrison at Central Park, Casey from 7-9 p.m.

**July 20:** Terry Lee Ridley & His Million Dollar Band featuring music of Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis, Honky Tonk, 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater, 14 N. Mill St., Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets.



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**Crazy Casey Days**  
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 Music • Downtown Shopping

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**July 27:** Motherlode at Central Park, Casey from 7-9 p.m.

**Aug. 2:** Marshall Night Out. 5-8 p.m.

**Aug. 3:** Battle Creek Band, Country, Classic Rock, 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater, 14 N. Mill St., Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets.

**Aug. 3:** Farm to Table Dinner 5 p.m. at Harlan Hall in Marshall, IL.

**Aug. 10:** The Chandeliers at Central Park, Casey from 7-9 p.m.

**Aug. 24:** Creole Stomp, Cajun, Zydeco, Swamp Pop, 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater, 14 N. Mill St., Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets.

**Aug. 24:** The Matt Poss Band at Central Park, Casey from 7-9 p.m.

**Aug. 30-Sept. 2:** 37th Annual Casey Popcorn Festival.

**Sept. 20:** Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing.

**Sept. 20-22:** Marshall Autumn Fest.

**Oct. 5:** Lincoln Trail State Park Frolic.

**Oct. 26:** Marshall Frolic/Trunk or Treat.

**Nov/Dec:** Marshall Shop Small.

**Nov. 30:** Marshall Shop Small Saturday.

**Dec. 7:** Marshall Hometown Holly Days.

## 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

**May 9:** Strange but True Civil War Stories by Dr. Michael Locket 6:30 p.m. at the Flora Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room. Clay County Genealogical Society Library Members free admission, General Public \$5.00 admission fee/donation. Dr. Locket comes in military uniform and brings a variety of uniforms and artifacts to share "Strange-but-True" facts from historical accounts and tells them in a way that helps his audience time travel into the past.

**June 14:** 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 19-26:** Clay County Fair in Flora, IL.

**Sept. 13 & 14:** Shadows of Elmwood Cemetery Tour. Your evening will begin and conclude at the Flora Depot. Patrons will board hayride wagons and be transported into the Elmwood Cemetery. You will stay aboard the hayride and find several interesting characters waiting to tell their stories! Check with the Flora Rotary Facebook page for updates.

**Sept. 20 & 21:** Ford Town USA Celebration. Check with the Visit Flora Tourism Facebook page for updates.

**Oct. 12:** 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. 26:** Halloween Parade through downtown Flora. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

**Nov. 1:** Moonlight Madness in downtown Flora. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

**Dec. 6 & 7 / Dec. 20 & 21:** "Polar Express" movie and activities at the Flora Depot. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce & Flora Depot Facebook pages for updates.

**Dec. 8 & 9:** Kriskindle Market Christmas Festival. Check with the Visit Flora Tourism 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 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.

## Clinton County Events

**May 3 & 4:** Spring City-Wide Yard Sales in Carlyle. Maps at city hall, all Carlyle gas stations and banks.

**June 29:** Fireworks Spectacular Dam Jam. Full day of live music, volleyball tournaments, sand castle building contest, vendors, games and more that ends with a fireworks display.

**July 14-20:** Clinton County Fair. For more info visit clincofair.org

**Aug. 9:** Cruz-in the Dam Car Show at Carlyle Lake. Classic, unique, rat or hot rod vehicles including classic cars, stock cars, drag cars, custom bikes and more! FREE family friendly event. Shop local vendors, enjoy games, auctions, live music and delicious food! Main event is at Mariners Village at Carlyle Lake.

**Sept. 6 & 7:** Carlyle Street Fair in downtown Carlyle. Live Music, Beer & Soda Wagon, Car Show, Pet Parade, Kids Activities, Delicious Food, & Lots of Family Fun!

**Sept. 20 & 21:** Fall City-Wide Yard Sales in Carlyle. Maps at city hall, all Carlyle gas stations and banks.

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Tradesmen work on the front of the Terre Haute Casino Resort. Tribune-Star/Joseph C. Garza

# Terre Haute Casino Resort: *‘There is palpable excitement here’*

BY DAVID KRONKE  
CNHI NEWS

**T**he casino and three restaurants at the Terre Haute Casino Resort was scheduled to open April 5. The hotel and remaining amenities are scheduled to open May 15.

Mike Rich, vice president and general manager of the Terre Haute Casino Resort, said in March that all of the gaming tables and slot machines would be available and ready for gamblers by April 5; so would the Four Cornered Steakhouse, the Rockwood Bar and Grill — both of which offer elegant dining experiences — and the Soda Shoppe, which boasts a ‘50s-style diner vibe.

On May 15, the hotel will throw open its doors; that evening, it will offer a fireworks show at 9 p.m.

Also open will be the Queen’s Beans, a coffee shop with food, the hotel lobby bar, the VIP Lounge, the Crossroads Center Bar (offering sports betting in the heart of the casino) the 10th-floor Altitude Bar and Lounge, and the Pool Bar.

“There is palpable excitement here, between those who work here and those who are excited about visiting,” Rich said.

Several thousand people have signed up for the casino’s Player’s Club cards, and another 10,000 have requested more information about the program.

The Indiana Gaming Commission board approved the Local Development Agreement — also known as a LDA — between the city and Churchill Downs, owner of the Terre Haute Casino Resort, in March.

Mayor Brandon Sakbun appeared before the IGC and thanked Churchill Downs for negotiating its relationship in the com-



munity. He said the casino would add to the accomplishments and growth the city has seen of late.

The Terre Haute Casino Resort installed its slot machines in February.

Rich described the equipment as factory fresh.

"We will be the only casino in Indiana with 100% new product," he said.

Data is abundant for a list of the most popular slots — Churchill Downs' other properties provide the information, as do third parties.

Rich said that manufacturers creating the most popular slot machines include Aristocrat, Light & Wonder and Bluberi, a company that recently entered the slot business.

"Bluberi is very popular and they're new to the scene," Rich said.

Some of the games the casino offers are popular games like Black Diamond Deluxe, Blazing 777, Triple Double Cash, Target Lock Keno and Quick Hit as well as newcomers such as Mighty Cash Ultra and NFL Super Bowl Jackpots.

Rich said there are several pieces to strategizing where to place slot machines in a casino space.

"You want to put the super-popular product at the entrances to make them pop," he said. "But you also have to spread them throughout the casino so that people will venture in and visit the entire casino."

In addition to the 1,000 slot machines, the Terre Haute Casino Resort features 34 gaming tables and nine food and beverage venues.

Rich added, "Interior construction is making great progress and will be ready for our opening on the 5th."



**Terre Haute Casino Resort trainee Sierra Dobson prepares to drop the ball onto the wheel. Tribune-Star/Joseph C. Garza**



**The slot machines arrived at the Terre Haute Casino Resort in February. Submitted photo**

Meanwhile, trainees at the casino have been preparing.

Timothy Bicknell, who goes by the nickname "Lucky George," is living up to his moniker at the roulette wheel. He's placed a chip or two on the precise number that has turned up on the wheel several times in a row, which would pay out 35 times each chip's value.

Not so luckily, he's not actually winning anything.

As a gaming table trainee for the Terre Haute Casino Resort, he and other trainees are just pretending to be gamblers around the wheel, helping other trainees learn the nuances of serving players at a variety of games.

Camryn Wilkey spins the ball with a snap and feeds the gamblers their winnings while Sierra Dobson is "mucking" chips — organizing and stacking the chips that gamblers have recently lost so that they're ready to reenter play.

When the ball audibly slows its spin around the wheel, Wilkey spreads her arms across the table like a baseball umpire signaling "safe" and

announces, "No more bets."

Tonne Newton, a table games instructor/supervisor for the casino, said roulette dealers can either snap or push the ball on the wheel, but style is everything for gaming table dealers.

"Snapping to me is more preferred," she said. "You get more revolutions on your spin, the ball goes around a lot longer, you have longer to check for bets. Snapping is a lot cooler — it's one of those things that give you that flair."

Likewise, dealing cards is best done with flair, as well.

"There's an art to dealing and when it's done right, it's very pretty," said Newton, who shuffles chips in her hand while she



speaks. “The casino business and what you do as a dealer, it’s an art form. It should be smooth, it should be pleasant to watch, so we teach them the procedure.

“It shouldn’t be choppy — my students always say, ‘Tonne likes pretty, just like a ballerina,’” she added. “It shouldn’t just be robotic. I tell them when it comes to blackjack, you need to focus on how you look doing it as well as the fundamentals of doing it.”

Newton emphasizes creating spectacle for the paying customers at the gaming tables.

“This profession is not for the meek and quiet,” she said. “I tell my students, ‘We are their entertainment. They’re there to be entertained.’ It should be like an opera when it’s done, it should look like a ballet. People can go play the slot machines if they don’t want that entertainment.”

Classes for prospective dealers at the casino began in October near the casino’s construction site on Terre Haute’s east side, with students beginning their training on blackjack tables.

“Blackjack is the easiest,” Newton said. “You can get your feet wet with cards, chips, familiarizing yourself with the different income rates and denominations. Once they leave blackjack, we can open them up to all of our carnival games and what we call our core games — your roulette, your dice, your baccarat.”

Craps is the most difficult table to run, she said.

“Dice has a lot of moving parts to it — it’s a lot of verbiage, it’s a lot of different bets being made on the dice table,” Newton said. “Anyone who is a veteran dealer will tell you that’s the monster.”

She has been encouraged by the quality of her students.

“We have had some really, really outstanding people,” Newton said. “I didn’t realize that there’s a lot of people who had never set foot inside a casino, don’t know anything about a card or what this is or what this does.

“Some of them come in very wide-eyed and once they get the concept of what they should be doing, it gets easier,” she added.

Andrew Lanier, senior director of table games for the Terre Haute casino, said the goal was to train 150 dealers. Most will deal blackjack, with 30-50 manning the gaming tables that require more expertise.

About 50% of those who sign up for training don’t make the cut, which he said is “typical,” but those who have passed have done so enthusiastically.



**Terre Haute Casino Resort trainee Sandy Thomas, center, deals cards at the blackjack table.**  
Tribune-Star/Joseph C. Garza

“We’ve seen great success,” he said. “The involvement and level of dedication these people have, I haven’t seen that in a long time. It’s very warming to see that level of excitement — they’re hungry for this.”

Corey Young and Cheyenne Minor are a couple of those hungry dealers. Young, from Madison, Ind., got interested in cards from his great-grandmother, who taught him poker, go fish and spades when she would babysit him

after elementary school.

“She taught me how to do everything,” he said. “We had a little ritual on the weekends where we’d wake up at 2 a.m. to watch ‘Poker After Dark.’ I fell in love with poker at the age of 6. What better way to live with my great-grandmother’s memory than by being a dealer at a casino.”

Minor, from Staunton, Ind., had only been to a casino once before enrolling for gaming training.

“As a new person who has never dealt before, I wouldn’t say I’m bad,” she said.

She added that the training had made her more outgoing.

“I’m finding myself when I’m out in public more open and I can talk to people more,” Minor said.

Like most trainees, Young and Minor have been counting down the days until the casino opens — it stood at 83 when they were interviewed.

“They’re nothing but excited,” Lanier said. “They’re definitely looking forward to the grand opening and so am I.”

Even losers feel like winners when they play with an entertaining dealer, Newton said.

“It doesn’t matter how much they’re losing — when I was dealing, people just liked to play with me because it was fun, it was exciting,” she said.

“One gentleman told me, ‘I didn’t even think about how much money I was losing — I was having such a good time.’ That’s what we want — I want people to have the experience of the entertainment, that’s what’s going to get them in and draw them in. If we can sell someone on the experience, then we have a repeat customer.”

---

David Kronke can be reached at 812-231-4232 or at david.kronke@tribstar.com



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FRUIT FLIES LIKE A BANANA Photo Credit: Andy Batt - [www.andybatt.com](http://www.andybatt.com)



**Oct. 18 & 19:** Haunted Trail hayride starts at Dam West Boat Ramp at Lake Carlyle to the Little Prairie Nature Trail. Food trucks at the Dam West Boat Ramp. 6:30 to 10 p.m.

## CLINTON COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### General Dean Suspension Bridge

The General Dean Suspension Bridge spans the Kaskaskia River at Carlyle. It is named after Major General William F. Dean, a native of Carlyle who served during the Korean War. The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was added to the Register in 1973.

### Cholera Cross

Driving along the main road south of Breese, you will pass a soaring white cross, about 25-feet tall, a remembrance of tragedy that happened 183 years ago. The Cholera Cross is a local landmark with a notable history. Built in 1850, the cross is a memorial to those who lost their lives in the cholera outbreak of 1832. It was a devastating disease caused by contaminated water or food, and transmitted by personal contact. This outbreak was first diagnosed in Chicago, where part of the militia fighting the Black Hawk War was struck. The disease spread quickly, raging like wildfire, eventually reaching southern Illinois where the towns of Breese, Germantown and Carlyle suffered the most devastating losses. During this time, a local farmer, Joe Altepeter, prayed to God to spare his family, and promised that if they lived, he would erect a large cross to profess his faith. His family was spared and Altepeter constructed the cross and mounted it at the road in front of his home. A brass plaque notes the story, a reminder of one man's pledge and a county's devastation. The cross sits at the original location on County Highway 7, about one mile south of Breese, just off the lane that runs to a dairy farm. Be sure to stop and take note the next time you drive by.

### Coal Miners' Monument

Joseph Koch, who along with eight other local miners died in a mine explosion in 1947, is depicted here. Today the Coal Miners Monument on Louis Street in Beckemeyer depicts these downed workers, and pays tribute to the men who helped build one of Clinton County's largest industries.

### Breese Historical Park & Garden

Located at 496 N. 2nd Street in Breese, IL, peruse Breese's history in photographs, memorials and on the granite pyramid in this neighborhood park. Benches and seasonal plants make this a quiet spot for rest and reflection. Make Breese Historical Park & Garden your spot for picnicking and playing.

### Clinton County Historical Museum

This museum is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Clinton County's heritage through education, written and photographic documentation, artifacts and oral histories. Built in the late 1800s as a private home, the museum holds many artifacts from the area, including genealogical material, books and periodicals on the history of the county. Open every Thursday, except the first Thursday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment.

### Excel Bottling Company

Excel Bottling Company is located in Breese, IL, where Ski and other all-natural, pure cane sodas have been produced since the mid-30s. Tours are available. In 2012 Excel Brewing was established, home to several craft beers including Carlyle Lake Lager and Shoal Creek Oktoberfest, Wheat, & Winter Ale, Hop Heist, Plague Bringer and Double IPA.

## Coles County Events

**May 1:** Class E Trade Show at the Cross County Mall, 5-7 p.m.

**May 3-5:** Mother's Day Gift and Craft Show at the Cross County Mall

**May 4:** Mattoon YMCA May Merriment

**May 10:** Cruisin' Broadway Downtown Mattoon 6-10 p.m.

**May 10 & 11:** Boutique Blvd. in the Rural King Event Center, Cross County Mall

**May 10-12:** Mattoon Cobra's Mother's Day Classic Softball Tourney

**May 11:** Coles County Memorial Airport Young Eagles, free flights for kids

**May 11:** Mattoon Gardenfest at Lytle Park

**May 11:** Spring Market at Warren James Winery

**May 16-18:** IHSA Girls State Track at EIU. For more information, visit [ihsa.org](http://ihsa.org).



**May 17:** Bagel Bites & Mattoon Made in Heritage Park 4-8 p.m.

**May 20:** Cross County Mall Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., \$5 each, in the former Debs Store. Contact Kari Jones for more info and to perform [karijonesinc@gmail.com](mailto:karijonesinc@gmail.com)

**May 23:** Mattoon Library Book Buzz: Literary Meet-up

**May 23-25:** Boys IHSA State Track at EIU

**May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27 & July 1:** Community Band Concerts, Kiwanis Park, Charleston

**May 31-June 2:** Cross County Mall Spring Flea Market

**June 1:** SBLHC Races for all Paces at EIU

**June 7:** Bagel Bites & Mattoon Made in Heritage Park 4-8pm

**June 7-9:** Lake Mattoon Sailing Association Riviera Regatta

**June 14:** Cruisin' Broadway Downtown Mattoon 6-10 p.m.

**June 14-16:** Mattoon Cobra's USSSA Central Illinois State Tournament at 600 Richmond in Mattoon, IL

**June 17:** Cross County Mall Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., \$5 each, in the former Debs Store. Contact Kari Jones for more info and to perform [karijonesinc@gmail.com](mailto:karijonesinc@gmail.com)

**June 21:** Mattoon Chamber Annual Golf Outing at Meadowview Golf Course in Mattoon.

**June 29:** Battle Creek Band 6:30 p.m. at Cross County Mall in Mattoon, IL.

**July 3 & 4:** Red, White & Blue Days at Morton Park, Charleston

**July 4:** Mattoon 4th of July Parade

**July 12:** Cruisin' Broadway Downtown Mattoon 6-10 p.m.

**July 12-14:** Cross County Mall Sports Card Show

**July 13:** Coles County Memorial Airport Young Eagles, free flights for kids

**July 13-20:** Bagelfest 2024 at Peterson Park, Mattoon

**July 15:** Cross County Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., \$5 each, in the former Debs. Contact Kari Jones for more info and to perform [karijonesinc@gmail.com](mailto:karijonesinc@gmail.com)

**July 19 & 20:** 14th Annual St. Jude Run Mattoon to Peoria

**July 20:** Run for the Bagel in Mattoon

**July 20:** Bagelfest Parade in Mattoon

**July 25-27:** Theatre in the Park, featuring Pearl, a Rock Opera, at Kiwanis Park, Charleston.

**July 26-28:** Cross County Mall Summer Flea Market

**July 28-Aug. 3:** Coles County Fair. For more information, visit [colescountyfair.com](http://colescountyfair.com).

**Aug. 3:** Butterfly Festival at Lake Charleston. For more information visit [charlestonillinois.org](http://charlestonillinois.org).

**Aug. 9:** Cruisin' Broadway, Downtown Mattoon 6-10 p.m.

**Aug. 9 & 10:** Boutique Blvd in the Rural King Event Center at Cross County Mall

**Aug. 10:** Rural King Harvest of Hope Concert, Peterson Park

**Aug. 11:** Annual Bluegrass Jam. Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site.

**Aug. 17:** Run for the Fallen, Linder Sports Complex

**Aug. 17:** Coles County Memorial Airport Airshow

**Aug. 19:** Cross County Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., \$5 each, in the former Debs. Contact Kari Jones for more info and to perform [karijonesinc@gmail.com](mailto:karijonesinc@gmail.com)

**Sept. 21:** Special Olympics Family Festival. For more information,

visit [consolidated.com/about-us/community-matters/special-olympics-family-festival](http://consolidated.com/about-us/community-matters/special-olympics-family-festival).

**Sept. 28 & 29:** Harvest Frolic. Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site.

**Sept. 28:** Tour de' Charleston bike race at 501 Jackson Ave, Charleston, IL.

**Sept. 30-Oct. 5:** EIU Homecoming at Charleston, IL. For more information, visit [eiu.edu/homecoming](http://eiu.edu/homecoming)

## 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](http://www.dhnature.org). Douglas-Hart Nature Center is located at 2204 DeWitt Ave. East in Mattoon, IL

### Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site

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

The site includes a working, living historic farm developed around a two-room cabin. A second farmstead, the Stephen Sargent Farm, has been moved to the site to help broaden visitors' understanding of the 1840s rural life in Illinois. Both offer an array of interpretive programs. For a current calendar of events, call the site at 217-345-1845 or check online at [www.lincolnlogcabin.org](http://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 402 S. Lincoln Highway Road, Lerna.

### Lake Charleston

With 10 miles of paved and unpaved trails that surround the lake, it's a perfect place to run, hike, walk and enjoy the scenery. Plus new playgrounds and pavilions for picnics. [www.charlestonillinois.org](http://www.charlestonillinois.org)

### Thomas Lincoln Cemetery

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

### Charleston Downtown Square

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

### Charleston Riot Historic Marker

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



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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Mother's Day Gift & Craft Show - May 3-5
- Boutique Blvd. - May 10-11 & Aug. 9-10
- Spring Flea Market - May 31-June 2
  - Sports Card Show - July 12-14
  - Summer Flea Market - July 26-28

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Special events all year long, check  
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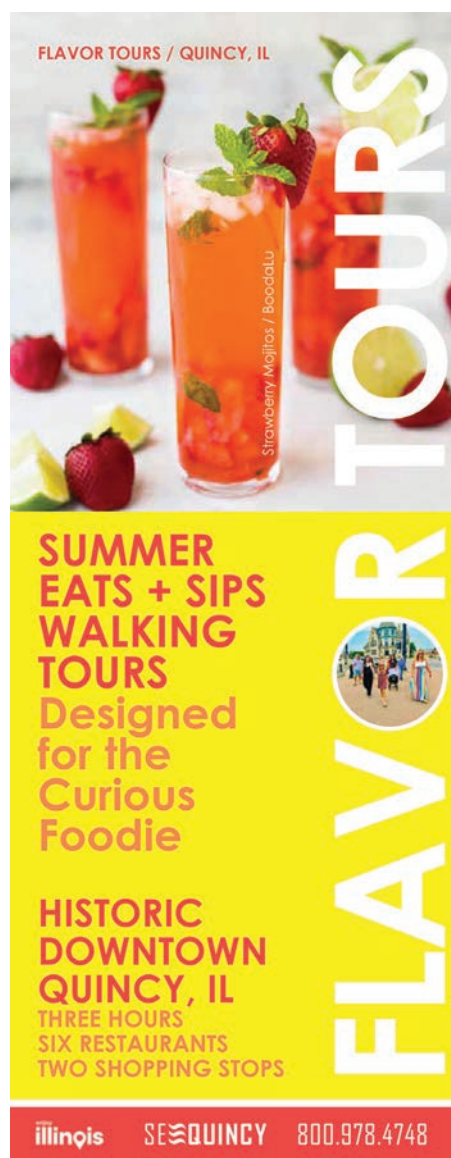
# Conference honors tourism industry achievements in Illinois

## PRESS RELEASE

**D**uring the Illinois Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism in March, Gov. JB Pritzker joined tourism professionals from across the state for an educational and networking conference for tourism industry professionals.

The three-day conference began March 19 at the Peoria Civic Center with the 2024 Illinois Excellence in Tourism Awards ceremony, honoring Illinois tourism leaders' contributions to the industry.

The annual conference, held in Peoria for the first time, unites more than 360 tourism and hospitality leaders, travel experts and visionaries to explore the latest industry trends and insights that contribute to Illinois tourism.



"As governor, I'm always proud to boast Illinois' impressive tourism industry, which thrives as a cultural and economic benefit to our state," said Pritzker. "Thank you to all the travel and tourism professionals across Illinois, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to welcome visitors and make this industry stronger than ever before."

"Illinois' tourism industry continues to be a significant economic driver, with 111 million visitors

from around the globe spending \$44 billion across our great state in 2022," said DCEO Director Kristin Richards. "The Illinois Governor's Conference on Travel & Tourism provides an opportunity for industry professionals and leaders to share our commitment to bolstering economic development in the travel and tourism industry throughout Illinois."

"It is an incredible privilege to recognize and celebrate our statewide tourism partners at this year's Illinois Excellence in Tourism Awards," said Daniel Thomas, Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism. "These awards are a reflection of our partners' unwavering commitment to Illinois' tourism industry, whose hard work and dedication promote Illinois as a premier travel destination."

Travel and tourism professionals from across the industry judged submissions in nine categories, ranging from best social media marketing campaign to best event or festival, with one exceptional entry receiving best of show. The Illinois Office of Tourism also announced two Illinois Tourism Legacy Awards to longtime Peoria businessman, George Manias with George's Shoeshine & Hatters and Roger Carmack, President & CEO of Great Rivers Country.

Each Excellence in Tourism Award category contained a Budget A for organizations with annual operating budgets of \$750,000 and above, and Budget B for organizations with budgets under \$750,000.

### Illinois Excellence in Tourism Award winners:

- Outstanding Niche Targeting Budget A (TIE) – Choose Chicago - Chicago Brew Pass | Chicago Northwest - Chicago Northwest is Your Home for Golf.
- Outstanding Niche Targeting Budget B – Ottawa Visitors Center - Smoketober Fest.
- Best Social Media Marketing Budget A – Great Rivers and Routes - Heartbeats of Southwest Illinois.

Jacksonville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau won Best Website Budget B for its rebrand.



SeeQuincy Summer Flavor Tours won Best Event or Festival Budget B.



- Best Social Media Marketing Budget B – Skydeck Chicago - Skydeck Becomes Chicago's Biggest Cheerleader.
- Best Branding Initiative Budget A – Heritage Corridor Destinations - New Year, New Brand.
- Best Branding Initiative Budget B – Jacksonville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau - Jacksonville Illinois Rebrand.
- Best Cooperative Partnership Budget A – Go Rockford - 2023 Midwest-ern and Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships—As A Partnership Between Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, BMO Center, Skating Council of IL, City of Rockford.
- Best Cooperative Partnership Budget B – Art Institute of Chicago - Van Gogh and the Avant-Garde: The Modern Landscape Cooperative Partnership Activation.
- Best Event or Festival Budget A – Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau - Stroll on State.
- Best Event or Festival Budget B – SeeQuincy - Summer Flavor Tours.
- Best Website Budget A – Chicago Southland CVB – VisitChicagoSouthland.com.
- Best Website Budget B – Jacksonville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau - Jacksonville Illinois Rebrand.
- Best Tourism Marketing Budget A – Visit Springfield - Kansas City Carvertise Marketing Campaign.
- Best Tourism Marketing Budget B – Greater Freeport Partnership - Be A Trailblazer.
- Best Printed Collateral Budget A (TIE) – Aurora Area CVB - 2023 Aurora Area Go Guide | Great Rivers and Routes - Discover the Mother Road Passport.
- Best Printed Collateral Budget B – Rendleman Orchards - Orchard & Times - A Special Edition Newspaper Celebrating 150 Years.
- Best PR Campaign Budget A – Heritage Corridor Destinations - The Great American Road Trip.
- Best PR Campaign Budget B (TIE) – Ravenswood Chicago - Public Relations campaign for Malt



Row in the Ravenswood Corridor by the Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce | Ottawa Visitors Center - Your Hometown.

- Best of Show (highest score across all categories) – Meet Chicago Northwest - Chicago Northwest is Your Home for Golf.

New this year, the Illinois Governor's Conference hosted 10 students from Roosevelt University's Heller College of Business as part of the Enjoy Illinois Emerging Tourism Leaders Program. Majoring in Hospitality & Tourism Management, these exceptional students represent the future of the travel industry. Through industry sponsorships, they had the opportunity to travel to Peoria, take full advantage of the conference's educational offerings and learn from and interact with some of the top leaders in their field.

"We are immensely proud of our Hospitality & Tourism Management students that were selected to attend the Illinois Governor's Conference thanks to this exciting new partnership with Enjoy Illinois," said Stephanie Emrich, Assistant Teaching Professor of Hospitality Management at Roosevelt University. "This will be a significant opportunity for our students to absorb the latest industry trends and gain essential skills for their future careers in travel and tourism."



Great Rivers and Routes Heartbeats of Southwest Illinois won Best Social Media Marketing Budget B.



## Crawford County Events

**May 25:** Memorial Day Weekend – Palestine Lions Club Fish Fry, Car Club Cruise-In & Flea Market, 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 - Aug. (Every Saturday):** Cross Street Market. Local vendors come to South Cross Street in Robinson to sell their goods. Food stands are also available.

**June 8 & 22, July 13, Aug. 3:** 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](http://www.cityofrobinson.com) for a list of entertainment.

**June 29:** 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](http://www.cityofrobinson.com) for more information.

**July 20-26:** 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](http://www.crawfordfair.com) for more info.

**Aug. 2 & 3:** 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. 2 & 3:** Hutsonville River Fest. Car Show, entertainment, vendors, parade and food, in Downtown Hutsonville. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/Hutsonville.River.Fest/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Hutsonville.River.Fest/)

**Aug. 9 & 10:** 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. 10:** Flat Rock Homecoming. Visit the Village of Flat Rock for a weekend full of activities including food, vendors, and a parade.

## 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 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

**First Saturday of Each Month:** Hootenanny at Greenup Municipal Building.

**May 16-19:** Toledo Springfest "Back to the 90s" Queen Pageant May 16. Christmas Around the Square Breakfast Fundraiser May 18 at Toledo Village Hall. Neal Center YMCA Springfest 5K Relive the 90's with Chicago based band Nerdvana 8:30 to 11:30 at the Beer Tent. Auto & Motorcycle Show on May 19 – for more info call Wes Chambers (217)849-4366.

**May 23-25:** Neoga Days at Jennings Park in Neoga. Queen Pageant May 23 at 7 p.m. Feudin' Hillbillys May 24 at 8 p.m. in beer garden. Parade May 25 at 11 a.m. beginning at Neoga Elementary School and ending at Jennings Park. Strangers With Kandi band May 25 at 8 p.m. in beer garden. For info on parade, call or text Doug Jackson at 217-690-6256

**July 27:** Jeepin for A Cure Jeep run starts at Toledo American Legion in Toledo, IL.

**Aug. 10-17:** Cumberland County Fair in Greenup IL

**Oct. 9-12:** Greenup Apple Festival Ham & Bean Supper Oct. 9, Pageant, Parade, Food Trucks, Live Music, Children Activities, Vendors. Apple Tastings & Activities also at Grissoms Family Orchard & Farm Market.

**Oct. 26:** Halloween Celebration at Greenup Municipal Building.

**Dec. 14:** 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](http://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](mailto: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.



Robinson  
Oblong  
Flat Rock  
Hutsonville  
Stoy  
Palestine

**ROBINSON TOURISM COUNCIL**  
300 S. Lincoln, PO Box 188, Robinson, IL 62454  
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[tourism@cityofrobinson.com](mailto:tourism@cityofrobinson.com) • [www.cityofrobinson.com/tourism](http://www.cityofrobinson.com/tourism)

**2024 Crawford County Calendar of Events**  
(Dates are subject to change. Please call ahead or visit [www.cityofrobinson.com](http://www.cityofrobinson.com) for more information)

**May 25**  
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**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

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Car Show, entertainment, vendors, parade and food, in Downtown Hutsonville. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/Hutsonville.River.Fest/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Hutsonville.River.Fest/)

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**August 10**  
**Flat Rock Homecoming**  
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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

**Every Saturday May 4 through Oct. 12:** Clinton Area Farmers and Artisans Market 8 a.m. to Noon at Mr. Lincoln's Square in downtown Clinton IL.

**May 16-19:** MayDays 2024 at Mr. Lincoln's Square in downtown Clinton, IL, featuring Conner Family Amusements.

**May 30-June 1:** Farmer City Heritage Days. Live entertainment, Carnival, Free Community Dinner, Craft & Food Vendors, Car Show, Cornhole Tournament, 5K/Fun Run, Free Kids Activities and much more! [www.farmercityheritagedays.com](http://www.farmercityheritagedays.com)

**July 5:** Fourth of July Fireworks at dusk in Clinton, IL.

**Sept. 28 & 29:** Apple 'n Pork Festival. Food stands with old-fashioned harvest time treats, crafters and artisans, live music and so much more at the C.H. Moore Homestead in Clinton, IL.

## 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 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

**Third Saturday Each Month:** 3rd Saturday Market, at Moultrie-Douglas Merchant building, just behind the Arthur High school off Rt. 133. Features 50 or more indoor/outdoor vendors with crafts, food and more. Market hours run 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each month.

**May 4:** Sheep to Yarn to Quilts from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Illinois Amish Heritage Center, Rt. 133, Arcola. Breakfast served at 7 a.m. Visit: [www.illinoisamish.org](http://www.illinoisamish.org) or [facebook.com/Illinois-Amish-Heritage-Center](https://facebook.com/Illinois-Amish-Heritage-Center)

**May 11:** Arcola Chamber Daddy-Daughter Dance at the Arcola Center

**May 17:** Strawberry Social, Otto Center, Arthur

**May 17 & 18:** Downtown Arthur Strawberry Jam Festival, free strawberry give-a-way 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.

**May 17 & 18:** Arthur Town Wide Garage Sales

**June 7 - 9:** Raggedy Ann & Andy 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](http://arcolachamber.com)

**June 15:** Douglas County Museum 40th Anniversary & Town Exhibit Grand Opening, 4-8 p.m. with music, food & wine. Located at 700 S. Main St., Tuscola

**June 22:** Pop the Top Car Show in downtown Arcola, adjacent to Moomaw American Hippie Memorial. Registration 10 a.m. to noon. Awards at 3 pm. For more info: Drippy Smith 217-268-4278 or [smith129@consolidated.net](mailto:smith129@consolidated.net)

**June 29:** Arthur Freedom Celebration Parade, Downtown Arthur

**June 29:** Arthur Freedom Celebration/Fireworks at Moultrie-Douglas Fairgrounds, behind Arthur High School. 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. [Illinoisamishcountry.com](http://Illinoisamishcountry.com) for more information.

**July 2:** Arcola Firework Display at Green Mill Village, Arcola

**July 6:** Annual Sparks in the Park Festival and Freedom Celebration, Tuscola. 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 7-14:** 93rd Annual Moultrie-Douglas County Fair in Arthur. A full week of activities, such as queen pageant, livestock shows, live entertainment, carnival rides for all ages, and exhibits, are planned. For more information visit [moultriedouglascountyfair.com](http://moultriedouglascountyfair.com)

**July 27 & 28:** RC Fest at Wimple Park, Tuscola

**Aug. 2 & 3:** Arcola City Wide Garage Sales

**Aug. 2 & 3:** Steam Threshing Days - Illinois Amish Heritage Center, Arcola

**Aug. 9:** Annual Our Town Arcola under the Downtown Pavilion at 5 p.m.

**Aug. 10:** Miss Arcola Pageant 6 to 9 p.m. at Arcola High School.

**Aug. 17 & 18:** 29th 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](http://atwoodchamber.org)

**Aug. 23 & 24:** Mennonite Relief Sale at Otto Center, Arthur. 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 the Arthur Relief Sale [arthurreliefale.org](http://arthurreliefale.org) for more details.

**Aug. 31-Sept. 2:** 51st Annual Amish Country Cheese Festival, downtown Arthur. Crafts, food, flea markets, 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](http://illinoisamishcountry.com)

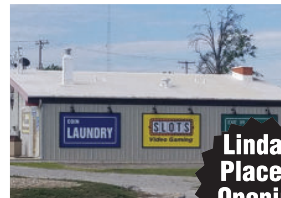
**Sept 6-8:** 52nd Annual Arcola Broom Corn Festival, Downtown Arcola. Vendors, live music, National Broom Sweeping contest, beer tent. For more information go to [arcolachamber.com](http://arcolachamber.com)

## 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](mailto:james@aikmanwildlife.com) or visit [aikmanwildlife.com](http://aikmanwildlife.com)

## LINDA'S PLACE



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**Vintage 1930 LINCO Filling Station completely renovated & nicely decorated. Clean, Comfortable, & Handicap Friendly. 6 Guests, 3 beds, 1 bath, 5 Star rating.**

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## COZY CORNER



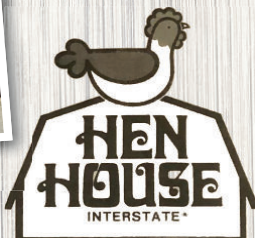
**Three bedrooms, beautifully decorated with different theme. Sleeps 6! Full kitchen. Your home away from home!**

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[www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)**





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**FRIDAY: All-You-Can-Eat Deep  
Fried Fish or Shrimp**

**FAMILY RESTAURANT**  
**547 East Springfield Road 1, Arcola**  
**For Carry Out Call 217-268-3712**  
**OPEN DAILY 5:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

## Kuntry Treasures



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### 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 its present site in 1946. Yet another home is located a few miles north of Tuscola on Route 45. It was built 1920-22. The fourth home is located on Scott St. and was built in 1915.

### Douglas County Courthouse

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

### Illinois Amish Heritage Center

The Illinois Amish Heritage Center was first created in 1994 as the Illinois Amish Interpretive Center located in Arthur, Illinois. The Center offered an introductory film to Amish life, exhibits on Amish heritage and culture, a gift shop, and Amish Country Tours of Amish homes, farms, businesses and meals in Amish homes.

In 2010, the Center was moved to Rockome Gardens and renamed The Illinois Amish Museum. The museum remained open at Rockome through 2014 when Rockome went up for sale. Rockome was purchased later that year and the new owner began implementation of a wildlife park. The Amish Museum was subsequently put into storage and the search for a new facility began.

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

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

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

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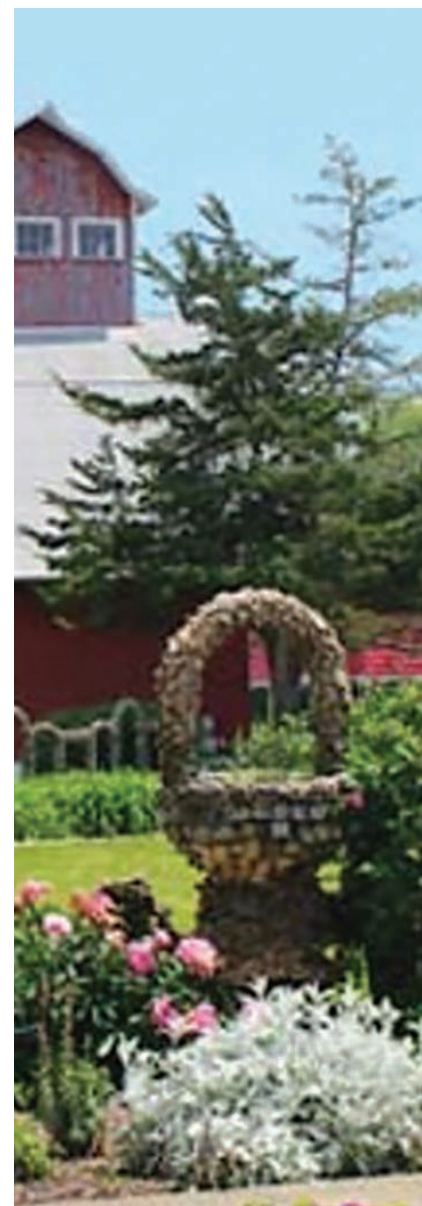
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## Edgar County Events

**Every Saturday June 15-Sept 28:** Downtown Paris Farmers Market from 8-11 a.m. at the North Side of the Square, Paris. Featuring fresh produce, flowers, handmade soaps and more.

**June 6:** Picnic in the Park in Kansas. Features food, ice cream, slushies, music and more!

**June 7 & 8:** Edgar County Shriners Weekend featuring Truck and Tractor Pulls Friday, parade and BBQ Saturday at Edgar County Fairgrounds, Paris. Features a benefit derby - Smashing for Shrine Kids on Saturday at 6 p.m.

**June 14:** Outlaw Grill opens at Southfork Homestead & Pumpkin Patch, Paris.

**June 22:** City Wide Garage Sales, Kansas.

**June 22:** Edgar County 4-H BBQ from 4-7 p.m. at Edgar County 4-H Fairgrounds, Paris.

**July 20-27:** Edgar County Fair and Races, Edgar County Fairgrounds Paris, IL. Features country artist Scotty McCreary on July 20, 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](http://edgarcountyfair.com)

**Aug. 1:** Picnic in the Park in Kansas. Features food, ice cream, slushies, music and more!

**Sept. 14:** Opening day at Southfork Homestead Pumpkin Farm. Follow them on Facebook or visit [www.southforkhomestead.com](http://www.southforkhomestead.com)

## 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 its own traces of history. A serpentine wall, that reflects a design by Thomas Jefferson, located in Charlottesville, NC, and a Lions Head fountain at the far end of the small park duplicates one found in Paris, France.

## 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

**May 4:** Fear Nothing Derby Day at Tuscan Hills Winery starting at 2 p.m. 100% of funds raised to support cancer patients in our 6-county area.

**May 17:** Effingham County Chamber Golf Outing at Effingham Country Club. Contact Nicole Morrison at (217)342-4147.

**May 29 - June 2:** Historic National Road Yard Sale Festival. Effingham County Fairgrounds Altamont, IL. 60+ Vendors, Food, Free Admission. Wed - Saturday 8 - 6, Sunday 8 - 4. City-wide yard sales; barbecue cook-off; Historic Wright House, antique stores all in Altamont. The 21st Anniversary of the Historic National Road Yard Sale Festival runs from Baltimore, Maryland to St. Louis, MO. The 824-mile sale celebrates this historic by-way, giving communities the opportunity to host festivals and other community events. Individuals and vendors are expected to set up with an assortment of roadside treasures, including antiques and furniture, housewares, and collectibles. ALL are welcome to have activities along the National Road (Rt. 40 in most places). Visit us on Facebook on Visit Illinois During the Historic National Road Yard Sale Festival 2024 or call or text 815.954.0450.

**June 1:** Scott Wattles & The Blue Suede Crew. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**June 8:** Jeepin' for the Paws Jeep Run. Registration at A1 Liquors on Hwy 33, Effingham at 10 a.m. For more info Email [ears2urescue@gmail.com](mailto:ears2urescue@gmail.com)

**June 8:** Brush Pull at Beecher City Community Park

**June 14:** Teutopolis Cruise Night and Car Show starting 5 p.m. at Teutopolis Banquet Hall. Good food, cold beverages for purchase, great DJ & more!





James Vonderheide of Shumway looks over a 1929 Wallis 20-30 owned by Tom Jansen of Effingham during the 2022 Mill Road Thresherman Association show at the Effingham County Fairgrounds.

# *The history of the* **MILL ROAD THRESHERMAN ASSOCIATION show**

BY ALAN SHUMAKER

**T**he first Thresherman's Demonstration was held on July 24, 1982. It was started by neighbors Louis Milleville and Wayne Mueller, who thought it would be fun to thresh wheat and oats with a 1930s era 2238 McCormick Deering threshing machine owned by Louis.

The first event took place on what is known as "Mill Road," which is just south of the 1-70 interchange in Altamont. A group of friends and neighbors gathered together with their antique tractors, implements, hit-and-miss engines, and cars. They threshed oats in the morning, and after an "old fashioned lunch" served by the Altamont Jaycees, wheat was threshed in the afternoon.



The day was a big success, with more than 400 people registered in attendance. It was decided to move the next show to the Effingham County Fairgrounds, July 16-17, 1983. (Every show since then has been held there.) The group also wanted to find a steam engine to use to power the threshing machine.

The Blomberg family of Farina owned the nearest operating steam engine, and agreed to let the group use it, provided they could find a capable operator. A local man, Ben Winter, had extensive knowledge and experience in operating steam engines. Ben agreed to run the steamer, and an even bigger show was held in 1983.

In order to help organize and operate the next show in 1984, the group was incorporated as the Mill Road Thresherman Association, Inc on May 1, 1984. After the next show, held July 14-15, 1984 (The first show held without sponsorship of the Jaycees), the charter and bylaws were approved and signed

October 5, 1984, by the three original directors. They were Marlin Milleville of Altamont, Ed Jansen of Sigel, and Eldo Tate of Stewardson. Officers elected were: President, Louis Milleville; Vice President, Ben Winter; Secretary, Roy Cochran; and Treasurer, Art Trost.

Jumping ahead to the present: The club is very active with the mission of preserving past farming practices and equipment, and educating the public on how it used to be done through field demos and our annual show.

Thanks to the great support from the public and many local businesses, we are able to not only put on our annual show but add other events such as a tractor drive/farm tour and a parade for local nursing home residents. We also support area FFA chapters with a scholarship program and our local food bank with the collection from our worship service at the show.

Our goals for the future is to add more farm ground to give

**Wesley Haumesser of Tupelo, Mississippi, winds a rope during a rope-making demonstration at the 2022 Mill Road Thresherman Association show at the Effingham County Fairgrounds.**





exhibitors a place to show off their equipment. Also to add more activities. We recently added potato digging, getting the kids involved in picking up potatoes. You would think those potatoes were candy the way the kids went at it. We have also added squeezing cane and cooking molassis.

We have a museum set up at the annual show, but our goal is to have our own building that would house a permanent display. We are blessed to be able to rent one of the finest facilities for our annual show, the Effingham County Fairgrounds. Many of our exhibitors and vendors comment that this is their favorite place to set up.

Our goal is to increase our attendance so more people can enjoy the show.

We involve area FFA chapters working at our show and have many activities for younger children as we are a family show. Our goal is to get more younger folks to join the club. Our club won't survive another 40 years if we do not get the younger generation involved, then who is going to be around to preserve this part of our rural American history?

God bless America and God bless you.

**John Spannagel of Hidalgo crafts a broom from a processed broom corn plant at the Effingham County Fairgrounds for the 2022 Mill Road Thresherman Association show. EDN file photo**



*The 43rd annual Mill Road Thresherman Association show is Aug. 8-11, 2024 at the Effingham County Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$8 per day, \$16 for a weekend gate pass. Free entry when presenting your MRTA Membership card. Kids under 13 are free with a paid adult. For more information, visit [millroadthresherman.org](http://millroadthresherman.org)*





Children line up behind a John Deere tractor for the potato digging contest at the 2022 Mill Road Thresherman Association show at the Effingham County Fairgrounds. EDN file photo

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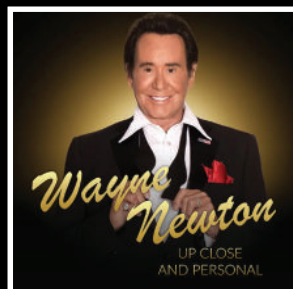
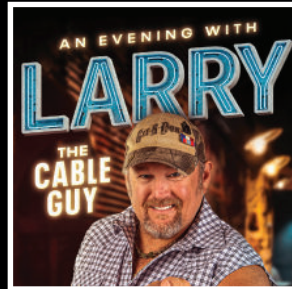
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**June 20-23:** 10th Annual Moccasin Creek Festival on The Stage at Lake Sara, Effingham.

**June 24:** Dieterich Zip Code Day 62424. Food, Entertainment, Activities, Big Raffles, Drone Show.

**June 29:** Buckin for Heroes Rodeo at Teutopolis Banquet Hall starting at 4 p.m. Music by The Flynts 4:30; Rodeo starts 7 p.m. Music by Flight Fifty at 9 p.m. Food Trucks. Merchandise Vendors. Full Bar. All proceeds raised donated to Make-A-Wish IL and Land of Lincoln Honor Flight.

**July 3 & 4:** Fourth of July Celebration at the park in Dieterich. Live band July 3. Parade and Fireworks July 4. Food Vendors, Fun for the family!

**July 12 & 13:** Summer Sales in Downtown Effingham. Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**July 12:** EffingHAM-JAM Hometown Throwdown BBQ Competition in downtown Effingham. Food trucks, Vendors, Beer Tent and Live Music starting at 4 p.m.!

**July 12:** Relay for Life of Effingham County "Masquerading for Hope" 4:30 to 9 p.m. at Teutopolis Jr. High School.

**July 12:** CSS Art Auction & Community Celebration 5 to 10:30 p.m. at Teutopolis Banquet Hall. Food, Drinks, Loads of Kids Activities, Auction at 6 p.m., Captain Rat & The Blind Rivets after auction!

**July 19-21:** Corn Fest at Beecher City Community Park

**July 27-Aug. 3:** Effingham County Fair in Altamont, IL

**Aug. 16:** Newsboys Worldwide Revival Nights. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**Aug. 21:** Happy Together Tour 2024. A show full of chart-topping hits from the 60s and 70s from The Turtles, Jay and the Americans, The Association, Badfinger, The Vogues and the Cowsills. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7:30 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**Sept. 6 & 7:** Fall Open Houses in downtown Effingham.

**Sept. 6 & 7:** Midwest Market at Village Square Mall in Effingham.

**Sept. 7:** Last Chance Pull at Beecher City Community Park

**Sept. 13-15:** Summer Sundown Music Festival at The Stage at Lake Sara.

**Sept. 14:** Wine, Beer & Music on the Lawn from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Dr. Charles M. Wright House Museum in Altamont, IL. Check Facebook for more details. Guided House Tours in the afternoon.

**Sept. 21:** Aaron Tippin. Aaron has released more than 30 singles, including such hits as "You've Got to Stand for Something," "My Blue Angel," "I Wouldn't Have it Any Other Way," "Kiss This," "Workin' Man's Ph. D.," "There Ain't Nothing Wrong with the Radio" and "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly". Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**Sept. 22:** Fall Craft & Vendor Show. 80+ booths to shop from. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham.

**Oct. 26:** Downtown Trick or Treat in downtown Effingham from 1 to 3 p.m. Let's go Booooo-tique shopping too!

**Nov. 1 & 2:** Holiday Open Houses in downtown Effingham. Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Nov. 1 & 2:** Midwest Market at the Village Square Mall in Effingham

**Nov. 22:** Pink Friday in downtown Effingham from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Nov. 30:** Small Business Saturday in downtown Effingham from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Dec. 1:** All I Want For Christmas Craft & Vendor Show. 80+ Crafters & Vendors. Pictures with Santa. Gift Card Giveaways. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham.

**Dec. 7:** Hometown Christmas festival in downtown Effingham

## 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](mailto: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](http://crossusa.org).

### Effingham County Museum

Located at 110 E. Jefferson Avenue in downtown Effingham, the Effingham County Museum is housed in the historic 1871 courthouse which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The galleries located on two floors of the building are loaded with artifacts which tell the story of the area's rich heritage. The Museum is open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., from March through December, or by appointment on other days of the week, or at different times of the day. For more information, call (217)240-2471 or visit [effinghamcountymuseum.org](http://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](http://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](http://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 217-961-6404. Stop by to enjoy the renovations to the entrance, lobby, first floor and elevator access, as well as the new acquisitions on display.

### The Dr. Charles M. Wright House Museum

Located at 3 W. Jackson Avenue in Altamont, IL. 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.: May thru September. 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 email [scott@wrightmansion.org](mailto:scott@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](http://www.effinghamwinery.com) for a list of upcoming events and live music.

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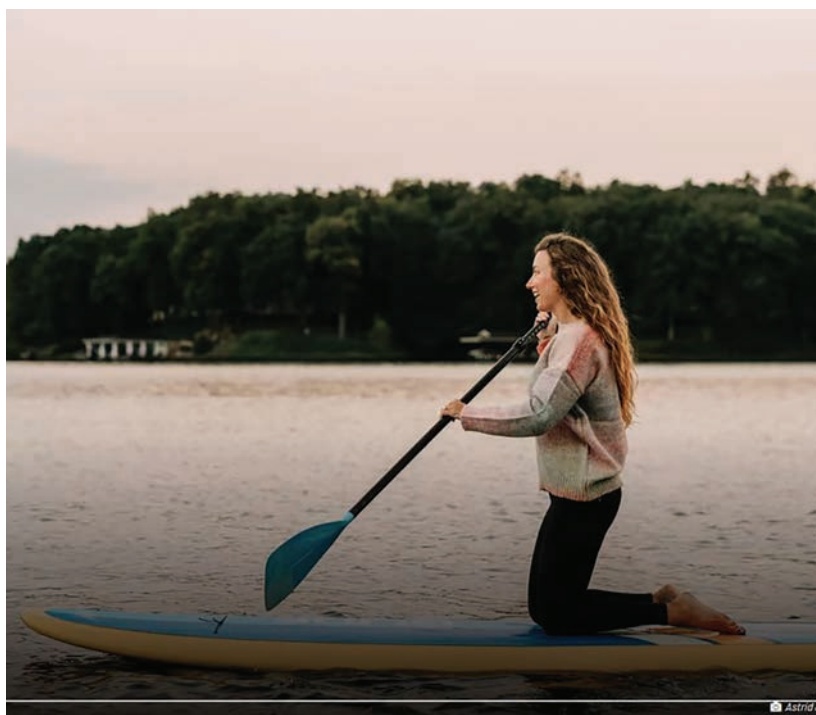
Lake Sara, located just five miles northwest of Effingham, is a 650-acre lake that provides 27 beautiful miles of shore line and one of the finest family recreation facilities in Central Illinois.

Among the features are:

- » public beach
- » cabins
- » playgrounds
- » bocce ball court
- » disc golf course
- » camping areas
- » picnic areas

### 2024 ENTERTAINMENT AT LAKE SARA

- » Live Acoustic Music at Pinky's every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday starting in May
- » Rock The Dock on Saturday Nights at The Rusty Reel
- » Moccasin Creek Festival June 20-23 at the Reel Marina
- » Fireworks July 3
- » Summer Sundown Music Festival Sept. 13-15 at The Reel Marina
- » Crossroads Music Festival Sept. 28 Noon to 1 a.m. at the Reel Marina





My name is Bill Passalacqua, and I'd like to share with you the short story of how the Moccasin Creek Festival and Poss Music Works NFP got started. I have been enjoying Lake Sara all my life. I grew up skiing on the lake starting at age 8, and you can still spot me frequently on my 1982 Terry Sundancer on summer mornings. After spending 20 years playing music at folk clubs, bars and festivals all over North America and abroad, I settled back in Effingham in 2013 with no job and no prospects. So I did something I'd dreamt about all those years driving across the continent and back: I started a music festival. In my first year, I partnered with Brian Larson at Larson's Landing and a small band of friends to make it happen. I called up musician friends from all over and promised them that if they could play at the festival, I would pay them... eventually. They all accepted, and the rest is history. This year will mark our 10th festival, and we are very excited to tell you about

Poss Music Works NFP will present three events at the Reel Marina on Lake Sara in 2024.

We'll kick off the season with the Time to Kill Campout on Sunday, May 26th. This all-day live music event celebrates the release of new albums from Taylor Steele and the Love Preachers and the Jake Kuhns Experience, plus performances from other regional favorites. After the stages shut down, the campfires kick up, and the acoustic instruments come out for song circles and sing-alongs! Bring a tent and stay overnight!

The 10th Moccasin Creek Festival will take place June 20-23. This sweet little festival is as cozy and simple as a music festival can get. Free, close parking, flush toilets and sinks, few lines, arts and crafts vendors, great food and drink at great prices, and you can ALWAYS BE IN THE SHADE! Our headliners include Shinyribs,

Chuck Prophet and the Mission Express, Mary Gauthier, Armchair Boogie, Chris Smither, National Park Radio, Aaron Lee Tasjan, Jaimee Harris, Jess Klein Band, Weary Ramblers, Peter Keane, Dennis Stroughmatt and Creole Stomp, BettySoo, LoveSeat and lots more! These bands play Americana music, including roots rock, country, folk, blues and cajun music. Check out [www.moccasincreekfestival.com](http://www.moccasincreekfestival.com)

On Sept. 13-15, the 5th Summer Sundown Music Festival will close out the season for us at the Reel Marina. This festival has that same cozy vibe and amenities listed above but a more regional feel, with a square dance, workshops, yoga and more. Headliners include Sarah Shook & the Disarmers, Chicago Farmer Acoustic Trio, Andi Jane's Honky Tonk Cabaret, Miles Nielsen & the Rusted Hearts, Wayne Graham and much more. For more details, please visit [www.summersundownfest.com](http://www.summersundownfest.com)

*the Stage*  
at LAKE SARA

SEPT 13-15  
2024



**SARAH SHOOK & the Disarmers**      **CHICAGO FARMER Acoustic Trio**

**WAYNE GRAHAM**      **MILES NIELSEN & the Rusted Hearts**      **ANDI JANE'S Honky Tonk Cabaret**

**Taylor Steele & the Love Preachers**  
**Lucas Wayne & the Cotton Mouths**  
**Square Dance with Sophie Mae**  
**Time To Kill '74 • Rabbit in Red '99**  
**Much More to Come!**





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### 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

- May 31:** John & Bubba at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**June 1:** Backroad Boogie at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**June 7:** Tim Crosby at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**June 8:** Farmers Market In Vandalia 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
**June 8:** Burning Bridges at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**June 14:** Dakota Danielle at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**June 15:** Band of Ramsey Bros at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**June 21:** Bob Culbertson & Company and Mojo Universe at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**June 22:** Feudin' Hillbillies at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**June 28:** Lemon Bros at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**June 29:** Rock-N-Billy Revival at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**July 11-16:** Fayette County Fair in Brownstown, IL.  
**July 11:** Bullring Racing 7 p.m.  
**July 12:** IPA Truck & Tractor Pull 6 p.m.  
**July 13:** Whippoorwill Rodeo & After Party w/the Bryor Rhodes Band 7 p.m.  
**July 14:** Demolition Derby & Power Wheels Derby 4 p.m.  
**July 15:** Miss Fayette County/Little Miss Fayette County Fair Queen Pageant at 7 p.m.  
**July 16:** Jr. Miss Fayette County/Future Miss Fayette County Fair Queen Pageant 7 p.m.  
**July 12:** Drew Sheafor & Audrey Simes at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**July 13:** Farmers Market In Vandalia 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
**July 13:** Van Waylon Band at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**July 20:** Boombox All 80's Band at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**July 27:** Lost Highway at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**Aug. 3:** Bumpin' Uglies at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**Aug. 10:** Farmers Market In Vandalia 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
**Aug. 10:** Diesel Island at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia

- Aug. 17:** Imagine That Band at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**Aug. 30:** Bill Poss & Loveseat at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**Sept. 6:** The Cody Ryan Band at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**Sept. 7:** The Hip Huggers at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**Sept. 13:** Dakota Danielle at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**Sept. 14:** Farmers Market In Vandalia 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
**Sept. 20:** Reverend Robert at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**Sept. 21:** Big Shake Daddies at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia  
**Oct. 12:** Farmers Market In Vandalia 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 4:** Kentucky Derby Party. Big hats, bow ties and bourbon! May the horse be with you!!! Doors open at 1 p.m. Festivities begin 2 p.m. at Muddy Saloon with music from Jake & Mikayala, charcuterie board,

# VISIT HISTORIC VANDALIA ILLINOIS

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Charters Patio

Live Music Every Weekend  
June-September  
Downtown Vandalia

[f Charters Patio](#)



### Farmers Markets

June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14  
& October 12 • 8am-11am

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from June-October

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



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**May 4:** Embarras Ducky Derby Sign in by 2 p.m. Starts at 3 p.m. MVP Happy Holler Dive Bar, rural Newton.

**Saturdays June through September:** Farmers Market 8 a.m. to Noon at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie, IL.

**June 7 & 8:** Back Forty Pride & Power Truck, Car & Tractor Show at Jasper County Fairgrounds in Newton, IL. Proceeds to Jasper County Shrine Club for Shriners Children's Hospital.

**June 8:** Veterans Jeep Run Sign in from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at MVP Happy Holler in rural Newton. Baywolf band from St. Louis plays from 5 to 9 p.m.

**June 23-29:** Jasper County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Newton, IL

**June 28:** Whippoorwill Rodeo at Jasper County Fair in Newton, IL 7 p.m.

**July 13:** Cork & Pork Festival in Sainte Marie, IL. Wineries offering tastings, delicious pork including pulled pork, pork burgers, America's cut chop, pulled pork nachos and live bands performing throughout the day. Don't like wine? There's also a beer garden!

**July 13:** Cork & Pork Jeep Run in Memory of Jeff Lybarger. Registration 9 a.m.-10 a.m. at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie, IL. Jeep run leaves at 10 a.m.

**Sept. 1:** St. Mary's Church Picnic in Sainte Marie, IL.

**Sept. 6-8:** St. Joseph Church in Island Grove 150th Celebration. Live Bands, Food & Drinks & More!

**Sept. 14:** Jasper County Fall Festival on the courthouse square in Newton.

## 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 18:** Whippoorwill Rodeo at Iron Saddle Ranch in Salem, IL. Gates open at 4 p.m. Rodeo at 7 p.m. For tickets visit [www.iron saddleranch.com](http://www.iron saddleranch.com)

**May 30:** MAGIC HUNKS Live at American Legion Post #128 in Salem, IL. Open to Ages 21+. Doors open 7 p.m. Ladies it's your turn to have some Fun! Mark your calendar and bring all of your friends for an epic night of Fun and Excitement with our "MOST WANTED TOUR!"

**May 31:** The Circus is Coming, Be Our Guest! at Marion County Fairgrounds in Salem, IL. Are you ready to be amazed with all NEW, never-before-seen ACTS?!! We can't wait for your family to experience the laughter & wonder, stunning contortionists, the music & magic, amazing aerialists and see our MAGNIFICENT Carden Circus ELEPHANTS & camels & more for an up-close, once-in-a-lifetime encounter!!

**June 1:** Mt. Vernon Brewers Festival showcases the art of beer, produced by commercial brewers and homebrewers! Huge variety of beer samples, music, great local food. Must be 21+. Event happens rain or shine from Noon to 4 p.m. in downtown Mt. Vernon, IL.

**June 8:** PawFest! A celebration of pets. Find your new best friend, dogs and cats on site ready to adopt. A variety of demonstrations, pet contests, pet-themed vendors, pet exhibitors with pet entertainment, food booths, arts and crafts and more, all held at 800 S. 27th St. in Mt. Vernon, IL from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Sept. 29:** Ironclad Art - The Motorcycle Festival is a family friendly event using the outdoor Sculpture

Park at Cedarhurst as an exhibition area to recognize the motorcycle as a sculptural object and a vehicle for self-expression. This is unlike any other bike show as it strives to capture the history and culture of motorcycling and includes awards, giveaways, motorcycle sculpture demonstration, live music and food concessions.

**Oct. 5:** Heritage Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jefferson County Historical Village, 1411 N. 27th St. in Mt. Vernon. Food & Food Vendors, Demonstrations & Vendors including baskets, blacksmiths, old coats' advice, woodcarvings, rope making, black powder guns, spinning, antique tractors, ham radios, Civil War doctor, soap, copper and silver jewelry, crafts, dulcimers, Old Fashioned games and much more!

**Dec. 7 & 8:** Christmas Model Train & Nativity Set Exhibit includes running train sets with different gauges and village settings. Special holiday activity for the whole family. The Nativity exhibit features a variety of sets including contemporary and vintage collections, some dating back to the 1940s and 50s and some from other countries. Exhibit open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7 and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Jefferson County Historical Village, 1411 N. 27th St., Mt. Vernon IL. Free admission. Donations appreciated.

**Dec. 14 & 15:** Christmas Model Train & Nativity Set Exhibit includes running train sets with different gauges and village settings. Special holiday activity for the whole family. The Nativity exhibit features a variety of sets including contemporary and vintage collections, some dating back to the 1940s and 50s and some from other countries. Exhibit open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 14 and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 15 at Jefferson County Historical Village, 1411 N. 27th St., Mt. Vernon IL. Free admission. Donations appreciated.

## 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.

### Salem Community Theatre & Cultural Center

Salem Community Theatre & Cultural Center at 119 S. Broadway in Salem, IL offers live theatrical performances, musicals, movies, concerts, educational presentations and more. Visit their Facebook page for more information.

### 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

## Macon County Events

**May 11:** Decatur Craft Beer Festival from Noon to 4 p.m. at Central Park in downtown Decatur, IL. Sample beers from far and wide, including many central Illinois breweries. Live music, art, food trucks & more!

**May 11:** Zippy Zoo Day with Mom! at Scovill Zoo in Decatur from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrating Mothers' Day and World Migratory Bird Day! Moms receive free admission and a plant, while supplies last. Multiple animal presentations throughout the morning.

**May 18:** Duck Derby is a family day of play at Children's Museum of Illinois, 55 S. Country Club Rd, Decatur, IL. This event is centered around the excitement of rubber duck racing, where winning ducks can win big bucks! Up to 3,000 numbered rubber ducks will race in heats on our quacktastic Mueller-built water propelled racetrack. The top finishers from each heat then compete in a FINAL race for BIG MONEY! There will also be games, activities, food trucks, treats and more!

**June 5-8:** Macon County Fair at the Macon County Fairgrounds in Decatur, IL. [www.maconcountyfair.com](http://www.maconcountyfair.com) for events.

## 2024 TRAVEL TIME TOURS

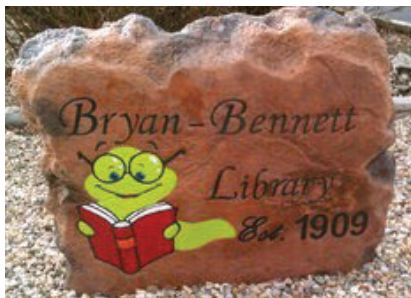
**April 18-21 • Branson Musicfest • \$699 Double or \$849 Single**  
includes 20-25 different theatre performers in two afternoons,  
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**June 14-15 • STL Cardinals & Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field**  
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**October 5-7 • Talladega Nascar Race**  
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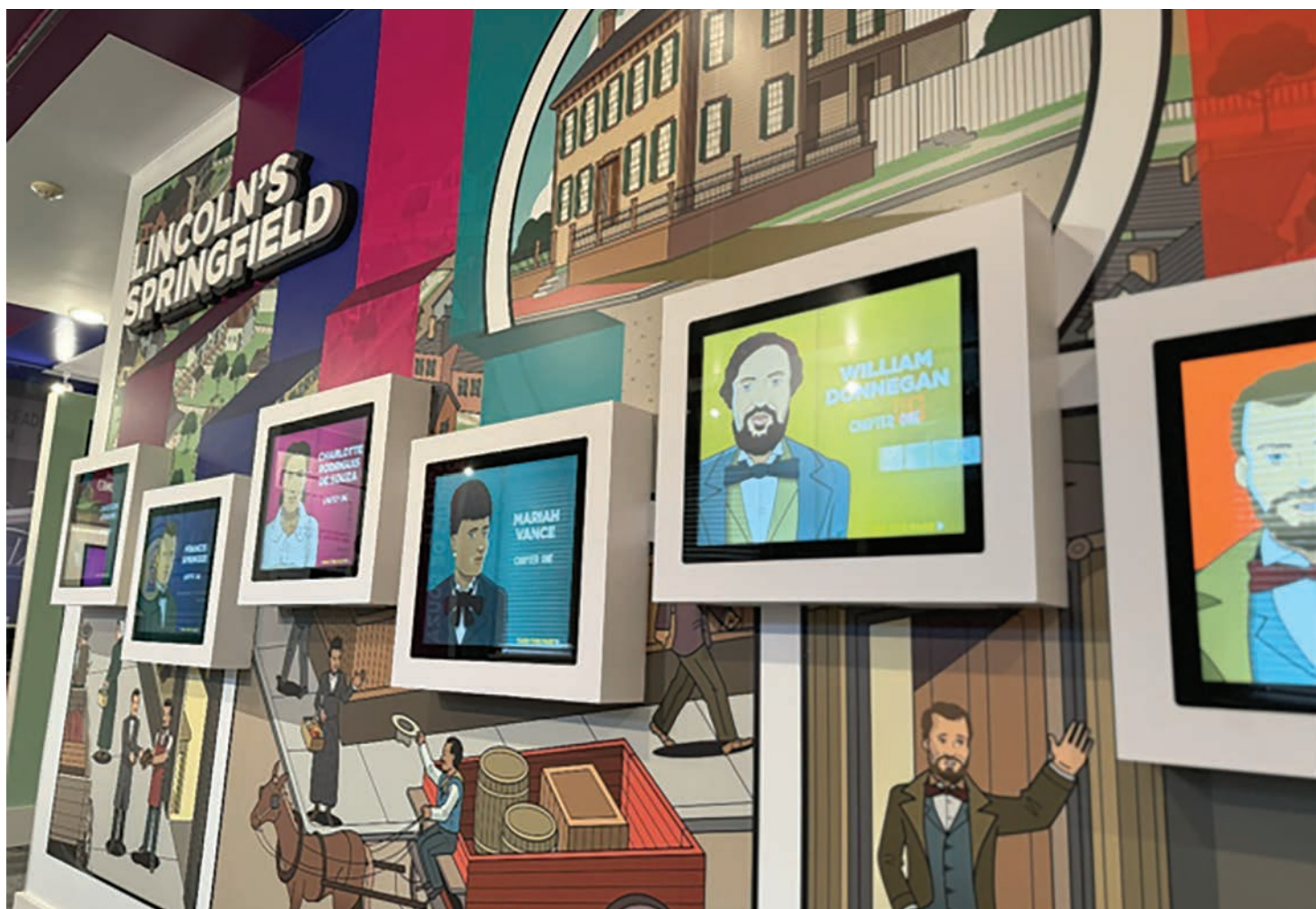
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Lincoln's Springfield is the first-ever exhibit designed for a youth audience within the federal site. Photo courtesy McCullough Creative

# Lincoln Home National Historic Site's *first* YOUTH EXHIBIT

## PRESS RELEASE

The Lincoln Presidential Foundation (“Foundation”) and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site (“Lincoln Home”) announce the grand opening of Lincoln’s Springfield, the first-ever exhibit designed for a youth audience within the federal site.

The exhibit, which is located inside the historic Corneau House across from Lincoln Home, explores the stories of six members of Lincoln’s community whose diverse life experiences illustrate the promise and potential of the American experiment.

Through original graphic narratives, vivid illustrations, and in-

teractive features, this exhibit brings to life the stories of Henry Carrigan, William Donnegan, Charlotte Rodriguiz De Souza, Jameson Jenkins, Francis Springer, and Mariah Vance.

In addition to showcasing the stories of Lincoln’s community members, the exhibit also highlights the history of the Corneau family, the namesake of the house.

The exhibit was designed for audiences aged 10-14 while appealing to visitors of all ages. This exhibit is free and open to the public.

The Lincoln Presidential Foundation secured a lead gift from the M.G. Nelson Family Foundation, as well as additional individual and foundation gifts to make the exhibit a reality. The M.G. Nelson





Family Foundation stated, “Our family was thrilled to support a youth exhibit at the Lincoln Home. We felt it would fill an important need by capturing the attention of older kids and encouraging them to be curious about history, the fascinating lives of Lincoln’s neighbors, and what it was like to be alive during that time. Plus, the exhibit turned out to be so creative and engaging. We encourage everyone to bring their children and grandchildren to check it out.”

The youth exhibit was the first major project Lincoln Presidential Foundation launched following the announcement of its new partnership with National Park Service at Lincoln Home. Lincoln Presidential Foundation engaged McCullough Creative for the exhibit design and production, and a diverse team of scholars and community stakeholders participated in a formative workshop early in the process. The exhibit project was completed in less than 18 months.

“We are delighted to be able to bring this groundbreaking youth exhibit to Lincoln Home National Historic Site thanks to generous support from the Nelson Family and other generous donors,” said Erin Carlson Mast, Lincoln Presidential Foundation’s President & CEO. “We are already receiving great feedback on how the exhibit enriches the experience of Lincoln Home for young people and serves as a reminder of the many influences that surrounded President Lincoln, who is routinely ranked as one of the most influential U.S. presidents.”

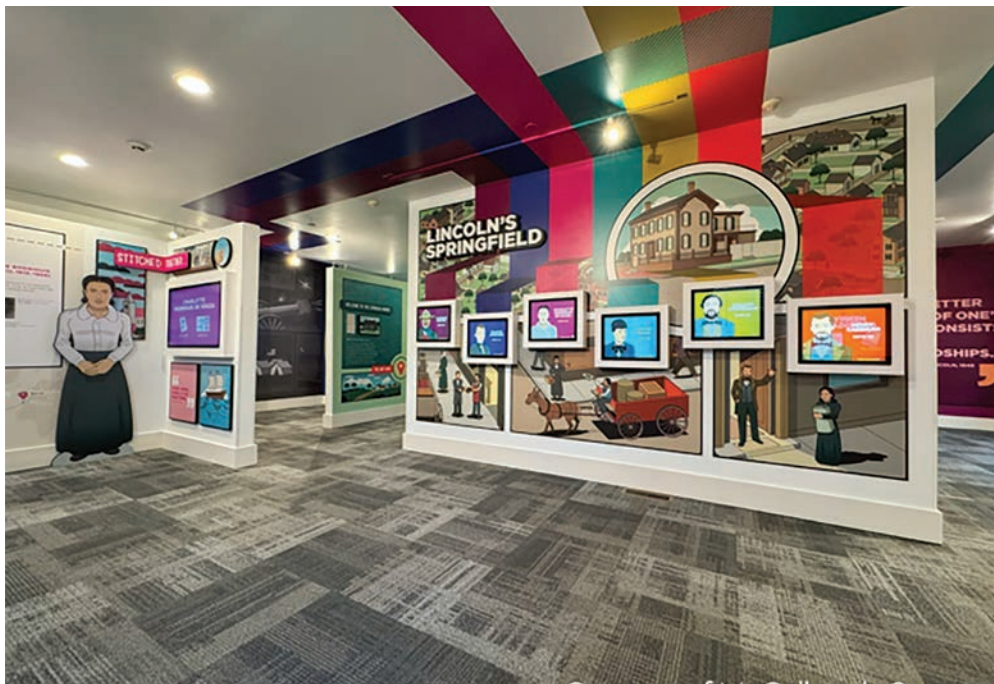
Lincoln Home National Historic Site welcomes nearly 200,000 visitors annually, over 10,000 of whom are student group participants in the target audience.



“For the first time in more than 50 years as a federal site, we now have an experience designed for students. It’s vibrant, it’s interactive, and it helps us tell a more complete story. It’s also our first new permanent exhibit in 20 years. We appreciate our partnership with Lincoln Presidential Foundation and are thrilled this is one example of more good things to come,” said Tim Good, Superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

***“We are already receiving great feedback on how the exhibit enriches the experience of Lincoln Home for young people.”***

***— Erin Carlson Mast,  
Lincoln Presidential  
Foundation’s  
President & CEO***







**June 7:** Craig Morgan with special guest Drew Baldridge at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

**June 14 & 15:** Forsyth Fest in Forsyth, IL includes a parade, beer garden, games, music, food and inflatable area for the kids.

**June 26:** REO Speedwagon at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

**June 28:** Invincible, A Glorious Tribute to Michael Jackson at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL. Features up to 17 musicians, vocalists & dancers that captures the spirit and essence of experiencing a live Michael Jackson performance.

**July 7:** Blackberry Smoke at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

**July 12:** Neal McCoy with Alex Miller at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

**Aug. 22:** Casting Crowns at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

**Aug. 23:** KC & The Sunshine Band at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

**Aug. 24:** Larger Than Life, America's #1 Boyband Experience at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

**Sept. 6:** Southern Accents – Tribute to Tom Petty at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

**Sept. 14:** Finders Harvest Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Progress City, USA, an outdoor convention center located in Decatur, IL. Find irresistible vintage, handmade, antique, boutique and artisan goods, food, drinks, live music and more!

**Oct. 18 & 19:** Branson on the Road at 7 p.m. at the Decatur Civic Center in Decatur, IL.

**Nov. 9:** Always Olivia: An Olivia Newton-John Tribute at 7:30 p.m. at the Decatur Civic Center in Decatur, IL. The show is fronted by Annie Aiello, a celebrated vocalist, "Round 2" candidate on The Voice.

**Nov. 16:** Finders Holiday Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Progress City, USA, an outdoor convention center located in Decatur, IL. Find irresistible vintage, handmade, antique, boutique and artisan goods, food, drinks, live music and more! Find unique gifts for everyone on your list! Giveaways!

## 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 2:** Yung Gravy Live in Concert 7 to 10:30 p.m. at Castle Ridge in Centralia, IL. Enjoy soul music and oldies, sampling a wide range of musical styles dating from 1940s to present day.

**June 8:** Take Me Out to the Car Show held at Mountain Dew Park in Marion, IL. Cars, Trucks and Bikes on display, Food Trucks, a 50/50 Raffle and a Burnout Contest. Event is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is free to attend. Register 9 a.m. to Noon with Awards at 1:30 p.m.. Proceeds to benefit Hospice of Southern Illinois & The Gary Sinise Foundation.

**Aug. 16-18:** Centralia Balloon Fest features hot air balloons, entertainment, crafts, tethered balloon rides, car show, fireworks, food and craft vendors, balloon glow and more all in Centralia, IL.

**Sept. 21 & 22:** Fall Festival at Kinmundy Log Cabin Village in Kinmundy, IL

**Sept. 28 & 29:** Fall Festival at Kinmundy Log Cabin Village in Kinmundy, IL

## 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 buckets, 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](http://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.

## Moultrie County Events

**May 4:** The Chandlers, a Christian music group at 6 p.m. at First Apostolic Lighthouse, 902 S. Hamilton St., Sullivan, IL.

**June 6-16:** Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL

**June 11, 13, 14 & 15:** James and the Giant Peach Kid's Show at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL

**June 20-30:** The Honky Tonk Angels at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL

**July 5-14:** On Golden Pond at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL

**July 9, 11, 12 & 13:** School House Rock Live! Kid's Show at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL

**July 18-28:** School of Rock The Musical at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL



**Aug. 1-11:** Grease at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL

**Aug. 6, 8, 9 & 10:** The Princess and the Pea Kid's Show at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL

**Aug. 15-25:** Nunsense at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL

**Sept. 13 & 14:** Backyard Bluegrass Festival at 790 Souther Rd in Sullivan, IL. Free admission.

Donations welcomed. Friday bands include The Baker Family, Echo Valley, The Petersen's and The Kody Norris Show. Saturday bands include Rhonda Vincent & The Rage, Sylamore Special, The Waddington Brothers and Authentic Unlimited. Friday music begins at 5:30 p.m. Saturday music begins at 11 a.m. Concessions available. Campers welcome.

## 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](mailto: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. The address is 724 CR 1750N, Sullivan, IL. For more information, call 217-460-0283.

## Richland County Events

**April-October:** Olney Downtown Market at Bower Park. Every Saturday 10am to 2 p.m. Rediscover the charm of Downtown Shopping with local artisans at the market and nearby merchants

**May 30:** Shrine Extreme Circus at 6:30 p.m. at Olney City Park. Preshow activities at 5:30 p.m. includes performer meet and greets, animal rides, interactive fun and so much more! [www.spectacularcircus.com](http://www.spectacularcircus.com)

**Thursdays in June and July:** 6-8 p.m. free Sounds of Summer concert series in Bower Park

**July 4:** Fireworks Spectacular. Richland County Fairgrounds/Olney City Park

**July 19-27:** Richland County Fair, Olney City Park. For more information, call 618-392-0766 or visit [richlandcountyfair.org](http://richlandcountyfair.org)

**Aug. 6:** RCRC Triathlon at Musgrove Aquatic Center

## 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.

## Sangamon County Events

**May 5:** First Sunday Midwest Bazaar from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Illinois State Fairgrounds Orr Building in Springfield IL. Fantastic seasonal finds, music, wine patio, You might visit with alpacas or even adopt a pet from the mobile adoption team!! You will enjoy delicious fair "fare" like pies and kettle corn, along with homemade goodies like cinnamon rolls, cookies, fudge and so much more!!

**May 7:** Chicago: 25 Years of Razzle Dazzle musical with one show-stopping song after another and the most astonishing dancing you've ever seen at 7:30 p.m. at University of Illinois Springfield Performing Arts Center.

**May 10-12:** The Bridges of Madison County: The Musical. Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. at The Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield. Set in the picturesque 1960s Iowa, this captivating show follows the chance encounter between a passionate Italian-American housewife and a roving National Geographic photographer. Amidst the backdrop of covered bridges and sweeping landscapes, their forbidden love unfolds in a soul-stirring tale of sacrifice and longing.

**May 17-19:** The Bridges of Madison County: The Musical. Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. at The Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield.

**May 18 & 19:** Old Capitol Art Fair. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Set against the backdrop of the Old State Capitol building in Springfield IL, this fair is the jewel of the Midwest. Free to the public, the juried fair keeps eager buyers coming back each year.

**May 18:** Springfield Pridefest from 11 a.m. to Midnight at 401 E. Capitol Avenue in Springfield IL features a kid's area, teen area, over 50 vendors, live music, food and drinks and a parade.

**June 6-9:** International Carillon Festival at Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon at 1740 W. Fayette Avenue in Springfield, IL. Concert every night at 6 p.m. Individuals and families are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner as well as lawn chairs and blankets for this free event. Several monitors will be positioned around the tower to view the playing keyboard and carillonists during the performance. All concerts are about 45 minutes in duration.

**June 7 & 8:** Lincoln's Legacy of Giving Music Festival is Central Illinois' largest family-friendly music festival with over 60 acts across 5 stages, food trucks, ice cold beverages, art and craft vendors, free Kid's Area, and more! Friday 5 p.m. to midnight and Saturday noon to midnight at 1 Old State Capitol Plaza in Springfield IL. [logmusicfest.org](http://logmusicfest.org)

**June 9:** Springfield IL Comic & Toy Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy, Springfield IL. Vendors, artists, tournaments, cosplay showcase and random drawings.

**June 12-16:** Sangamon County Fair, 318 W. Birch St, New Berlin, IL. Gates open 9 a.m. every day and close every day at midnight except Sunday when closes at 8 p.m. Concerts, rides, animals and everything fair! Tremendous talent lineup for the grandstand! Rodeo on June 14 at 7 p.m.

**July 27 & 28:** Downhome Music Festival on Friday from 5 p.m. to midnight and Saturday from 2 p.m. to midnight at 117 S. 7th Street in Springfield showcasing local music while introducing festival goers to a variety of craft beer in a family friendly environment.

**Aug. 2 & 3:** Powerlight Abe Lincoln Car Show Spectacular & Super Cruise at Cherry Hills Church, 2125 Woodside Rd in Springfield IL. Cruise is Friday night and Car Show is Saturday.

**Aug. 9-11:** Dual Piano Goes to the Movies! Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at The Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth Street in Springfield featuring great music of the Silver Screen.

**Aug. 9:** Keith Urban at the Illinois State Fair Grandstand 8 p.m. in Springfield IL.

**Aug. 10:** Motley Crue at the Illinois State Fair Grandstand 8 p.m. in Springfield IL.

**Aug. 11:** Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit at the Illinois State Fair Grandstand 8 p.m. in Springfield IL.

**Aug. 13:** Jordan Davis at the Illinois State Fair Grandstand 8 p.m. in Springfield IL.

**Aug. 15:** Jonas Brothers at the Illinois State Fair Grandstand 8 p.m. in Springfield IL.

**Aug. 16:** The Smashing Pumpkins at the Illinois State Fair Grandstand 8 p.m. in Springfield IL.

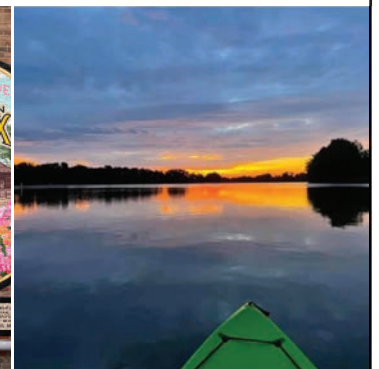
**Aug. 17:** Miranda Lambert at the Illinois State Fair Grandstand 8 p.m. in Springfield IL.

**Aug. 23-25:** Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. at The Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield IL.

**Aug. 30-Sept. 1:** Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. at The Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield IL.

**Sept. 27-29:** International Route 66 Mother Road Festival features the cars, the music, the fun and nostalgia that Route 66 has brought to generations. Dennis Gage will be filming an episode of his

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# Farm Camp:

## Alternative summer fun

MELISSA GIBSON  
CNHI NEWS

**F**arm Camp grew out of a Jamestown, Indiana couple's love for family, animals, and a homesteading lifestyle.

Brandy Schroeder and her husband Brad attended a homesteading conference and she began making sourdough bread. He began making goat milk soap.

The family farm had a few animals, like chickens for eggs, but the Jamestown couple began receiving phone calls to take on

rescue farm animals. So goats, pigs and rabbits joined the farm. They had seen the reaction to the animals from friends and family.

"My mom adopts special needs kids," Schroeder said. "We had talked about how therapeutic the animals are for people with special needs and maybe we could take the farm animals to birthday parties and other events."

As the Schroeders continued accepting animals, they added an emu, alpacas, peacocks, ducks and guinea fowl. And though the farm continued to grow, the Schroeders still weren't sure they were ready to take the leap into business.

"I met with my spiritual adviser and was talking about our idea. Maybe we could work with people and minister in a different way through our farm," Schroeder said. "Three hours later, I received a phone call for an 11-year-old's birthday party and they were looking for farm animals. That was it."

6th Day Farm was established in the summer of 2023 and the family hasn't looked back.

Last fall, they held the first free Family Fun Day, complete with hayrides, facepainting and feeding and visiting with the animals.

It was such a hit with more than 100 visitors that they've planned another event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 4.

Recently, Schroeder's son made a comment about the local fields and where food came from.

"I was super proud of him and it made me think we

**Brandy Schroeder loves sharing her animals with the community, educating others and offering unique experiences. Submitted photo**







Clockwise from top: Brandy Schroeder's homemade sourdough bread is a hit with customers and she offers classes, teaching others the joy of baking. Animals are proven to be therapeutic for individuals with special needs and experience tells the Schroeders animals bring joy to nearly all that encounter them. 6th Day Farm's goat milk soap is made by Brad Schroeder and sold through the website. Submitted photos



should give kids an opportunity to come out and learn what it's like to live on the farm," Schroeder said. "We'll do animal care, gardening, plant some trees, do crafts and make butter from scratch. It's not only giving them some basic skills, but they'll be able to see all the things they can do on their own."

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 8 through 11, the Schroeders will hold their first Farm Summer Camp experience at 6th Day Farm for youth ages 8-15.

Spots are filling up fast and Schroeder is excited to see the variety of people interested in the event.

"I think in the long term, we want to continue to provide more awareness," she said. "We want to support parents; to partner with them in teaching children these skills and continue to offer families opportunities to enjoy time together."

Camp is \$200 per person with a \$50 deposit to hold the spot. To reserve a place, email to [6dayfarm@gmail.com](mailto:6dayfarm@gmail.com).

6th Day Farm is at 5039 S. 600 West, Jamestown. For more information, visit the website at [6thdayfarms.com/](http://6thdayfarms.com/) and follow the Schroeders at 6th Day Farm LLC on Facebook.



popular show, My Classic Car, for Motor Trend Network on Friday & Saturday during the 2024 Festival! Chris Jacobs of the TV Show Overhaulin' and co-host of SEMA Live will be a special guest of the festival. Music acts on the Isringhausen Imports main stage include Wowie Zowie Band on Friday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Reckless Whiskey on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Pizzazz Dance Band on Saturday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Horizon on Saturday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

## Shelby County Events

**May 4:** Decade of Decadence A Live Concert event playing the biggest and best anthems of the 80's era of Arena Rock and Hair Bands at Hangar 18 in Windsor, IL at 8 p.m.

**May 10 & 11:** Chet Kingery Memorial Bluegrass Festival at Chautauqua Auditorium in Shelbyville IL featuring Blue Highway, David Davis & The Warrior River Boys, Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers, Kings Highway, The Kody Norris Show and Host Band Mackville. [www.mackvillebluegrass.com](http://www.mackvillebluegrass.com) 217-460-1439.

**May 25:** Strasburg Village Wide Rummage Sales starting at 7 a.m.

**May 25:** Nightrain: The #1 Guns N' Roses Tribute 8 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor, IL

**June 1:** Lions Club Chicken Fry & Fresh Strawberry Shortcake 4 p.m. at the village park in Strasburg.

**June 6-8:** Moweaqua Pow Wow Days. Music, Fun and more!

**June 14-16:** Strasburg 150th Celebration. Food trucks, Carnival, Entertainment, Music, Children's Activities, Exotic Petting Zoo, Parade, Fireworks & More!

**June 27-30:** Stewardson 150th Celebration. Lions Club Tractor Pull June 27; Bed Races, Bounce Houses, Food Trucks and The Flynts Band on June 28; Car Show, Tractor Show, Vendor Fair, Mud Volleyball, Face Painting, Bingo, Coffee and Food Trucks, Bounce Houses/Corn Pile, Stewardson History, Backyard Boogie Band, and Flight Fifty Band on June 29; Wiffle Ball, Face Painting, Parade, Vendor Fair, Monster Truck Rides, Bounce Houses/Corn Pile, Lions Club Food Stand, Stewardson History and Fireworks on June 30.

**June 29:** Hardwire: A Tribute to Metallica Band 8 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor, IL.

**July 13:** Lions Club Tractor Pull & Sandwiches at the park in Strasburg

**July 20:** Eliminator: ZZ Top Tribute Band 7 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor, IL

**July 27:** Ville Market Craft Fair & Car Show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Shelby County Fairgrounds, Shelbyville. Vendors selling Food, Crafts, Clothes, Jewelry & more! Car Show!

**Aug. 10:** Made in America: Tribute to Toby Keith 8 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor, IL.

**Sept. 7:** Fall Village Wide Rummage Sales in Strasburg

**Sept. 20:** Icons of Country Tribute Show featuring Keith as Kenny Chesney, Erica as Miranda Lambert and Cal as Jason Aldean at 8 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor, IL.

**Oct. 26:** Halloween Soup Supper, Parade, Costumes, Cake Walk at the community center in Strasburg.

**Nov. 3:** American Legion Christmas Auction 1 p.m. at the community center in Strasburg.

**Nov. 9:** Santa Brigade Breakfast & Christmas Market Breakfast 6 a.m. and Christmas Market 7 a.m. all at St. Paul's Social Hall & Gym in Strasburg, IL.

**Dec. 1:** American Legion Christmas Auction 1 p.m. at the community center in Strasburg.

**Dec. 8:** Lutheran Churches Christmas Cantata 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson.

**Dec. 13 & 14:** Christmas Store/ Cookie Walk at the community center in Strasburg. Visit with Santa on Dec. 14 from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

## SHELBY COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Vahling Vineyards

Vahling Vineyards is a winery located at 2683 Co. Hwy 6, Stewardson IL. (217)682-5409. [vahlingvineyards.com](http://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 Horrace 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 MacArthur 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 1/2 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](http://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](http://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 Chevys. 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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www.scottsbldgcenter.com

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www.ltmoffroad.com

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www.awesomeblossomsil.com

**LOVE'S Travel Stop  
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203 N. Haughton Hwy.  
217-923-3220

**Simply for You Boutique**  
706 E. Cumberland St.  
217-343-3874

**Casey's General Store**  
209 N. Haughton Hwy  
217-923-3400

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217-923-3434

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400 S Haughton Hwy  
217-923-5512

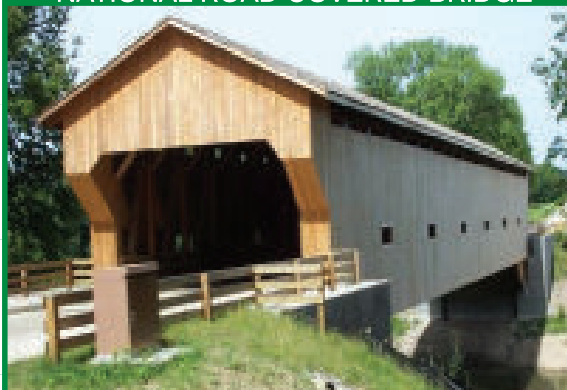
**OOP's Old National Trail  
Collectibles & Consignments**  
215 W. Cumberland St.  
217-923-1475

## CLUBS

(open to public)  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
Post#4598  
106 W. Mill St. • (217) 923-3193

**Greenup American Legion**  
Post #566  
114 W. Cumberland St.  
(217) 923-5308

## NATIONAL ROAD COVERED BRIDGE



## LODGING

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

**Cumberland Road Guesthouse**  
501 E. Cumberland  
AirBnB.com

**Craftsman  
Bungalow Air BnB**  
206 E. Pleasant St.

**Greenup Inn**  
400 S. Haughton Hwy  
217-923-5512

**Cozy Corner**  
107 S. Marietta St.  
AirBnB.com

**The Candy Kitchen**  
121 W. Cumberland St.  
AirBnB.com

## SERVICES

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

**Greenup E-Z Laundry**  
211 E. Cumberland St.

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

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

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

**Cumberland Rehabilitation  
and Healthcare**  
300 N. Marietta • 217-923-3186

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

**Cutt's Insurance**  
701 E. Illinois St. • 217-923-5010

**Dr. Gregg Dill Dentist**  
102 E. Cumberland St. • 217-923-5292

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

**Buy A Farm - Todd Hewing**  
103 W. Cumberland, Greenup, IL  
217-663-0007

**Barkley Funeral Chapels**  
300 N. Kentucky St. • 217-923-3086

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

**Edward D. Jones**  
201 N. Haughton Hwy., Suite 2,  
217-923-3464  
www.edwardjones.com

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

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

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

**Shore-Murphy & Associates, LLC**  
200 S. Jefferson St. • 217-923-5590

**Greenup Township Library**  
101 N. Franklin St. • 217-923-3616

**Bergbower Chiropractic  
Family Wellness Clinic**  
100 W. Cumberland St. • 217-923-0100

**Midwest Towing & Auto Sales**  
203 S. Delaware St.  
217-343-2972

**Burton Home Repair  
Handyman Svc.**  
654 Wagon Rd. • 217-343-8689

**Hayden's Landscaping**  
1749 US RT 40 • 217-923-3560

## ELSTUN CORNER PORCHES



## RESTAURANTS

**Taco Rey**  
203 N. Haughton Hwy.  
217-923-5100

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

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

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

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

**Miss K's Kitchen**  
117 W. Cumberland St.  
217-923-3093

**Naf Naf**  
Love's Travel Stops & Country Store  
203 N. Haughton Hwy.  
217-923-3220  
nafnafgrill.com

**Godfather's Pizza**  
Love's Travel Stops & Country Store  
203 N. Haughton Hwy.  
217-923-3225  
godfathers.com/home

**Hootenanny**  
1st Saturday of the Month

**Chamber of Commerce  
Greenup Apple Fest**  
October 9 - 12, 2024

**Halloween Celebration  
Greenup Municipal Building**  
October 26, 2024

**Christmas in the Village  
Greenup Municipal Building**  
December 14, 2024

## MUSEUMS

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

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

## CARNEGIE MILITARY MUSEUM



## JACKSON TRUSS COVERED BRIDGE

