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ON THE COVER:

The crowd enjoys the music and sunshine during a 2021 concert at The Mill. Submitted photo.



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The Children's Museum of Indianapolis offers variety

Story by Nick Taylor

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THE MILL



Plans for Terre Haute outdoor venue rebound after COVID

Tim and Kelly Drake and children, Kali, 6, and Clayton, 4, at The Mill on opening day, when artist Nelly performed in 2021. Submitted photo.

BY KATIE SHANE

It may be cliché, but for Tim and Kelly Drake the saying “everything happens for a reason” is a motto they’ve lived over and over.

The owners of The Mill, an outdoor event center and amphitheater in Terre Haute, are into the

venue’s second season. Featuring acts such as Flo Rida, Jake Owen, Skid Row and Warrant over the summer, and Lynyrd Skynyrd headlining Sept. 17, The Mill is on its way to surpassing 2021’s success. It may seem like The Mill has been around for longer than just one year, as

plans had been underway since 2019, but due to roadblocks and the global pandemic the future of the facility was challenged numerous times.

“What’s there now, that was going to be our phase three,” Tim says about the facility’s current stage and outdoor music space. “The

whole plan got flipped upside down because of COVID and then it seemed like it was a domino effect.”

A successful entrepreneur, Tim was no stranger to the ups and downs of business, but The Mill’s journey was one that surprised even the most experi-

enced business owner. A longtime partner and investor in Show Me's and an employee of Jones & Sons Concrete and Masonry Products, Tim says he always subscribed to the phrase, "find the need, fill the need." After working for years to revamp the Bloomington Show Me's, Tim focused his efforts on his hometown along with wife Kelly, who worked in sales and customer relations for Large Inc before joining the "family business" with her husband.

Friends since middle school, Tim and Kelly dated on and off before losing touch during college. They reconnected and found the spark they felt decades before was still there. They married in 2017 and welcomed two children: Kali, 6 and Clayton, 4.

"Everything in our lives, from how we met in middle school and then lost touch and then came back together, we didn't skip a beat," Tim says.



Tim and Kelly Drake on stage at The Mill on April 7. Photo by Joseph C. Garza.

"It's cheesy, but for us so many times we have looked back and thought

everything happens for a reason. Some things are meant to happen when

they happen."

With a dream of creating a music venue; one large and one small on the same property, Tim and Kelly submitted a bid on the former International Paper property on Prairie-ton Road. Listed at \$2.1 million, the property had been eyed as the location for numerous businesses, including the Vigo County jail.

"We always knew that the paper property was available," Tim explains. "There wasn't any action on it and they encouraged me to put in a bid. So I called and said, 'my offer is one dollar and I'm very serious about that.'"

Tim's bid may have been rejected, but his idea was picked up by the Vigo County Commissioners. The Commissioners at the time, Brad Anderson, Judy Anderson and Jon Marvel, approved a public-private lease agreement for the nearly 60 acres of land along the Wabash River.

The couple set out to be-

Crowds at The Mill in Terre Haute, Indiana during the 2021 season. Submitted photo.



gin plans with an opening date slated for spring 2020. Then COVID happened, changing the way The Mill would be constructed, opened and operated.

"The original plan was for that back building to be the first phase and do a really intimate indoor and outdoor venue," Kelly explains. "But COVID happened and everything shut down."

Continues Tim, "By the time we got the green light to be able to open, we had two months, maybe round up to say three months. We had lost our original bank loan, everyone was still reeling from COVID and we had to rely on friends and family and other local businesses to help us make it happen."

The local community rallied to make it happen, some businesses even completing work "in good faith" to ensure the facility would open in time for the first headliner, Nelly. The Drakes list First Farmers Bank & Trust, Joink, Jones & Sons, Precision Lawn Care & Vigo Turf and Frey Excavation and Drainage as businesses that supported them when they needed it most along with professional stagehands, lighting and audio operators who worked tirelessly to help the first-time show-runners.

On June 5, 2021, Tim and Kelly were ready for opening night.

"I remember standing there and you know that feeling of going down on a roller coaster? The gates open and the cars start rolling in and I'm thinking, 'here we go,'" Kelly says.

Adds Tim, "We had already jumped out of the plane, there was no reason to then check your parachute."

The couple welcomed thousands to the first show, jumping behind the bar for hours to help with large bar lines and working



Crowds at The Mill in Terre Haute, Indiana during the 2021 season. Submitted photo.

to make sure the show would happen without a hitch. The couple says they learned a lot on that first night, what to do and what not to do. They made notes for the future and continued to move forward.

"When things finally slowed down and Nelly was about to go on, Tim and I looked at each other and we knew we needed to go see it," Kelly says of the show. "We ran to the back of the stage and we were just in awe of how it looked and the amount of people, it was amazing."

Not what they originally planned, but Kelly says, "I wouldn't change it now."

The venue brought numerous artists to west-central Indiana in 2021 — and hundreds of visitors. As Terre Haute continues to work toward becoming a tourist destination in Indiana, The Mill has become a large attraction and

driver of those efforts. Tim and Kelly serve on the See You in Terre Haute Community Plan Tourism Pillar, an initiative by the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce and Terre Haute Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"The Mill has the potential to attract many visitors from around the region," says CVB Executive Director David Patterson. "We are thankful for their investment in our community."

The Mill will slowly be expanding into a location for more than just large-scale music events. This fall they will welcome Susan G. Komen for a breast cancer fundraiser. Tim says they plan to open the property up for more community events, while also working on the next phase for the property.

It's unclear which "phase" of the plan they'll enter next, but the Drakes say the phase they're in — and how they got there —

was meant to be.

"The timing of it all really worked out," Kelly says. "It all happened for a reason. There was a reason why we were pushed to be outside and have a bigger venue and bigger artists. It was scary but ..."

She looks to her husband and business partner, who continues the sentence.

"... but things happen in mysterious ways. It must not have been the right time prior," Tim says. "For some reason, we had to wait and be forced to do it a different way. We would have done everything completely differently with a different mindset, but it happened the way it happened and look where we are now."

This story originally appeared in the June 2022 edition of Terre Haute Living, a publication of CNHI's Tribune-Star of Terre Haute, a sister paper of the Effingham Daily News.

BOND COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 3 — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Farmers/Makers Market on S. Second Street in Downtown Greenville.

Sept. 16-18 — Hills Fort Rendezvous at American Farm Heritage Museum.

Sept. 17 — Graze in the Grass 6-9 p.m. at Marcoot Jersey Creamery, 526 Dudleyville Rd. Greenville, IL. A fundraiser for Eden's Glory, a home for working to end human trafficking.

Oct. 1 — Apple Day, Chili Cook-Off and Classic Car Cruise in Downtown Greenville.

Oct. 1 — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Farmers/Makers Market (part of Apple Day!) on S. Second Street in Downtown Greenville.

Oct. 8 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Join us for a Free family fun event on the farm as we celebrate harvest! Enjoy walking around our pasture having fun seeing farm animals, playing games, and enjoy lunch with our famous grilled cheese sandwiches and freshly fried cheese curds. Admission is FREE! Marcoot Jersey Creamery, 526 Dudleyville Rd. Greenville, IL.

Oct. 8 — Fall Family Festival 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at American Farm Heritage Museum. Tractor Museum and Lil' Red Barn Museum Open! Red Barn will have ham and beans and corn bread for sale plus the Lil' Red Barn Big Idea Cookbook. Children may sit on the tractors with accompanying adult. Costume Contest, Pumpkin painting, Prizes, Games, Train rides, Face paintings, and much more. Crafters & Vendors welcome. Food available! Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the day in the country. Call 618-664-0696 for more information!

Nov. 26 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Come Home for Christmas located at Downtown Greenville Square. Mr. and Mrs. Claus, ice skating, a lighted parade, free entertainment, free food, local dining and shopping specials, kids activities. Decorated tree auction and much more.

Nov. 25-Dec. 31 — American Farm Heritage Museum-Christmas Lights Wonderland nightly 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Come visit our Christmas display. See our unique and extensive collection of light boxes, Christmas displays, Christmas lights, and Holiday Scenes. Admission to Display = donation accepted. Make our annual Christmas Display YOUR next family tradition!

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

Marcoot Jersey Creamery

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

American Farm Heritage Museum

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

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 9-10 — Krannert Center for the Performing Arts Opening Weekend Celebration, krannertcenter.com

Sept. 10-11 — CU Black and African Arts Festival, Lincoln Square, Urbana, facebook.com/C-U-Black-and-African-Arts-Festival-407951969802729

Sept. 17 — West Side Arts Festival, West Side Park, Champaign, 40north.org/programs/west-side-arts

Sept. 22-24 — Pygmalion, Downtown Urbana, thisispygmalion.com

Sept. 24 — CU Oktoberfest, downtown Champaign, cuoktoberfest.org

Sept. 30-Oct. 1 — CU Pride Fest, downtown Urbana, unitingpride.com

Oct. 8-15 — University of Illinois Homecoming, homecoming.illinois.edu

Oct. 20-22 — CU Folk & Roots Festival, downtown Urbana, folkandroots.org

Nov. 18-19 — Gifford State Bank Country Christmas Craft Show, Gordville, gordvilleusa.com

Nov. 26 — Parade of Lights, downtown Champaign, champaigncenter.com

Champaign County Attractions

The Sousa Archives and Center for American Music

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

Krannert Art Museum

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

The UI Arboretum

A living laboratory, including plant collections and facilities that support the teaching, research, and public service programs of several units throughout campus. Located on the campus of the University of Illinois, it was developed in the late 1980s to early 1990s, and is currently 57 acres. Central to the Arboretum was the development of the "All American Selection Trial Gardens." The Arboretum is available for organized events from 8 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 arboretum.illinois.edu.

Gordville USA

Founded by legendary auctioneer Gordon and his wife, Jan Hannagan. They created Gordville. 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.



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Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

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

CHRISTIAN COUNTY EVENTS

Aug. 31 through Sept. 5 — Pana Tri-County Fair at the Fairgrounds at 605 N. 2500 East Road, Pana IL 62557. Live music, queen pageants, demolition derby Sunday, Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, Sept. 5 at 2 p.m., carnival, speed show, tractor pulls, truck pulls, western horse show, harness racing, petting zoo, parade, mud drags, competitive exhibits, vendors, food and more!

Sept. 2 — Small Town Taylorville Cruise from 4:30-8 p.m. on the square in Taylorville IL. All wheels welcome – Cars, Trucks, 4x4, Bikes, Trikes. Vintage, Restored, Off-Road, New, Unique and more! Collectible Dash Plaques for first 50 cars! Bring the family and check out some amazing vehicles!

Sept. 3 — Fall Farmers & Pickers Market on the Taylorville Square at 101 S. Main St. in Taylorville, IL. Features all the great Farmers Market vendors you see each week, plus special guest pickers with vintage, antiques, refurbished, handmade, and collectible items! If you are a picker, please join us! ALL items must be prior to 1980. Anything made after 1980 is not allowed. No direct sales.

Sept. 5 — Pana Labor Day Parade. A two-hour extravaganza, runs through downtown Pana and ends in Kitchell Park and attracts thousands to view the largest Labor Day Parade in the state of Illinois!

Sept. 18 — Wiffle Ball Tournament hosted by Pana Chamber of Commerce at Tanner Park in Pana, IL at 1 p.m. Double Elimination, 6 Player Team Maximum. Sign up by Sept. 16 by contacting Al Stupek at TCCU at 101 E. 5th Street in Pana IL 62557. \$60 per team.

Oct. 1 & 2 — Chillfest on the square in Taylorville, IL, sponsored by The Greater Taylorville Chamber of Commerce. Chillinois cookoff to be held on Saturday and the Central State cookoff to be held Sunday. A pageant and a 5k Color Run are also planned. Vendors will also be on the square.

Oct. 4 — Fall Block Party in downtown Pana from 5-7 p.m. Enjoy a FREE Evening of activities put on by the Pana Chamber of Commerce. Many of Pana's local businesses and vendors will be set up for a fun, fall evening!

Christian County Attractions

Paublo Agricultural Museum

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

Christian County Historical Society Museum

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

The Christian County Coal Mine Museum

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

Anderson Prairie

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

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

Sept. 2-5 — Labor Day Weekend, Annual Casey Popcorn Festival at Fairview Park. Casey's signature festival with free popcorn, live music, family entertainment shows, car show, yard sales, kids carnival, chainsaw carving, arts and crafts, food booths, Jonah Fish Fry! Contact Charlie Tipton at 217-446-2612 or Donna Busch at 812-466-6462 for more information.

Sept. 2 & 9 — Marshall Farmer's Market at the Courthouse Square.

Sept. 10 — Gatherings at Linn Park Amphitheater, corner of Mill & Vine, Martinsville. Features, "Scott Wattles & Blue Suede Crew" at 7 p.m. Free will donation. Food and concessions available.

Sept. 16-18 — Marshall Autumn Fest, features great food, shopping, large parade, car and bike show, music, 5K run and fun activities for kids and the whole family. 217-251-3034. marshallautumnfest.com

Sept. 24 — Big Fall Saturday in downtown Casey, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Store specials, food trucks and activities for the whole family.

Oct. 29 — Frolic/Trunk or Treat, Marshall. Trunk or Treat around the Marshall Square from 6-7 p.m. Frolic (costume contest) at 6:30 p.m. Trick or Treat around the community from 6-9 p.m. 217-826-2034. marshallilichamber.com

Nov. 12 — "Battle of the Valley" NUCS Appreciation Event begins at 7 a.m., Buck Valley Wildlife, 7598 N. 1540th St., Marshall. Fish Fry Banquet and awards in evening.

Nov. 17 — Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce member breakfast. marshallilichamber.com

Dec. (all month) — Shop Small Campaign all month in Marshall

Dec. 2-3 — Candy Cane on Main, Downtown Casey. Friday Night Lighted Parade; Saturday all-day event with businesses running Christmas specials; events by local library and a big mailbox for kids to mail their Letters to Santa cityofcasey.org

Dec. 3 — Hometown Holly Days, Marshall. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Vendors, cookie walk and light parade at dusk. 217-826-2034. marshallilichamber.com

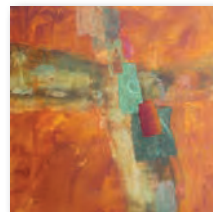
Clark County Attractions

Quaint shops, delicious eateries and unique attractions! Casey is an adorable little town with friendly folks, perfect for a day trip or well deserved weekend getaway. With new businesses and big items being added every

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Jacksonville African American Museum executive director Art Wilson said the museum is meant to reflect the “rich Black history” of the city. (Ben Singson/Journal-Courier)

Jacksonville museum spotlights efforts, successes of Black residents

BEN SINGSON
JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL-
COURIER

Those wanting a closer look at Black history in Jacksonville got their chance in July, when Jacksonville African American History Museum opened at 859 Grove St.

The museum will be open from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays into September. Visitors also can visit the museum year-round by appointment.

The museum had its grand opening on July 9, with Jacksonville native and former NFL wide receiver Creston Whitaker as a guest of honor.

Art Wilson, founding executive director for the museum, said the museum is meant to reflect

Jacksonville's Black history and the history of some other groups in the area, including the Portuguese, Irish and German. He said people need to recognize the efforts of those who left the city to find success elsewhere.

“Jacksonville has a rich Black history ... of people that have gone out and done a lot of successful things who didn't get a chance to do those things here,” he said. “A lot of them, they couldn't get those jobs because their peers were given those jobs. And so, they went off and ... created their own life doing things.”

The museum features multiple exhibits showcasing local and national Black history from the Underground Railroad to today. One room will feature Black people from

Jacksonville who went on to prosper in politics, entertainment and sports, while another will feature those who served in the military. Other rooms feature exhib-

its on Juneteenth and church life. Wilson said he is planning to open a room for children in about six months, featuring books that would teach them how kids in other countries grow up.

In the future, the museum hopes to host a number of special events, ranging from a history of blues and jazz taught by a local musician to some of the people mentioned in the exhibits coming back to Jacksonville to speak, Wilson said.

Wilson also wants to start a “Walk a Mile in Our Shoes” program, which would distribute shoes to children in need.

Wilson hopes people understand the museum's goal of presenting Black history to the public after being “dormant,” he said, noting that, when the museum said “Black lives matter,” it's not saying other lives did not.

“We're just trying to show you that through our history, we didn't matter” to others, Wilson said. “If you look at our history, there's no point in time that we really mattered (to others) until something happened to make it matter.”

This story was contributed via AP StoryShare.

The Jacksonville African American Museum has a room dedicated to successful Black people who hail from Jacksonville, such as the late heavyweight champion boxer Ken Norton. (Ben Singson/Journal-Courier)





The rock group STYX formed in Chicago in 1972. Pictured left to right: Chuck Panozzo, Ricky Phillips, Todd Sucherman, Tommy Shaw, James "J.Y." Young and Lawrence Gowan. Portrait shot at Macon City Auditorium on Oct. 4, 2014 in Macon, Georgia. Photo by Rick Diamond/Getty Images for STYX.

Illinois Rock & Roll Museum in the works

ANGELA BAUER
JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL-
COURIER

The Illinois Rock & Roll Museum on U.S. Route 66 in Joliet is not a cheap trick — despite taking root in one.

"The idea kind of crept in over time," said Ron Romero, the museum's founder and executive director. "I had been to Cleveland (Ohio) a few times, Nashville (Tennessee) a few times. ... One of the things that pushed me over was that Rick Nielsen of Cheap Trick had an exhibit in Rockford," which is Cheap Trick's hometown.

People came from overseas to Rockford to see the exhibit.

"That's just one band," Romero said, noting that it made him wonder what the response would be if a museum was dedicated to all Illinois music. "Despite the name being 'rock and roll,' we honor and preserve all genres of music."

Romero and others got together and, in 2019, bought a building at 9 W. Cass St. in Joliet.

"Since then, we've been renovating the building," he said. "We all know what

happened in 2020; it slowed us down a bit. We're not a development company, we're not millionaires. This is all grassroots."

The effort has received "really nice community support" in Joliet, Romero said, with contractors frequently donating their time to work on the building.

"The building was built in 1930," he said. "It's as solid as can be, all cement. It's listed as a fireproof building. But even though it's built like a tank, we're having to replace the elevator" and make other upgrades.

The current push is to get the first floor of the 25,000-square-foot building finished and open, after which they will finish the second and third floors, Romero said.

When exactly that will happen remains unclear.

Opening in "2020 would have been good," Romero said. "... We'd like to be open with this as soon as possible. We're going to shoot for this year and see how we do, depending on funding."

Funding also is grassroots, with "700 charter members from 30 states and three countries now," Romero said. "Memberships keep

us afloat. We have donors who donate every month. ... We have an online store where we sell shirts, all sorts of things. We're able to pay the mortgage and electric and gas and keep moving forward. We've also had a lot of in-kind donations."

While they work toward an opening, Romero and his board of directors also work on the details.

"We have design people on our board of directors," he said. "The first floor is based on the blues. We had to have a place to start this story. I chose blues because ... blues is where everything kind of started with rock music."

The plan is for the second floor to hold the majority of their other exhibits, with the third floor dedicated to an Illinois music hall of fame.

"Because we're opening the first floor and the lower level first, it will have a little bit of everything," Romero said. "As we finish the second and third floors, we'll move everything into the appropriate places."

That's not a bad thing, he said.

"We want to do that because we want people not to come once and say 'I've been here' but to (want to come back). We want it to be dynamic and changing."

The plan also includes offering music lessons and courses on music business. There's a small performance stage on the lower level that will allow for smaller concerts as part of those educational offerings.

"Part of our mission here is beyond the history part of it," Romero said. "We want to honor and preserve history, but it's also a teaching museum. We're building a facility for teaching, not just music but ... music publishing (and other aspects of the industry, such as lighting and sound). There's a lot of money to be made in this industry, and not necessarily as a rock star."

Classes run for six, 10 or 12 weeks, with a performance at the end, he said.

"Our teachers are people who have real-world experience, who have toured, played with bands," Romero said. "They're not just teaching instruments. They have a good background in performance."

While organizers wait for the building to be completed, they're not waiting to establish an Illinois music hall of fame. They inducted their Inaugural Class — what was supposed to have been the Class of 2020 but didn't happen until 2021.

That first class included Chicago, Cheap Trick, REO Speedwagon, The Ides of March, Muddy Waters, The Buckingham, Buddy Guy, Chess Records, Larry Lujack, WLS-AM radio, Dick Biondi, and The Thirsty Whale.

The recently announced Class of 2022 includes Styx, Chuck Berry, Sam Cooke, Dan Fogelberg and New Colony Six. Styx member Dennis DeYoung also will be inducted separate from Styx as a songwriter, as will Jim Peterik. Non-performance inductees include DJ John "Records" Landecker, WXRT-FM, Gary Liozzo and Mercury Records.

Chosen by a vote of the museum's charter members, the latest class was inducted during a ceremony and concert June 5 at Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet.

For more about the museum, visit RoadtoRock.org.

This story was contributed via AP StoryShare.



year, there is always something new to experience! Casey, Illinois is home to certified world's largest items, which include: World's Largest Wind Chime, Golf Tee, Pitchfork, Rocking Chair, Wooden Shoes, Mailbox, Gavel, Truck Key, Barbershop Pole, Teeter Totter, Golf Driver & Swizzle Spoon. Other Big Items around town, that are a must see include: Bob the Minion, Big Antlers, Big Anvil, Big Bat, Big Birdcage, Big Bookworm, Big Cactus, Big Crochet Hook, Big Ear of Corn, Big Glider Plane, Big Horseshoe, Big Knitting Needles, Big Mouse Trap, Big Nail Puzzle, Big Pencil, Big Pizza Slicer, Big Rocking Horse, Big Spinning Top, Big Wooden Token, Big Yardstick & Big Taco. New Trolley offers hour-long tours to see all the Big Things in Casey. Take in the Illinois American Softball Association Hall of Fame and the Historic National Road Information Kiosk too while in Casey.

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.



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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.

CLAY COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 3 — Junktique Market Days Fall Market presents "Fall at the Fairgrounds" 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Flora, IL. Antiques, farmhouse, vintage, handmade items, candles, fall mums, pumpkins, clothing boutiques, jewelry, food trucks, etc. Expecting over 60 vendors! Music by Pity Thy Neighbor.

Sept. 9-11 — Fall Open House at The Country Lamb, 4178 North State Rd, Flora, IL 62839. Phone (618)662-5412

Sept. 9 & 10 — Rotary Cemetery Tour. Historical/Comical hay ride tour through Elmwood Cemetery in Flora, IL with live actors dressed in period-appropriate clothing, entitled "Shadows at Elmwood". Tickets go on sale each night at 5 p.m. and run till 9 p.m. at The Depot, 223 W. Railroad St., Flora, IL. Tours will continue until all ticket holders have gone through that night. No presales. There is a VIP option that is \$25 and will speed up your wait time.

Sept. 16 & 17 — 3rd annual Flora Classic & Ford Town USA in Flora, IL celebrates when Flora was named Ford Town USA in 1960. Cruise-In from 5-8 p.m. on Friday Sept. 16 with Dash Plaques to the first 100 registrants, all makes and models welcome. Car Show at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17 - registration closes at noon, \$15 per entry, Top 75 awards and 5 specialty awards. Car Show hosted by Clay County Cruisers - for information call (618)676-4005. New this year are food trucks! Will have Mexican food truck, ice cream and sandwiches, mini fair doughnuts and shake-ups and BBQ. All 80's Boombox Band will play live Friday night and live music by Jonathan Len on Saturday. For general information about the weekend event, call (618)662-5646. fordtownusaflora.com

Sept 16-18 — Fall Open House second weekend at The Country Lamb, 4178 North State Rd, Flora, IL 62839. Phone (618)662-5412

Sept. 24 — Appleknocker Arts & Science Festival sponsored by Flora Academic Foundation at Flora Elementary School in Flora, IL. The one-day event draws several thousand visitors each year. The event begins early, at 8 a.m., with the Jerry Jennings Memorial 5K Run. Throughout the day, over one hundred booths offer children and adults special activities that highlight the arts and sciences, plus varieties of food from different cultures, and stage presentations that vary from Indian dancing to acrobatics to snake handling, puppetry, music, contests, displays by industry, business & health organizations and more. For more information, call 618-662-2412.

Oct. 28, 29 & 30 — Louisville IL Fall Harvest Festival on the square in Louisville, IL. Parade on Saturday, food trucks, queen pageant, and so much more!

Oct. 29 — Halloween Parade at 7 p.m. in downtown Flora IL

Nov. 18 — Moonlight Madness from 5-8 p.m. in downtown Flora IL. Come downtown to kick off your after-hours holiday shopping with deals, steals and family fun! Coloring Contest, Kids Games, DJ Music, Car Cruise-In, Vendors, Wonka Chocolate Bar Frenzy, plus selfies with Wonka! Stop by the chamber table by Common Grounds Coffee Lounge for a complete list of participating businesses and deals!

Nov. 25 — Black Sheep Friday at The Country Lamb, 4178 North State Rd, Flora, IL 62839. Phone (618)662-5412



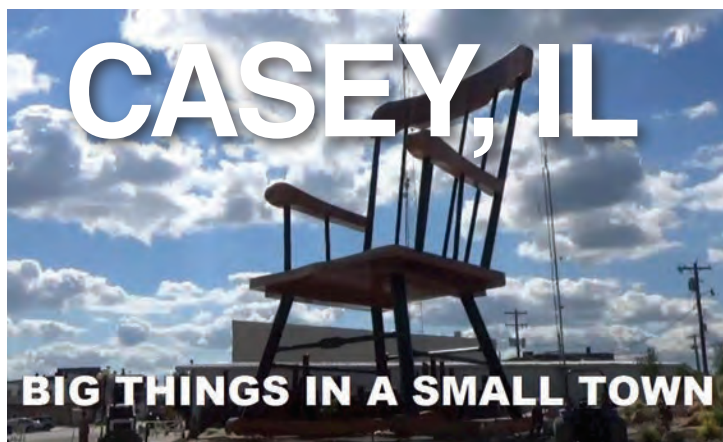
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Dec. 4 — Spirit of Christmas Home Tour sponsored by Rotary Club of Flora, IL who is celebrating their 100th birthday this year! Contact Jessica Muskopf for more information at 618-713-1764.

Dec. 9 & 10 — Flora's 1st annual Kriskindlemarket. Downtown Flora, IL from 5-9 p.m. on Friday Dec. 9 & 9-3 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 10. Ice Skating, Food Trucks, Warm bonfires, Carolers, Unique Shopping, Light Pole Decorating Contest, Santa & More! There will also be a Christmas Talent Show at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 at Nostalgia Theater in downtown Flora with an open house and tours of the theater progress before the show from 5-7 p.m. Contact Amy at 618-662-5646 to sign up as a food or craft vendor.

Dec. 9 through 24 — "Christmas in the Country" Open House at The Country Lamb. Open Daily 10-5 and Sun. 1-5. Enjoy all the sights and sounds of Christmas while you shop. Refreshments served daily.

Clay County Attractions

Little Toot Railroad

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

Charley Brown Park

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

B & O Depot

Located at 223 West Railroad Street in Flora. Built at the height of the railroad industry in Illinois, the recently restored three-story brick building is now the home to the Chamber of Commerce and other various businesses.

Venue 720

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

COLES COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 — 18th St. Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Coles Co. Health Dept. parking lot, Charleston. Fresh produce, baked goods, flowers, and homemade items.

Sept. 6 — Free Concerts in the Park featuring Moondogs at 7 p.m. at the Daum Amphitheater at Kiwanis Park, Charleston. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28 — Charleston Farmers Market on the Square, 6:30-10:30 a.m.

Sept. 9-10 — CIL-CON at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

Sept. 16-18 — Sports Card Show at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

Sept. 17 — Battle Creek Band at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

Sept. 17 — Special Olympics Family Festival at Lake Land College.

Sept. 17 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents "Twin Flames" at 7:30 p.m., Recital Hall, Charleston. Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu.

Sept. 20 — Free Concerts in the Park featuring General 11 at 7 p.m. at the Daum Amphitheater at Kiwanis Park, Charleston. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Sept. 22-Oct. 2 — Mattoon Library hosts the Manhattan Shorts Global Film Festival

Sept. 24 — Lincoln Lap 3K Fun Run/Walk

Sept. 24-25 — Harvest Frolic Fall Celebration, Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to take part in mid 19th-century activities that include children's games, crafts, hearth cooking, cider pressing and more on the Lincoln and Sargent Farms. Artisans will be demonstrating their 19th century crafts, and performances will take place throughout the weekend. Free to the public. www.lincolnlogcabin.org or Email info@lincolnlogcabin.org for more information.

Sept. 24 — Tour d'Charleston - Bike Race, 8:45 a.m. The 3 courses begin at the historic Coles County Courthouse Square in Charleston, and travel through scenic rolling hills and bucolic rural landscapes in Coles & Clark Counties. Hosted by the Charleston Chamber of Commerce.

Sept. 27 — Free Concerts in the Park featuring East Central Harmony Chorus at 7 p.m. at the Daum Amphitheater at Kiwanis Park, Charleston. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

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Sept. 29 — Charleston Artisan Market, 3:30-7 p.m., on 7th Street between Madison and Monroe, Downtown Charleston.

Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 — Vintage Fall Market, Coles County Fairgrounds, Charleston. Friday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p. Merchants Building. Rain or shine.

Oct. 1-2 — Mattoon Cobra's Softball Donny Howell Fall Classic/Showcase

Oct. 9 — East Central Harmony Chorus Women's Day Out Free Concert/Fashion Show, 7 p.m. at Lake Charleston Pavilion. All are welcome to attend!

Oct. 10-15 — EIU Homecoming Week Events, <https://www.eiu.edu/homecoming/>

Oct. 13 — Mattoon Chamber Expo and Taste Expo at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

Oct. 13 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents "Alley 2" at 7:30 p.m., EIU Theatre, Charleston. Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu.

Oct. 21, 22 & 23 — Flea Market at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon, Friday & Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday noon-5 p.m.

Oct. 28 — Celebrate Mattoon Trunk or Treat.

Oct. 28 — Scare on the Square in Charleston, IL. 5-8 p.m.

Oct. 29 — Mattoon YMCA Ghouls in the Pool Swim Meet

Oct. 29 — Lincoln Log Cabin Torchlight Halloween Hike and Wiener Roast

Oct. 31 — Trick or Treat at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

Nov. 3 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents "The American Soldier" at 7:30 p.m., Black Box Theatre, Charleston. Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu.

Nov. 4-6 — Sports Card Show at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

Nov. 4 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents "Special Guest Pianist Sean Chen" at 7:30 p.m., Dvorak Concert Hall, 1860 7th St., Charleston. Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu.

Nov. 11 — Veteran's Day Parade in Mattoon

Nov. 12 & 13 — Holiday Festival at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital, Mattoon.

Nov. 18 - Dec. 28 — Mattoon Festival of Lights at Petersen Park, Mattoon.

Nov. 18-20 — Christmas Gift & Craft Show at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

Nov. 24 — Turkey Trot/Early Bird at Mattoon YMCA. Contact Sarah Dowell at 217-234-9494 or sdowell@mattoonymca.org.

Nov. 26 — Mattoon Arts Council Artisan Market at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

December — Craft and Gift Vendors and Santa Visits at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

Dec. 1, 2, 3 & 4 — Doudna Fine Arts Center at EIU Presents "Holiday Fest" at 1860 7th St., Charleston. Fun science activities, concerts, plays, and presentations for all ages. Plus the popular Holiday Art Sale that will take place in the Doudna's Main Concourse. If you need a unique gift for that hard-to-shop-for-person, this is the place for you! Contact the box office at 217-581-3110 or doudnatix@eiu.edu

Dec. 2 — Celebrate Downtown Mattoon Christmas. 5-8 p.m. Broadway and Western Ave., from 14th-21st Streets, downtown Mattoon. Fun activities for the whole family and special shopping.

Dec. 3 — Christmas on the Prairie, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Lerna.

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

Dec. 10 — Battle Creek Band at the Cross County Mall, Mattoon.

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 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 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. 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:

- Sept. 9-10 - CIL-CON
- Sept. 16-18 & Nov. 4-6 - Sports Card Show
- Oct. 21-23 - October Flea Market
- Nov. 18-20 - Christmas Gift & Craft Show

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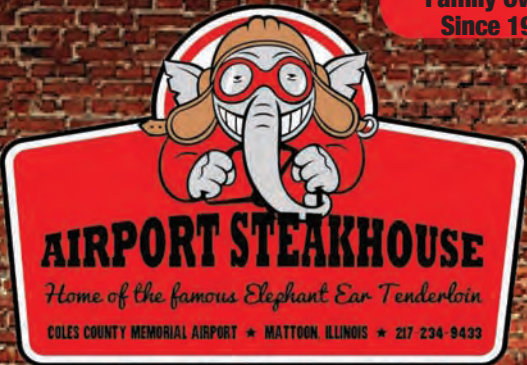


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A cretaceous bucky stands beside a triceratops in the Dinosphere. There are a number of fossils in the Dinosphere that were discovered by the museum's own paleontologists at the "Jurassic Mile" dig site in Wyoming. Photo by The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis offers variety

BY NICK TAYLOR

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is unlike any other. It recently teamed with Riley Children's Hospital and local professional sports teams for the Sports Legends Experience. The

experience consists of 12 outdoor sports experiences spread across 7.5 acres and three indoor exhibits.

"It's all about health and fitness through the lens of sports," said Kim Robinson, a spokeswoman for The Children's Museum of

Indianapolis.

The different experiences available include basketball, football, hockey, soccer, a miniature golf course, a baseball experience, a tennis center, track and field, a fitness path, and a pedal cart

race track with drag strip and an oval track.

In addition to the wide variety of athletic activities available outdoors at the Sports Legends Experience, visitors can also check out the three other sports exhibits available inside the museum which are great for rainy or cold days.

One of these areas included in the Legendary Sports Experience is the National Art Museum of Sport where visitors can view art inspired by sports and athletes and make art of their

own. This part of the exhibit currently features artwork from famous Olympic artist LeRoy Neiman.

Another indoor exhibit included in the Legendary Sports Experience is The World of Sport, where visitors get to take on the role of a professional athlete, announcer and sportscaster. Visitors to this section can also provide commentary on filmed sporting events in the broadcast booth and compete in

professional race-car style pit stop challenge.

Professional sports teams from the area made significant contributions to the Sports Legends Experience. Among these contributing teams are the Indiana Pacers, Indianapolis Colts, and the Indy Fuel.

"If they're a professional sports team in Indiana they pretty much have had a say or contributed various ideas, themes, and

'tips and tricks,'" Robinson said.

Robinson said a well trained staff of coaches are also available in all areas of the Legendary Sports Experience to "facilitate active play with families" and provide assistance if families require any.

"That's a very fun, hands-on, health and fitness way to learn about different sports and to have a good time with your whole

family whether it's parents, cousins, grandparents, aunts, uncles, you name it," Robinson said.

The sport equipment, fields, courts and goals included in the experience have been modified to best fit visitors of all sizes and experience levels. Sizes progress from youth up to college regulation.

The museum offers a vast number of exhibits, both indoor and outdoor.

Families color in photos of dinosaurs and watch them come to life on screen in the Dino Art Lab section of the Dinosphere. Photo by The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.



Exhibits at the museum range from "Beyond Spaceship Earth," where visitors can explore astronaut artifacts and learn how astronauts live at the International Space Station, to a carousel visitors can ride that is originally from Broad Ripple Park in Indianapolis and dates back to 1917.

One exhibit at the museum that is especially popular among visitors of all ages is The New Dinosphere. The Dinosphere includes actual dinosaur fossils, some of which the museum's own paleontologists uncovered during a dig near Cody, Wyoming in a place the museum refers to as the "Jurassic Mile".

"It's literally a mile square

plot of land that is filled with fossils," Robinson said. The museum's group of paleontologists have been digging there for a few years already and plan on continuing to do so for the next 15 years.

The Dinosphere exhibit is divided into five different areas. The "Giants of the Jurassic" section of the Dinosphere features an immersive sound and light show and sauropod fossils found at "Jurassic Mile." "Creatures of the Cretaceous" is a section of the Dinosphere dedicated to dinosaurs from the cretaceous period like the T-Rex.

"Monsters of the Mesozoic Seas" is another section of the Dinosphere exhibit.

Here, visitors can look at art and fossils from ancient and extinct marine creatures, including the section's main attraction: the fossils of an ichthyosaur, a massive extinct reptile that the museum's paleontologists uncovered in the sea bed along their dig area.

"It has eyes the size of dinner plates. Their eye sockets are huge," Robinson said.

Visitors can gain more insight into a day in the life of the museum's paleontologists at the Paleo Lab section of the Dinosphere.

"People can watch the real paleontologists who dug up the fossils clean and prep them," Robinson said.

If visitors want to take a

closer look, one window in the Paleo Lab is available to visitors where they can actually touch some of the fossils and talk to the paleontologists about their job and the fossils themselves. The Dinosphere also includes the Dino Art Lab where visitors can color in pictures of dinosaurs and see them come to life on a large screen, moving alongside other creations.

"We just installed two of the giant sauropods that are about 70 feet from nose to tail that we dug up in that dig site that are on display so that everyone can learn more about them," said Robinson.

A new exhibit features the life of Emmett Till and the massive impact his death had on the Civil Rights

Massive dinosaur sculptures surround the exterior of the Indianapolis Children's Museum. Real fossils from dinosaurs like these can be found inside the museum in the Dinosphere. Photo by The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.





This is the entrance to the “Beyond Spaceship Earth” exhibit where visitors can step aboard the museum’s International Space Station, experience life as an astronaut and look at astronautical artifacts. Photo by The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis.

Movement. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis created the exhibit in collaboration with The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Institute, the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, and the Till family. The museum will include artifacts from Till's life, including one of the signs that was shot and vandal-

ized by students from the University of Mississippi who posted a picture of themselves holding guns and posing next to the sign. The exhibit is set to open at the museum on Sept. 17, where it will have its debut before being taken to other locations in the U.S. for display, including the Birmingham Civil Rights

Institute in Alabama and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, DC. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis and the Legendary Sports Experience will remain open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sept. 5. Hours for the fall and winter of 2022 will remain the same, but the

museum will be closed on Mondays beginning Sept. 6 and outdoor experiences will close after Oct. 30. Tickets can be purchased online in advance. Prices for adults is \$25 and \$20 for visitors under the age of 18. Admission is free for any visitors under the age of 2.

CRAWFORD COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 2-5 — Annual Pioneer City Labor Day Festival and Rodeo. Pioneer City Arena, Leaverton Park & Main Street Palestine play hosts to a Street Fair, Carnival, and the PRCA rodeo. Chuckwagon Breakfast, Parade, Camping, Junior-sized Tractor Pull, Lunch with Clowns, Flea Market, Mechanical Bull Rides, Free Entertainment at the Band shell, Town-Wide Garage Sales and more! Contact: Palestine Chamber of Commerce 618-586-2222, pioneerocity.com or Email: PalestineCofC@verizon.net

Sept. 17 — Crawford County Fest-Of-Ale. The City of Robinson will host its annual craft beer festival in the Robinson City Park. Craft beer vendors, wine, food, and entertainment highlight the afternoon activities. Visit ccfestofale.com for tickets and more information.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 — Annual Heath Toffee Festival and Parade. Located on the square in Robinson. Celebrating the delicious Heath Candy Bar, created in 1928 by Heath Brothers Confectionery in Robinson. Features Friday night entertainment, street dance, and car show, and Saturday craft show, live entertainment, toffee bake-off, and parade, capped off by a free chili supper. Call 618-546-1557 for more information.

Oct. 1-2 — Annual Wabash Valley Wine & Arts Festival. Several wineries provide various wines for tasting as you stroll Main Street in Palestine, IL and enjoy artworks from numerous artists from the Wabash Valley area. Some may be purchased. Food booths and live entertainment. Saturday 11 a.m.-7p.m. & Sunday noon-5 p.m. Contact: Susan Goodwine 618-586-2035

Oct. 29 — Annual Oblong Fall Follies and "Spooktacular" Band fest and Parade. Features night time parade, band field competition, food, crafts, and entertainment on the square in Oblong. Call 618-592-4355 for more information.

Nov. 18-20 — Christmas Magic Weekend. Join us for the lighting of the beautiful Christmas displays in Downtown Robinson. Santa arrives, food booths available, games for kids, train ride, silent auction of decorated Christmas Trees, skating rink, and a night time parade on Saturday. On the square in Downtown Robinson. Call the Chamber of Commerce for more information 618-546-1557.

Nov. 19 — Palestine Preservation Projects Society Cookie Walk. Fife Opera House 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Browse table after table of homemade cookies for purchase

Nov. 25 — Friday after Thanksgiving, Leaverton Park Holiday Lighting Festival

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

Nov. 26 — Christmas on the River. Visit the Village of Hutsonville for beautifully decorated Christmas Trees, food, and entertainment.

Dec. 3 — Holly Jolly Market. Visit Quail Creek Country Club in Robinson to see various vendors from around the area, and do some holiday shopping!. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 618-546-1557 for a list of vendors.

Crawford County Attractions

Oblong

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

Palestine

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

Hutsonville

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

Flat Rock

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

CUMBERLAND COUNTY EVENTS

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

Sept. 3 — Friends of Lake Mattoon Fireworks at Mattoon Beach at dusk.

Sept. 10 — Neoga Fall Citywide Rummage Sales in Neoga, IL.

Sept. 10 — Veterans Memorial 2nd Annual Jeep Ride hosted by the Neoga American Legion starting at 10 a.m. \$15 for Vehicle and driver/\$5 for additional rider. \$15 for shirts. \$5 pulled pork and chips. Pizzazz band will be playing from 7:30 p.m.-11 p.m. The Neoga American Legion is located at 643 Chestnut Avenue in Neoga, IL. Phone (217)895-0050.

Sept. 22-24 — Greenup Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival – Thursday, Sept. 22 Greenup Fall Festival Queen Pageant; Friday, Sept. 23 Food Trucks & Cruise Night; Saturday Sept. 24 Parade at 11 a.m. and Band/Beer Tent in Evening; Crafts, City-Wide Rummage Sales, Kids Entertainment & Bouncy Houses and Fun for the whole family. Follow the Greenup Chamber facebook page for list of events and times. greenupchamber@gmail.com

Sept. 23 — Cruise Night – Greenup Chamber of Commerce Cruise IL Rt. 121 (Cumberland St.). Food vendors. Contact: greenupchamber@gmail.com

Sept. 24 — Trails of Hope Race and Fall Fun Fest. Wind your way through the peaceful trails of the Camp New Hope campus on the shores of beautiful Lake Mattoon during the non-competitive Trails of Hope 5k Run/Walk. Camp Hew Hope is Illinois' premiere facility for recreational programs for special needs individuals, offering several programs that bring fun, companionship, and activity to people of all ages with various disabilities. All proceeds from the event allow Camp New Hope to continue to provide these vital programs for generations to come. Stay after the race and enjoy the Fall Fun Fest for free! Boat & train rides, bounce houses, games, food vendors, and a car show! Camp New Hope is located at 1364 County Road 100E, Neoga IL 62447. Phone (217)895-2341.

Oct. 1 — Sooeey Fest from 11a.m.-8 p.m. at Jennings Park in Neoga, IL. Food



ROBINSON TOURISM COUNCIL
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2022 Crawford County Calendar of Events
Dates are subject to change. Please call ahead or visit
www.cityofrobinson.com for more information

September 2-5
Annual Pioneer City Labor Day Festival and Rodeo
Pioneer City Arena, Leaverton Park & Main Street Palestine play hosts to a Street Fair, Carnival, and the PRCA rodeo. Chuckwagon Breakfast, Parade, Camping, Junior-sized Tractor Pull, Lunch with Clowns, Flea Market, Mechanical Bull Rides, Free Entertainment at the Band shell, Town-Wide Garage Sales and more! Contact: Palestine Chamber of Commerce 618-586-2222
www.pioneerocity.com or Email: PalestineCofC@verizon.net

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

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Several wineries provide various wines for tasting as you stroll Main Street and enjoy artworks from numerous artists from the Wabash Valley area. Some may be purchased. Food booths and live entertainment. Sat 11am-7pm & Sun 12-5pm
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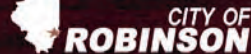
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December 3
Holly Jolly Market
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& Craft Vendors, Live Music, Kids Games, Free Ham & Bean Lunch, The Smoke Off, Bags Tournament & More!

Oct. 28 — Greenup Trick or Treat and Trunk or Treat around the Greenup Municipal Building, 6-8 p.m.

Oct. 29 — Greenup Halloween Celebration — Greenup Municipal Building. Doors open at 6 p.m. Free Ham and Bean and Hot Dog meal and drinks. Costume Judging at 7 p.m. Cake Walk, Food & Games.

Toledo Halloween Celebration — Trunk or Treat around the Courthouse Square, Toledo. Date and time TBD. Hosted by the Cumberland Development.

Nov. 26 — Neoga 2022 Hometown Christmas in Neoga, IL.

Dec. 3 — Hometown Christmas around the Square in Toledo. Food vendors, crafts, Lighted parade, tree lighting ceremony, live Nativity, Carriage/Trolley rides, scavenger hunt, Christmas photos, music and more. Follow the Hometown Christmas Around the Square for more information.

Dec. 10 — Christmas in the Village — Greenup Municipal Building, 5-7 p.m. (times tentative). Free meal and drinks and Christmas cookies. Lighted parade and Santa arrives! Fun and games, cookie decorating, letters to Santa, and gifts for all the children. Downtown business open houses. Musical entertainment. Free and open to the public. Visit with Santa at the Santa House! - Hosted by Greenup Chamber of Commerce. Date and time TBD. Contact: greenupchamber@gmail.com

Cumberland County Attractions

National Road Covered Bridge

The Embarras River near Greenup was the site of a covered bridge built by Abe and Thomas Lincoln and Dennis Hanks. The original bridge was 200 feet long. Reconstruction of the bridge began in 1998 and was dedicated in 2000. Call 217-923-3401 or visit villageofgreenup.com for more information.

Greenup Train Depot and Museum

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

Cumberland Co. Historical Society Illinois Military Museum

101 N. Mill St., Greenup. Features photos and memorabilia of local and Illinois

veterans. For more information call 217-923-9306 or email: historic1859@gmail.com

Cameo Vineyards

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

Clock Tower

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

Cumberland County Courthouse

Visit the completely restored Cumberland County Courthouse located on

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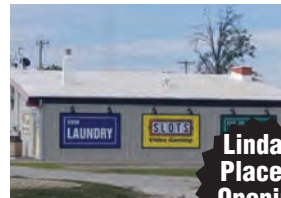
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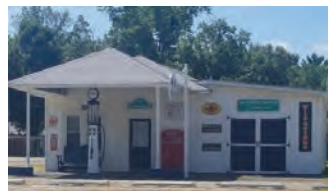
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the square in Toledo, IL. Built in 1887–88, the building is Cumberland County's second courthouse. The first courthouse, located at the same site as the current one, was built in 1856 and burned in 1885. The second courthouse was designed by architects 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

Sept. 10 & 11 — Mum Fest at Triple M Farm: Mariah's Mums & More, 1627 Airport Rd in Clinton, IL. FREE family-friendly event that kicks off fall with the largest variety selection of fall mums, local food, unique vendors, live music, fun kids' activities, and wholesome farm experiences. For more info call (217)722-3531.

Sept. 24 & 25 — Apple N Pork Festival at the C.H. Moore Homestead at 219 E. Woodlawn Street in Clinton, IL. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days, rain or shine! FREE ADMISSION to the Festival and Flea Market. Over 25 Apple N Pork Food

Booths, Free Live Musical Entertainment, Crafter Tent & Carriage Barn offering Unique Hand-Crafted Items, Victorian Mansion Tours, Antique Tractor & Farm Machinery Exhibits, Meal Grinding Demonstrations, 19th Century Craft & Artisan Demonstrations, Huge Flea Market, Pony Rides & Petting Zoo.

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.



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DOUGLAS COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 3-5 — 50th Annual Amish Country Cheese Festival, Arthur. More food! More vendors! More entertainment! More everything! The Illinois Amish Country's largest downtown festival takes place in the heart of Illinois Amish country on Labor Day Weekend! Keep an eye on <http://arthurcheesefestival.com/wpcheese/> for updates!

Sept. 9-11 — 51st Annual Arcola Broom Corn Festival. Visit arcolachamber.com for more information.

Sept. 9-10 — Fall Town Garage Sales, Arthur.

Sept. 16-17 — Fall City-wide Garage Sales in Tuscola, IL.

Sept. 17 — 3rd Saturday Market, Otto Center, Arthur.

Sept. 17 — "The Amish Country Tour" Annual Bike Ride begins at Arthur Community Building.

Sept. 23 — Fall Toy Auction, Tri-County Auction Facility, Arcola, IL.

Sept. 24 — Fall Semi-Annual Consignment Sale, Tri-County Auction Facility, Arcola, IL.

Oct. Every Tues/Fri — Arthur Produce Auction, 10 a.m.

Sept. 21 - Oct. 31 — The Great Pumpkin Patch open daily.

Oct. 8-9 — Harvest to Home Event, The Illinois Amish Heritage Center, Arthur.

Oct. 15 — 3rd Saturday Market, Otto Center, Arthur.

Oct. 15 — Tuscola Fall Flea Market from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Tuscola Community Bldg. Free admission. Homemade lunch served.

Oct. 22-28 — Annual Haiti Auction, Otto Center, Arthur. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Make a trip to the Otto Center for delish food and an all-day bake sale. illinoisamish-country.com

Oct. 24-31 — Lighted Pumpkin House Display, Downtown Arthur, 6-9 p.m.

Nov. 5 — Bi-Annual Fish Fry, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. at Otto Center, Arthur, IL.

Nov. 11-12 — Rural Life Fall Antique Show and Sale, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. both days at Douglas County Museum, 700 S. Main St., Tuscola. Veterans join us FREE

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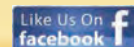
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Nov. 11 & 12 — Homesteaders on the Prairie Antique Show & Sale at Arthur Sale Barn.

Nov. 11 & 12 — Spirit of the Season/Gathering on the Prairie Antique Show & Sale at Otto Center, Arthur.

Nov. 11 & 12 — Country Spirit Antique Show and Sale, Arcola, Arthur & Tuscola. More than 150 vendors. Follow them on facebook for details and times.

Nov. 11-12 — Amish Country Christmas Open Houses, downtown Arthur.

Nov. 19 — 3rd Saturday Market, Otto Center, Arthur.

Nov. 25 — Black Friday, Downtown Arthur & County Line Road businesses, Arthur.

Dec. 2-3 — It's A Christmas Show, Arthur Sale Barn.

Dec. 2, 3 & 4 — Tuscola's annual Christmastown Celebration. For more information, visit tuscola.org.

Dec. 3 — Breakfast With Santa from 8-11 a.m. at Yoder's Kitchen, Arthur.

Dec. 3 — 3rd Annual Jingle Jog One-Mile Fun Run, Arthur and Arcola.

Dec. 3 — Lighted Christmas Parade and Holiday Shopping, 5:30 p.m. Downtown Arthur.

Dec. 3 — Holiday Bazaar at the Arcola Center.

Dec. 10 — Christmas Parade, Downtown Arcola at 6 p.m.

Dec. 17 — 3rd Saturday Market, Otto Center, Arthur.

Dec. 25 — Free Community Christmas Day Lunch, Vine Street Christian Church, Arthur, IL.

Douglas County Attractions

Douglas County Museum

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

Aikman Wildlife Adventure (formerly Rockome Gardens)

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

Harris Ag Museum

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

Sears "Catalog Homes"

Tuscola is home to four "catalog homes". From 1908 until 1940, the Chicago-based catalog giant Sears, as well as Montgomery Ward, offered and sold roughly 100,000 build-it-yourself home kits. There were 450 various models ranging in price from \$150 to a little more than \$5,000. One home is located at 309 N Main. It was ordered in 1931 and is called "The Cambridge". Another is located at 106 E. Buckner. The home was built in 1915 and located 5 1/2 miles west of Tuscola, before being moved to 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 painted 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 introduc-

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tory film to Amish life, exhibits on Amish heritage and culture, a gift shop, and Amish Country Tours of Amish homes, farms, businesses and meals in Amish homes.

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

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

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

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

A Walk Through Time Museum

A Walk Through Time Museum features many local pieces from Arcola's past including:

- History on Raggedy Ann and Andy
- Originals by Johnny Gruelle and R.B. Gruelle
- A Local Heroes' section displaying Vietnam War memorabilia
- Hispanic Display featuring Arcola's rich history
- Arcola Industrial Display
- Arcola Tradition of Excellence in Sports
- Walldog Murals in Arcola display
- History of the Railroad
- Old Arcola Display
- River to Rail Display
- Aikman's Wildlife Adventure Display

A donation is required for entry to the museum.

EDGAR COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 1 — Music in the Park featuring 71 Band (60s/70s Classic Rock). 6:30-9 p.m., Twin Lakes Park, 30 Twin Lakes Dr., Paris, IL. Free and open to public.

Sept. 10-Oct. 31 — Southfork Homestead Farms and Pumpkin Patch, open for season. Open every weekend in September 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; open every weekend in October plus Monday, Thursday & Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit new Outlaw Grill and General Store, our kids games and fun. Located off I 70 at 3000 N 1200th St., Paris.

Sept. 17 — Radio Gaga, 7 p.m., Paris Center of Fine Arts, 14040 E. 1200th Rd., Paris. A Vegas-style production of the "Concert That Never Was," Radio Gaga transports us to a parallel universe where rock and pop icons are immortal. You are there as Freddie Mercury and Lady Gaga team up in this high-energy performance featuring choreographed dances, wild costumes, dynamic video, and the iconic hits of both Queen and Lady Gaga. Visit pcofa.net for show and ticket information. Call the box office at 217-251-2016.

Sept. 23-24 — Paris Honeybee Festival. Annual fall festival filled with fun, food and entertainment, parade, crafts and car show. honeybeefestival.org.

Sept. 25 — Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra with Tony DeSare at Paris Center of Fine Arts, 14040 E. 1200th Rd., Paris, IL. The Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra with triple-threat singer/pianist/songwriter, Tony DeSare takes us on a journey that celebrates timeless piano legends who have become the cornerstone of pop music. Enjoy perennial favorites from Elton John, Ray Charles, John Lennon, and Billy Joel. Visit pcofa.net for show and ticket information. Call the box office at 217-251-2016.

Oct. 15 — Purduettes and Purdue Bells, Paris Center of Fine Arts, 14040 E. 1200th Rd., Paris. Visit pcofa.net for show and ticket information. Call the box office at 217-251-2016.

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

Nov. 5 — 1st Brigade Brass Band, Paris Center of Fine Arts, 14040 E. 1200th Rd., Paris. Visit pcofa.net for show and ticket information. Call the box office at 217-251-2016.

Nov. 26 and Dec. 3 — Christmas on the Square in Paris. Events include lighted parade, ice skating rink, new "Snowmazing", scavenger hunt, children's activities, food vendors, live reindeer, cookies & canvas painting events, ugly sweater contest, meals with Santa and more.

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Catfish Trail in Western Illinois

ANGELA BAUER
JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL-
COURIER

Tourism groups in three western Illinois river counties are going fishing in hopes of reeling in support for the

counties' restaurants.

The newly christened Catfish Trail features more than 40 restaurants across Pike, Adams and Hancock counties that have catfish on their menu.

Quincy Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Holly Cain credits a recently retired co-worker for the idea.

"She said, 'You should do a catfish trail,' because

there are so many places to eat catfish," Cain said. "She was just thinking of Quincy, but we cover three counties. Pike had just done a Tenderloin Trail ... that was so successful. We thought we'd sort of mirror what they did with the Tenderloin Trail."

It's no coincidence that the Catfish Trail started when it did, Cain said.

"We thought we'd launch it right before Lent," she said, noting the 40 days in the pre-Easter Christian calendar when fish and seafood surge in popularity.

But the trail didn't end with Lent.

"We want it to be evergreen so people can enjoy it year-round," Cain said.

The restaurants featured on the trail offer catfish in a variety of forms, from fried catfish dinners to catfish strips, filets, and sandwiches. Some, such as Sprout's Inn and O'Shea's in Quincy and three of the five restaurants on the trail in Hancock County, offer whole catfish as part of a dinner. Others, such as Fat Boys in Rockport, offer catfish fritters.

And, despite being a "catfish" trail, many of the restaurants also offer other fish varieties, including buffalo and salmon, and seafood such as shrimp and clams.

"We're on the two rivers here," Cain said of the Mississippi River that creates the Illinois border to the east and the Illinois River that skirts the three counties to the east. "I think (catfish) is definitely more of a Midwestern flair here in our area. It's a Midwestern dish."

For David Camphouse, executive director of Pike County Chamber of Commerce, which created the Tenderloin Trail, the Catfish Trail was a no-brainer.

"We had a tremendous



amount of success from our Tenderloin Trail," Camphouse said, noting that it drew "people from well into Missouri, Jacksonville, Madison County, the Metro East. It definitely helped restaurants that have had a hard time over the last couple of years with the pandemic."

Catfish was a perfect option — after tenderloin.

"We wanted to celebrate what they were known for doing and doing well," Camphouse said. "Catfish has been a staple of Pike County and a lot of our

restaurants for a long, long time."

Joining the trail also didn't require much thought from Pam Watts, owner of Wattsup Cafe in Nebo.

"This is a very small community," Watts said of Nebo, which has around 340 residents. "My cafe's the only cafe in the area. We have really good food and a really good rapport with the community. I just wanted to make sure people knew we were here."

That's why she participated in the Tenderloin Trail when the opportu-

nity arose and why she signed on to the Catfish Trail. Wattsup Café serves catfish and buffalo dinners on Fridays.

"There were people who didn't even know we were there who came to the Tenderloin Trail," Watts said.

Her restaurant's regulars know her fried fish is good, she said, adding with a laugh that it's "nothing healthy."

"People just like fish here," she said. "They can't wait 'til we serve it on Fridays."

While she was pleased

that the Tenderloin Trail attracted new customers to her small café, she's hopping, along with Cain and Camphouse, to hook a few more with her catfish.

"I hope this will acknowledge to the area that we're here, we have good food," Watts said. "Even though we're little, we're a good restaurant."

Catfish Trail maps showing participating restaurants in the three counties are available online at SeeQuincy.com and at the restaurants.

State announces \$17.5M to renovate Rend Lake Resort

Governor JB Pritzker recently announced a long-awaited renovation of the popular Rend Lake Resort in Southern Illinois will get underway in 2023 with an investment of more than \$17.5 million.

The funding will be used to renovate the conference center, restaurant, cabins, pool, and boatel, which collectively will enable the resort to host lodging guests, conferences, and other visitors and events.

"Rend Lake has been around for 50 years – and for that half-a-century, it has been a shining example of the rich history, the human ingenuity, and the values of sustainability that make Illinois special," Pritzker said in a press release. "I am proud to announce that we will be investing more than \$17 million to renovate Rend Lake Resort – restoring the site to its former glory. With this funding, we are strengthening our tourism industry, our economy, our recreational offerings, and our holistic and social wellbeing all in one."

The Rend Lake Resort is located at the 3,300-acre Wayne Fitzgerald State Recreation Area and is operated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the shore of Rend Lake in Franklin and Jefferson counties. The resort site features a hotel, conference center,

cabins, restaurant, boatel, gift shop, pool, tennis courts and more.

Opened in May 1991, the space was shuttered in 2016 after mold was discovered in the hotel and other buildings, requiring extensive remediation throughout the site. At the height of its operation, the Resort drew 2.4 million visitors annually and employed up to 125 staff members. It had an estimated economic impact of nearly \$245 million in 2010, and occupancy rates were around 90% during the high-season period between late spring and late fall.

"Rend Lake Resort was and will be again, an important part of our regional economic engine for Southern Illinois," said Mayor Jason Ashmore, City of Sesser. "The resort will offer more opportunities to visitors of Rend Lake which will in turn spur economic growth for all of the surrounding communities. We want to thank Governor JB Pritzker, DNR, CDB, Senator Bryant, Senator Fowler and Rep Severin for all their hard work on making this come to fruition."

"I want to thank Gov. Pritzker for helping us make this long-awaited project a reality," said Colleen Callahan, director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. "This is so much more than an investment in

the Rend Lake Resort. It's also an investment in our state parks, in local jobs, in the regional economy, and in the people of Southern Illinois."

Rend Lake is the second largest of Illinois' three man-made lakes with 19,000 acres of water and 162 miles of shoreline. The lake itself is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is a tremendous economic driver for southern Illinois. Easily accessible from interstates 57 and 64, it's a popular site for boating, fishing, hunting, camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, golfing and more. The lake also provides drinking water for customers in seven Southern Illinois counties.

Wayne Fitzgerald State Recreation Area draws more than 1.3 million visitors annually. Dedicated in 1975, the park is popular for hunting, camping, wildlife-watching, picnicking, boating access, horseback riding, field trials and other outdoor activities. The park was dedicated in 1975, and is named for the late Wayne Fitzgerald, a former State representative from nearby Sesser who was a strong advocate for the construction of Rend Lake.

States collaborate to enable electric vehicle travel along 1,100-mile Lake Michigan shoreline

The state of Illinois and three other Midwest states are collaborating to build America's next iconic road trip route, specifically for electric vehicles (EV). The Lake Michigan EV Circuit Tour will consist of a network of EV chargers spanning over 1,100 miles of drivable shoreline around pristine Lake Michigan.

The multi-state partnership needed to build and maintain the EV chargers, as well as market the new eco-tourism attraction, was solidified by a Memorandum of Understanding signed by key officials from each state.

"The Great Lakes are the crown jewel of the upper Midwest, and this initiative proudly blends our clean energy goals with the natural beauty that attracts countless visitors each year," said Illinois Governor JB Pritzker. "The Lake Michigan EV Circuit Tour represents the Midwestern spirit at its best – that we are all better off when we look out for our neighbors. It's yet another reason to come Enjoy Illinois."

The tour will be a scenic route with reliable light-duty vehicle charging options along the Lake Michigan coastline that targets charger installations at key coastal communities, light-

houses and tourism attractions such as state parks, hospitality locations, breweries, vineyards, restaurants and other small businesses. Those new chargers will be tied together with existing charging infrastructure networks at large entertainment attractions in population centers along the route such as Chicago, Green Bay, Milwaukee and Traverse City.

The project will not only support the tourism industry in the Midwest, it will also elevate economic growth. The Lake Michigan EV Circuit Tour will coordinate to advance the ease of access to some of the

region's greatest tourism attractions by the next generation of clean and electrified transportation and mobility manufacturing products, safeguard industry electrification leadership, support growth of the region's share of electric vehicles and elevate access to tools required to equip the workforce of tomorrow.

The route is also intended to provide EV drivers with a long-distance travel vacation opportunity so many have been seeking. Likewise, prospective EV drivers will have the chance to experience firsthand the joy of taking families and friends on long-distance road trips with no range anxiety, and no harmful tailpipe emissions. Many of the network's chargers are already operable today, and drivers can expect the remainder of the Circuit to be completed within the next few years.

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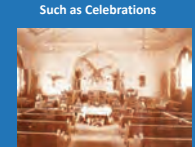
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Fri. Sept. 23 8:00 pm	Clay Walker	\$70	\$60	\$50
Sat. Sept. 24 7:00 pm	My Name is NOT Mom	\$65	\$45	\$35
Sat. Oct. 1 7:00 pm	Songwriters Showcase	\$20	\$20	\$20
Sat. Oct. 8 7:00 pm	Larry Gatlin	\$45	\$34	\$26
Sat. Oct. 15 7:00 pm	The Artimus Pyle Band and Southern Discomfort	\$44	\$34	\$24
Sat. Oct. 22 7:00 pm	Williamson Branch	\$20	\$20	\$20
Fri. Oct. 28 8:00 pm	Rocky Horror Picture Show	\$15	\$15	\$15
Fri. Nov. 4 7:00 pm	Eli Young Band	\$58	\$45	\$35
Fri. Nov. 18 7:00 pm	Hairball	\$32	\$32	\$32
Sat. Nov. 19 2:00 pm	Branson Country Christmas	\$35	\$25	\$20
Sat. Nov. 19 2:00 pm	Branson Country Christmas	\$35	\$25	\$20
Sat. Dec. 10 7:00 pm	The Prophecy	\$26	\$21	\$16
Fri. Dec. 16 7:00 pm	38 Special	\$80	\$65	\$50
Sat. Dec. 17 7:00 pm	Scott Wattles Christmas	\$20	\$20	\$20
Sat. Jan. 21 3:00 pm	Encanto -- interactive movie	\$35 VIP	\$15	\$15
Sun. Jan. 29 7:00 pm	The Guess Who	\$55	\$45	\$38
Sat. Feb. 11 7:00 pm	The Traveling Salvation Show	\$35	\$25	\$25
Sun. Feb. 12 2:00 pm	Dragons & Mythical Beasts	\$38	\$32	\$26
Fri. Feb. 24 7:00 pm	The Silhouettes	\$45	\$35	\$25
Sat. Feb. 25 7:00 pm	Six String Summit	\$20	\$20	\$20
Thur. Mar. 2 7:00 pm	Doo Wop Project	\$45	\$32	\$24
Tues. Mar. 7 7:00 pm	Menopause: The Musical	\$55	\$45	\$35
Fri. Mar. 24 7:00 pm	John Michael Montgomery	\$75	\$65	\$50
Fri. Mar. 31 7:00 pm	The Price is Right Live	\$55	\$45	\$37
Fri. Apr. 14 7:00 pm	Glenn Miller Orchestra	\$36	\$26	\$21
Sat. Apr. 15 7:00 pm	Tommy James & The Shondells	\$74	\$64	\$51
Fri. Apr. 28 7:00 pm	EPC IDOL Finals	\$10	\$10	\$10
Sat. June 3 7:00 pm	Scott Wattles & The Blue Suede Crew	\$20	\$20	\$20



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Dec. 10 — Coles County Barbershop Chorus, Paris Center of Fine Arts, 14040 E. 1200th Rd., Paris. Visit pcofa.net for show and ticket information. Call the box office at 217-251-2016.

Edgar County Attractions

Vance Park

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

Southfork Homestead

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

Twin Lakes Park

The city's oldest and principal recreation center is Twin Lakes Park, the development of which began back in 1895, when the dam impounding Paris' first reservoir was completed. The facilities of Twin Lakes Park include: a bathing beach, bathhouse and shelter, large shelter house, miniature golf course, picnic areas with plenty of picnic tables and benches, boating rentals and four 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

Sept. 2 & 3 — Hobnob Market at the Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont, IL. Early bird shopping on Sept. 2 from 4-8 p.m. Market Day is Sept. 3 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 and Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 — Effingham Farmers Market

from 8 a.m.-noon on the Effingham County Courthouse Museum lawn. Fresh, locally-grown food, art and quality artisan goods.

Sept. 9 & 10 — Fall Open Houses at downtown Effingham businesses.

Sept. 9, 10 & 11 — Summer Sundown Music Festival at The Stage at Lake Sara, 8724 E. Marine Rd., Effingham, IL.

Sept. 10 — Cruise Night from 4-11 p.m. in downtown Effingham. Food and lots of vintage vehicles cruising downtown. Bring your cars, trucks, motorcycles, side-by-side or mom's grocery getter! If it runs, you are welcome to cruise!

Sept. 10 — Last Chance Tractor Pull at Beecher City Community Park in Beecher City, IL.

Sept. 16 & 17 — Midwest Market Fall Show Friday, Sept 16 from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, Sept 17 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Village Square Mall on South Rt. 45 in Effingham, IL. Enjoy a weekend of shopping all things "fall" such as boutiques, vintage goods, jewelry, home décor, wine and more! Delicious food trucks and kid zone at this indoor/outdoor market! \$3 admission; 12 & under are free.

Sept. 17 — Corvette Funfest at Mid America Motorworks in Effingham, IL. Live music and entertainment, food and drink vendors, the Corvette Clubhouse and more!

Sept. 17 — FreedomFest '22 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Shumway Freedom House Food Pantry at 304 S. West Street in Shumway, IL. Elvis Tribute Artist, Riley Jenkins performing. Lots of kids games, activities, petting zoo and train rides. Groceries and clothes pantry, drawings and lots of food, all free!

Sept. 23 — Clay Walker at the Effingham Performance Center at 8 p.m.

Sept. 23 & 24 — Schuetzenfest at Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont, IL. Friday night: German Dinner, Volleyball, and Beer Garden opens. Saturday: Kickball Tournament, German Food & Music, Beer Garden, King/Queen Coronation & Scholarship Recipients. 8 UP Band at 8 p.m.

Sept. 24 — My Name is NOT Mom Show at the Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Sept. 24 — Oktoberfest sponsored by the Teutopolis Civic Club from 5 p.m.-midnight at the Teutopolis IL Banquet Hall grounds. Free admission! German style food! German style beer! Stein holding contest! Free inflatables for

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the kids! Music by Butch's Polka Kings from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and Champagne Fixx from 10:30 p.m.-midnight.

Sept. 25 — 6th annual Fall Craft & Vendor Show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham IL. 80+ booths to shop from! NO ADMISSION and Gift Card Giveaways.

Sept. 30 — Adult Only Pumpkin Hunt to support Enduring Freedom from 7:30 p.m.-11 p.m. at Tuscan Hills Winery in Effingham, IL. Live music, food truck, drink specials, and pumpkin hunt. Bring your own flashlight! Some pumpkins will have cash prizes or gift certificates!

Oct. 1 — Songwriters Showcase at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Oct. 8 — Larry Gatlin at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Oct. 15 — The Artimus Pyle Band and Southern Discomfort at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Oct. 21 & 22 — Effing-Con. Effingham's only video, board and card game convention from noon to 7 p.m. on Oct. 21 and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Oct. 22 at Village Square Mall, South Rt. 45, Effingham. Enjoy special guest appearance from Paul E. Niemeyer as well as virtual speakers Coleen O'Shaughnessey and Patricia Summersett. For more info, go to visiteffinghamil.com

Oct. 21 — United Way of Effingham County Witches Ball from 6-9 p.m. at Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham, IL.

Oct. 22 — Williamson Branch at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Oct. 23 — Fiddle Contest 2022 from 1-3 p.m. at Effingham Performance Center in Effingham IL. Come watch fiddlers from around the state compete at the annual fiddle contest.

Oct. 28 — Rocky Horror Picture Show at Effingham Performance Center at 8 p.m.

Oct. 29 — Trick or Treat in downtown Effingham.

Nov. 4 — Eli Young Band at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Nov. 4 & 5 — Midwest Market Holiday Show Friday, Nov. 4 from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 5 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Village Square Mall on South Rt. 45 in Effingham, IL. Start your holiday shopping early! Browse your favorite yummy goodies, clothing, vintage finds, holiday décor, jewelry and more. Santa will even be making an appearance! Adults \$3; 12 & under are free.

Nov. 4 & 5 — Christmas Open Houses at downtown Effingham businesses.

Nov. 18 — Hairball at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Nov. 18 & 19 — Boutique Blvd Shimmer & Shine on Friday Nov. 18 from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham, IL. Adults \$5; Kids 10 & under free. Sip, Shop, Sample and Smile! Come see your favorite boutiques under one roof for a two-day shopping event and get some Christmas gift shopping done!

Nov. 19 — Branson Country Christmas at Effingham Performance Center at 2 p.m.

Dec. 3 — Hometown Christmas in downtown Effingham features tree lighting, Santa arrives in parade, reindeer, food vendors and more. Hosted by the Downtown Effingham Business Group.

Dec. 10 — The Prophecy at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Dec. 16 — 38 Special at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Dec. 17 — Scott Wattles Christmas Show at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Jan. 21 — Encanto (interactive movie) at Effingham Performance Center at 3 p.m.

Jan. 29 — The Guess Who at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Feb. 11 — The Traveling Salvation Show at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Feb. 12 — Dragons & Mythical Beasts at Effingham Performance Center at 2 p.m.

Feb. 24 — The Silhouettes at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Feb. 25 — Six String Summit at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Mar. 2 — Doo Wop Project at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Mar. 7 — Menopause: The Musical at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Mar. 24 — John Michael Montgomery at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Mar. 31 — The Price is Right Live at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Apr. 14 — Glenn Miller Orchestra at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

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Friday 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 4:30-10:30 p.m.; Saturday 12 noon-10:30 p.m.;
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Apr. 15 — Tommy James & The Shondells at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Apr. 28 — EPC IDOL Finals at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

June 3 — Scott Wattles & The Blue Suede Crew at Effingham Performance Center at 7 p.m.

Effingham County Attractions

Sculptures on the Avenues

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

Ballard Nature Center

Located three miles east of Altamont, the center features a bird viewing area, displays, children's activity area and library. Trails open to foot traffic only from dawn to dusk daily. The visitor center is open Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and from noon-3 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call 618-483-6856.

The Cross at the Crossroads

The 198-foot-tall cross can be seen at Exit 159 in Effingham and features plaques of the 10 Commandments and also has a visitors center. For more information visit crossusa.org.

Effingham County Museum

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

Effingham Performance Center

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

Lake Sara

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

MY Garage Museum & Retail Store

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

Teutopolis Monastery Museum

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

Wright Mansion

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



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Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.




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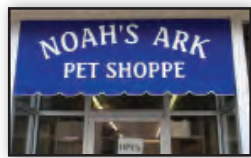
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Downtown Effingham Business Group Events:

Check our [facebook](#) page at [experiencedowntowneffingham](#) for Upcoming Events!

Fall Open Houses - Sept. 9-10 * Cruise Night - Sept. 10
Scarecrow Contest - Oct. 1 * Trick or Treat - Oct. 29
Holiday Open Houses - Nov. 4-5 * Hometown Christmas - Dec. 3



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FAYETTE COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 9 — Bum & Company at Charters Patio 6-9 p.m. 401 W Gallatin St., Vandalia, IL

Sept. 10 — Mother Lover's at Charter's Patio 7-10 p.m. 401 W Gallatin St., Vandalia, IL

Sept. 10 — Vandalia Farmers Market 8-11 a.m., Downtown Vandalia

Sept. 24 — 5th Annual Wine & Ale with Abe Streetfest, noon-8 p.m. Located in Downtown Vandalia & Charter's Patio! Wine & Beer, Live Music from Local Musicians, Local Restaurants, Food Trucks, Craft Vendors, Local Artists, NEW Kid Activities. We are also excited to announce our music headliner, local band Superbad, along with many local musicians

Oct. 8 — Vandalia Farmers Market 8-11 a.m., Downtown Vandalia

Oct. 27 — 7 p.m. Vandalia Halloween Parade

Nov. 3 — Festival of Trees in downtown Vandalia.

Nov. 11-12 — Olde Tyme Christmas. Free, community holiday celebration that attracts surrounding communities, encourages the shop local movement and showcases Vandalia and local Vandalia businesses. a kickoff to the holiday season!

Fayette County Attractions

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.

JASPER COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 10 — Fall Festival 10 a.m. Food, Fun, Parade and More on and around the Square in Newton

Sept. 10 — Newton Public Library District will be having a Fall Festival Quilt Show Saturday,

Sept. 3, 10, 17 & 24 — Ste. Marie Farmer's Market - Every Saturday 8 a.m. to noon

Sept. 18 — Corey Evitts- West End Event Center- 3 p.m.

Sept. 18 — Blind Draw Cornhole Tourney-noon. West End Event Center. All ages welcome and Open to the Public. All levels of players. Air Mail Challenge also

Nov. 11 — Veteran's Day Program on the courthouse lawn in Newton, IL - includes the flags on the courthouse lawn

Nov. 26 — Sainte Marie Christmas Farmers Market and Whoville event

Friday after Thanksgiving to Christmas Weekend night — Christmas Lights In the Park

Nightly from Friday after Thanksgiving to New Years — Old River Bridge Lights

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

 Charters Patio Live Music Every Weekend June-September Downtown Vandalia f Charters Patio	 Farmers Market August 13, September 10, & October 8 8am-11am Downtown Vandalia f Vandalia, Illinois Farmers' Market	 Wine & Ale with Abe September 24, 2022 Charters Patio f Vandalia Historical Society
 Festival of Trees November 3, 2022 Downtown Vandalia f Olde Tyme Christmas	 Olde Tyme Christmas November 11-12, 2022 Downtown Vandalia f Olde Tyme Christmas	 Festival of Lights Every Weekend in December Downtown Vandalia f Olde Tyme Christmas



VandaliaIllinois.com
f VisitVandalia



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

Sept. 17 — Family Art Fun - Paint the Jungle! at Shrode Art Center at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon, IL, 1-3 p.m. Join us as we journey to the jungle and create a masterpiece using markers and paint! This make-and-take art program is geared toward families of all ages and does not require pre-registration. Admission is FREE and open to the public.

Sept. 24-25 — Fall Foodie Fest- 6 p.m. Marlow's Pumpkin Patch- Our popular Fall Fest has been revamped to our Fall Foodie Fest, and we can't wait to share all of these goodies with you! Come feast at the food trucks and vendors, while you browse amongst the best antique, boutique, and craft booths that we can find! We'll have all of our family friendly fall activities ready for you to make memories with your family and loved ones! Come find your perfect pumpkin, as well as all of the other produce that you need to perfect your autumnal decor. We can't wait to see y'all this fall! 14003 N Harmony Lane, Opdyke, IL 62872

Sept. 30 — Mt. Vernon Fall Festival 5-10 p.m. Downtown Mt. Vernon

Oct. 1 — Heritage Festival 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Jefferson County Historical Village in Mt. Vernon, IL.

Oct. 22-23 — Fall into Winter Fest- Marlow's Pumpkin Patch- Our Fall Into Winter Fest is the perfect place to embrace the ending of the Fall season as it fades into Winter! Come feast on the delicious food our trucks and vendors have to offer, while you browse all of our handpicked antique, boutique, and craft booths to find the decor you need to transition from one season to the next. You'll find a great variety of items for you to pick the perfect present for your holiday events here too! We'll have all of our family friendly fall activities available for you to make memories, as well as a plethora of fall produce for your Halloween and Thanksgiving decoration needs. We can't wait to see you! 14003 N. Harmony Lane in Opdyke, IL 62872

Jefferson County Attractions

The Aquatic Zoo

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

Appellate Courthouse

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

Cedarhurst Center For The Arts

Cedarhurst, an 85-acre estate, located in Mt. Vernon, features the Mitchell Museum, outdoor sculpture park, and art center. Cedarhurst presents changing exhibitions in its galleries, performing arts programs including chamber music, concerts, and dinner theatre, and the Cedarhurst craft fair each September. The Cedarhurst Art Center provides year round classes and workshops for adults and children. (618) 242-1236

Jefferson County Historical Village

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

MACON COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 3 — Argenta Fall Festival on the grounds of the Bridge Church at 520 West Elm Street in Argenta from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendors, car show, pony rides, food vendors, horse & buggy rides and singing characters!

Sept. 10 — Brews, Blues & BBQ at Bargetta at 117 E. Elm Street in Argenta, IL. The Cigar Shack Mobile Cigar Lounge will be on hand from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. for the Bargetta Backyard Brews, Blues & BBQ Contest with a fully stocked Custom Humidor full of Premium Cigars for purchase and a unique lounge to enjoy your cigar! Live Music all Day and Night with the Drifter Kings from 1-4 p.m., Lil Higgy & The House Wreckers from 4-7 p.m. and Kilborn Alley from 7-11 p.m. BBQ Judging times are as follows: Steak at noon, Ribs at 3 p.m., Pork at



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4 p.m., Brisket at 6 p.m. For more info call (217)855-5147.

Sept. 10 — Zoorific from 5-10 p.m. at Scovill Zoo in Decatur, IL. Adults only night with lots of food, drinks and one-of-a-kind animal experiences! For tickets call (217)421-7435.

Sept. 11 — Grandparents Day at Scovill Zoo in Decatur IL. Grandparents receive free admission with a paying child or adult and enjoy games from 1-4 p.m.

Sept. 16 — Family Camp Out starting at 6 p.m. at Scovill Zoo in Decatur, IL. \$30 per person or \$120 per family up to six includes dinner & breakfast and activities. Bring your tent and sleeping bags. Pre-reservation is required.

Oct. 1 — Platinum Rock Legends Concert at Devon G. Buffett Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL at 7 p.m.

Oct. 8 — Devon on Tap Decatur Craft Beer & Music Festival at Devon G. Buffett Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL from noon-4 p.m. A fundraiser for The Decatur Parks Foundation & The Decatur Area Arts Council. Sample unique beverages from breweries all over the area while enjoying food trucks, yard games and live music from local bands off the stage facing Lake Decatur. Bands scheduled to perform include Bad Medicine and 8 UP.

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.

PIATT COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 17-18 — Come enjoy unlimited rides on our vintage passenger and freight trains and motor cars. Visit museum displays, kids' games, food trucks, and more! Monticello Railway Museum

Oct. 1 — Fall Sunset Dinner Train Ride in style on one of our restored Illinois Central dining cars as you enjoy a delicious three-course dinner and enjoy the fall scenery of Central Illinois. This two hour train ride includes your choice of Filet Medallions (gluten free), Pecan Chicken, or Pasta Primavera (Gluten Free), sides, and homemade pie, all prepared by our friends at Holly's County Kitchen of Monticello! You can choose to ride in a historic dining car or enjoy an exclusive experience on board our private car. For more information, contact Monticello Railway Museum.

Oct. 8 — Campfire Jamboree. The Okee Dokee Brothers performance will be the final one in the 2022 Allerton Park Concert Series presented by The Ayers Family. A Campfire Jamboree the evening of Oct. 8 will also include the chance to take part in other activities and camp in the Meadow as part of the overnight Allerton Family Campout. Attendees can come to the concert only (suggested donation of \$5/person and \$10 per family), but can also stay for the campout (registration separate). Please bring lawn chairs or blankets. Limited lodging is also available in Allerton guest houses. Food will be available for purchase from Piato To Go. For more information, call (217) 333-3287.

Dec. 3-4 — Lunch with Santa on the Train at the Wabash Depot in Monticello, Illinois, a holiday favorite with kids of all ages. This experience includes

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

November-December — The Polar Express Train Ride- Read along with the story as the train makes its round-trip journey to the North Pole. Meet Santa and enjoy caroling, hot chocolate, surprises, and a treat—plus a special gift for each passenger who believes. All passengers, young and old, are encouraged to wear their favorite pajamas to enjoy this magical train ride! Our Polar Express™ Train Ride departs at our Wabash Depot in downtown Monticello at 200 E. Livingston St. If you have questions or problems with ticket purchases on or after the date of sale, please contact the Museum's ticket office by email at tickets@mym.org. Tickets Go on Sale Sept. 10th at 8am. Check back for dates.

MARION COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 8, 9, 10 & 11 — Antique Power Days at Marion County Fairgrounds in Salem, IL. Tractor Pull Friday Sept 9 at 7 p.m., Evening Car Cruise on Saturday, Toy Show on Sunday. Flea Market & Food Vendors daily! Much More! Presented by the Southern Illinois Antique Power Club.

Sept. 17 — Salem Applefest from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Marion County Fairgrounds in Salem, IL

Oct. 1 — Little Egypt Festival in Salem, IL. Parade at 2:00 p.m., Food Vendors, Craft/Flea Market, Kids Games, Horse Show & More! Visit Little Egypt Festival facebook page for more info.

Oct. 8 — Celebrate Centralia. Downtown Centralia 4-9 p.m.

Oct. 15 — Rail Monster Crawl at Rail Coffee Room. 5-10 p.m. 210 East Broadway in Centralia, 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 buckles, rescue equipment, and newspaper reports of the #5 Mine Disaster can be viewed at the Museum. The experiences you can have here are too numerous to list, but we know you won't want to miss the history of this unique area.

Kinmundy Log Cabin Village

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

Stephen A Forbes State Park

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

MOULTRIE COUNTY EVENTS

Oct. 1 — Harvest Field Market at Buxton's Garden Farm in Sullivan, IL. A family fun day on the farm shopping, eating, pumpkin picking and enjoying Fall! Live music, food and so much more! 50+ local vendors! For more information call (217)728-7993

Nov. 11-13 — Christmas in November at Valley Orchard, Sullivan, IL.

Travel Time Tours...2022

Oct 29-Nov 1
Martinsville Nascar Race...Includes Race Shops,
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Nov 7-10
Branson Christmas... "Miracle of Christmas" at Sight & Sound, Daniel
O'Donnell, The Duttons, The Hughes Bros, Beach Boys... 7 Meals
including Lambert's Cafe... \$639

Nov 29-Dec 5
San Antonio Christmas... Magnolia Market in Waco, Riverwalk Boat
Tour, The Alamo tour, Mexican Market with lunch at Mi Tierra, San
Antonio Guided Tour, SAS Shoe Factory Tour, 6th Floor Depository (JFK)
Museum... 6 meals & optional hotel dinners...

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State to award \$15M to support festivals and tourism across Illinois

WHEATON – Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) recently announced \$15 million in funding to support tourism sectors across Illinois, through the second round of the Tourism Attraction and Festivals Grant program offered by the State. Through the \$15 million investment, which opened to applicants in July, \$5 million will be reserved for festivals, which serve as economic drivers while bringing communities together, and \$10 million will support a broad range of other tourism-related project such as attractions, museums, live performance venues and more. This grant is funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

“When the pandemic struck, the tourism industry across the globe lurched to a standstill,” said Pritzker. “That’s why, last August, I launched the Tourism Attraction and Festivals Grant program – delivering the support our communities needed to bring back parades, festivals, and cultural celebrations that are so vital to families in neighborhoods across our state. Today, I’m proud to announce an additional \$15 million for this successful program to continue supporting our tourism sector, driving economic development, and bringing our communities together.”

“From boosting local economies and small businesses to showcasing the beauty of our state, Illinois’ tourism industry contributes more than fun experiences for all of us. It is also about history and community – and preserv-

ing the rich, diverse stories that make Illinois a great place to live in and visit,” said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton. “Our administration has been committed to supporting the tourism industry’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic because of how integral it is to our state’s communities. This additional \$15 million in funding is a testament to that.”

This round of funding prioritizes downstate communities, communities that have experienced declines in hotel tax revenues and provides \$5 million specifically for festivals. Additionally, in order to maximize funding, applicants are required to submit matching funds with the goal of attracting additional visitors to localities and events, thereby supporting local hotels, restaurants, and businesses. Through the revised approach for the second round of funding, the State is ensuring localities and tourism entities hardest-hit by the pandemic receive additional support.

Through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), localities, tourism and festival businesses, and entities can apply for grants of up to \$500,000 that may be used to establish and enhance tourism attractions or festivals. Applications will be accepted until Friday, Sept. 23, 2022.

“There are so many things I love about our community that I can’t wait to share with folks from across the state,” said State Senator Laura Ellman (D-Naperville). “Not only will this funding showcase our community and bolster our tourism, it will boost our local economy and help us grow and thrive for

years to come. I’m so glad to see this well-deserved investment.”

“Illinois tourism attractions, festivals and live venues bring scores of visitors to communities all around our state,” said State Senator Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago). “These grants will go a long way to rebuild the diverse attractions that makes Illinois the middle of everything!”

“From historic Route 66 to its beautiful state parks and cities, tourism continues to play an important role in the economy, culture and vitality of Illinois,” said State Representative Lamont J. Robinson (D-Chicago). “This critical funding will provide for more good-paying jobs and strengthen our tourism industry as it bounces back from the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“The tourism industry boosts local revenues, spurs economic development and creates jobs for residents across the state,” said State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs). “By investing an additional \$15 million statewide, we can support the festivals, museums and other live performances that sustain working families and attract visitors to Illinois.”

“Illinois’ travel and tourism industry continues to position and grow the state’s visitor economy,” said Dave Herrell, chairman, Illinois Council of Convention & Visitor Bureaus (ICCVB). “This strategic investment last year created significant value across the many destinations throughout Illinois and today’s announcement by Governor Pritzker will continue to make a substantial impact for tourism

and the communities leveraging this opportunity for future growth.”

“With world-class attractions, festivals, and historical sites in every part of Illinois, we’re proud to support the unique destinations that make Illinois a great place to live, work and do business,” said Sylvia I. Garcia, Director of DCEO. “Under Governor Pritzker’s leadership, DCEO recognizes the importance of investing and reinvesting in tourism attractions and festivals that are important to residents and visitors alike, which is why today we’re announcing the award of \$10 million to 41 grantees across the state and making an additional \$15 million available for continued growth of our tourism economy.”

The first round of the grant program supported a broad array of tourism attractions, sites, and events throughout the state, including a five-month outdoor art exhibit featuring dozens of mythical animals inspired by Mexican folklore at Cantigny Park in Wheaton.

“Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World at Cantigny Park is a perfect example of how we can advance meaningful programs to serve our local communities, while lifting the state as a whole. A remarkable group of collaborators made this happen. Thank you to Governor Pritzker, DCEO and the Illinois Office of Tourism for this grant that enabled our artists from Mexico City to bring this dream to life, celebrating cultural diversity and personal connection through art,” said Beth Marchetti, DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau Executive Director.

In order to be selected, each applicant demonstrated how this award would help businesses in the surrounding area, as well as the project’s ability to attract visitors for over-

night stays. Projects scored higher based on proximity to commercial corridors and services - including hotels/motels, restaurants, retail, and

other commercial operations. Applications for this grant were awarded on a rolling basis with awards ranging from \$11,500 to

\$562,500, with an average award of \$243,902 for a total of \$10 million. Below is the full list of projects from the first round of funding.

Here are the projects from the first round of funding from the Tourism Attraction and Festivals Grant program.

Anna

City of Anna

Support for Gumdrops Drive - a drive thru lights exhibit through the city's park.

\$11,500.00

Arcola

S.A.B.L.E., INC.

Support for various improvements to Aikman Wildlife Adventure.

\$184,000.00

Arlington Heights

Arlington Heights Frontier Days Inc.

Support for 2022 Arlington Heights Frontier Days Festival.

\$111,000.00

Arthur

Illinois Amish Information Exhibits, Inc.

Funding to support bringing historic barns to the Illinois Amish Heritage Center.

\$305,000.00

Brookfield

Chicago Zoological Society

Support for the Ice Age Giants 2022 Exhibit.

\$250,000.00

Chicago

The Magnificent Mile Association

Support for the Magnificent Mile Lights Parade.

\$485,104.55

Navy Pier, Inc.

Support for Chicago LIVE! Again festival of performances.

\$562,500.00

Illinois Restaurant Association

Support for the Chicago Gourmet festival.

\$242,837.94

Art Expositions LLC, dba EXPO CHICAGO

Support for the International Contemporary & Modern Art expo.

\$508,162.10

Chicago Media Project

Support for the Doc10 Film Festival, Chicago's only all-documentary film festival.

\$78,000.00

Music and Dance Theater Chicago Inc.

Support for Harris Theater's audio/visual technical enhancements.

\$500,000.00

Museum of Contemporary Art

Support with creation, fabrication, and implementation the Nick Cave: Forthmore exhibition.

\$148,330.00

Chicago Independent Venue League (CIVL)

Support for 14-night music & comedy festival.

\$100,000.00

The Revival LLC

Support for construction for a new improv theater.

\$164,361.00

Rock Island

Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Support for Arts Alley, an outdoor pedestrian area and venue for special events and social gatherings.

\$267,181.20

Edwardsville

Madison County Historical Society, Inc.

Support for restoration and renovation of the museum building.

\$185,000.00

Freeport

Greater Freeport Partnership

Support for Pretzel City Brewfest Weekend 2022.

\$10,000.00

Geneva

Geneva Chamber of Commerce

Support for Swedish Days Festival & Festival of the Vine.

\$61,238.07

Glencoe

Chicago Horticultural Society

Support for a new welcome plaza, picnic glade and ramble at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

\$500,000.00

Glenview

Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago, Inc.

Support for Kohlights: A Mesmeristic Holiday Lightacular.

\$57,190.58

Grafton

Aerie's Management, Inc.

Support for the installation of an alpine coaster at Aerie's Resort.

\$500,000.00

Coal Valley

Rock Island County Forest Preserve District

Support for design fees and construction for the African Painted Dogs Exhibit at Niabi Zoo.

\$233,000.00

Joliet

City of Joliet

Support for exterior illumination of the 1858 Old Joliet Prison Historic Site.

\$250,000.00

Joliet Park District

Support for the Taste of Joliet.

\$249,133.00

Ottawa

Starved Rock Country Community Foundation

Support for the Starved Rock Country Festival of the Arts.

\$15,852.00

Lemont

Lemont Quarries Operations Inc

Support for capital expansion of The Forge: Lemont Quarries.

\$500,000.00

Lisle

The Morton Arboretum

Support for landscaping & structural additions for the Grand Garden at Morton Arboretum.

\$500,000.00

Madison

Gateway Acquisitions, Inc.

Support for raceway improvements at World Wide Technology Racetrack.

\$500,000.00

Morton

Morton Chamber of Commerce

Support for the Morton Pumpkin Festival.

\$94,150.32

Mt. Carroll

Timber Lake Playhouse

Support for the Timber Lake Playhouse facilities remodeling project.

\$194,796.26

Mt. Vernon

John R. and Eleanor R. Mitchell Foundation

Support for capital improvements at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, including ADA upgrades, sculpture preservation, and building renovations.

\$182,000.00

Wheaton

DuPage Convention & Visitor's Bureau

Support for Los Alebrijes, an art exhibit that celebrates cultural diversity through art at Cantigny Park.

\$60,110.00

Oak Brook

Oak Brook Park District

Support for Oak Brook's Central Park Sports & Activity Hub.

\$480,000.00

Paris

City of Paris

Support to help update the sound system at the Paris Center of Fine Arts.

\$152,995.98

Rockford

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden Inc.

Support for the Entry Pond and Ornamental Water Feature Project at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

\$75,000.00

City of Rockford

Support for the Coronado Performing Arts Center restoration and stabilization project.

\$500,000.00

Discovery Center Museum of Rockford Inc

Support for the custom designed exhibit: Interactive Kinetic Ball.

\$50,000.00

Sesser

City of Sesser

Support for Sesser Opera House renovations.

\$148,925.00

Skokie

Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois, Inc.

Support for the implementation and fabrication of "Ghost Army: The Combat Con Artists of World War II" special exhibition.

\$42,632.00

Springfield

Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project, Inc.

Support for the Illinois State Fairgrounds Route 66 Experience.

\$500,000.00

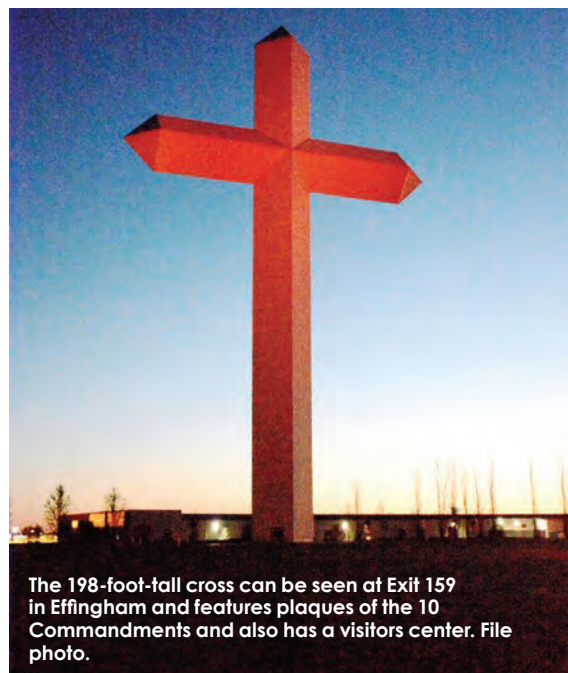
Washington

Nate Heindl LLC

Support for two disc golf tournaments: The LedgeStone Insurance Open in Greater Peoria, and the 2022 Combined Professional Disc Golf Association World Championship.

\$40,000.00

In this 2019 file photo, from left, front row, are Ann Beckman and Kayla Duncan; back row, Rachel Miller, Linda Hemmen, Sara Jennings and Patty Greene. This year's United Way of Effingham County Witches Ball is from 6-9 p.m. at Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham on Oct. 21. Submitted photo.



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. File photo.



The Corvette Funfest at Mid America Motorworks in Effingham is on Sept. 17. Live music and entertainment, food and drink vendors, the Corvette Clubhouse and more. File photo.



Fran Lovekamp of Taylorville holds Christmas decor while waiting for her daughter during Hobnob Harvest Market at the Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont. Early bird shopping is on Sept. 2 from 4-8 p.m. Market Day is Sept. 3 from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. File photo.

The 4,300-square-foot Ballard Nature Center Visitor Center was completed in July of 2000 with funds donated by Ernie Ballard. File photo.



Members of the Vahling family of Sigel visited Joan's Candies at the Effingham Farmers Market in June. From left are Joan Gunn, Ella Seaman, seated, Jamie Vahling, 4-year-old Delia Vahling, 8-year-old Sarena Vahling and 6-year-old Titus Vahling. The market continues on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon on the Effingham County Museum lawn through Oct. 29. File photo.

Dec. 9-18 — "White Christmas" Christmas show at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL. 7:30 p.m. show on Dec. 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 & 17; 2 p.m. matinee on Dec. 10, 11, 14, 17 & 18.

Moultrie County Attractions

"Boats, Buggies & Broadway"

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

Sullivan Civic Center

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

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

Okaw Valley Orchard

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

SHELBY COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 2 — Music by Brushville from 7-10 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery in Westervelt, IL. Notorious Pig and Brick's Exquisite Eats will be onsite for food purchases. Brushville blends four extremely talented musicians, with incredible harmonies, an explosive stage show and a fresh, dynamic sound produced by an array of instruments to create an unforgettable experience for the audience. Brushville has been expanding their assault throughout the nation and is sure to be lighting up your area very shortly.

Sept. 3 — Music by Sound City from 6-9 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery in Westervelt, IL. Central Illinois band covering a variety of music including Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, Frampton, ZZ Top, Midland, Eric Church, Hank Jr., Dwight Yochem, Eagles, Lynyrd Skynyrd, David Allan Coe, Commodores, Grand Funk and much much more.

Sept. 3 — Fall Village Wide Rummage Sales in Strasburg, IL.

Sept. 9-11 — DirtWorx MTB Festival at Lake Shelbyville. A weekend of all things mountain biking. Take a self-guided tour of trails Lake Shelbyville has to offer! Live music, bikes, camping & more! For more info go to Lake Shelbyville USACE Facebook page.

Sept. 10 — Music by Antics from 6-9 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery in Westervelt, IL. Brick's Exquisite Eats will be onsite for food purchases. Please join us to hear the longest playing classic rock band in Illinois. They cover songs from Stevie Ray Vaughan to Theory of a Deadman, and everything in between.

Sept. 22 — Town wide rummage sales in Moweaqua, IL.

Sept. 23 — Community Wiener Roast at the park in Strasburg, IL.

Sept. 24 — O.M.R.O. Mud Drag at Cowden. Race starts 5 p.m.

Sept. 24 — A Harvest Gathering from noon-8 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery in Westervelt, IL. Come join us as we welcome fall! We will be featuring local vendors with handmade goods, boutique clothing, vintage and so much more! 29 Junction will be playing some amazing live music from 5-8 p.m. Pauly's BBQ will be on site for food purchases. This will be a fun filled day of shopping and wine! Bring your friends and make a day of it!

Sept. 24 & 25 — Twilight Nights Fall Festival at Vahling Vineyards & Distillery in Stewardson, IL. Food and craft vendors and live music. Enjoy Vahling Vineyards wine and bourbon from our distillery! Plenty of indoor and outdoor seating available. Call (217) 682-5409 for more information.

Oct. 1 — Burn Out in the Burg Auto Show including Exhaust competition and Burn Out competition. In the park in Strasburg, IL.

Oct. 1 — Music by Wreckless Whiskey from 6-9 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery in Westervelt, IL.

Oct. 7 — Music by The Natu Band from 5-8 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery in Westervelt, IL at their annual Balloon Glow event. No cover charge! Pauly's BBQ & Smokin BBQ Steady Style will be on site for food purchases.

Oct. 7-9 — Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest at Lake Shelbyville area.

Oct. 8 — Scarecrow Daze in downtown Shelbyville.

Oct. 22 — Music by Michael Charles. Time TBA. The concert by Grammy elected Chicago Blues Hall of Fame artist Michael Charles and His Band will take you on a guitar driven journey through thirty-nine years and thirty-eight releases of original music. The precision and level of energy is just spectacular and will leave you astounded by the driving force, the contemporary

blues, and the soulful ballads of Michael Charles.

Oct. 29 — Halloween Soup Supper. Parade. Costume Judging. Cake Walk. All at the Community Center in Strasburg, IL.

Nov. 5 — Young Dead Frankenstein Murder Mystery Dinner at Willow Ridge Winery in Westervelt, IL. You will be laughing all evening! Reservations are required and will be taken until sold out. Three course dinner and the performance.

Nov. 6 — American Legion Christmas Auction at 1 p.m. in the Community Center in Strasburg, IL.

Nov. 12 — Santa Brigade Breakfast (starts 6 a.m.) and Christmas Market (starts 7 am) at St. Paul's Lutheran Social Hall & Gym in Strasburg, IL.

Nov. 18-Jan. 1 — Shelbyville Festival of Lights in Forest Park, Shelbyville.

Nov. 19 — Music Bingo from 6-9 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery in Westervelt, IL. Prairie Fire DJ Service is bringing their Music Bingo to Willow Ridge Winery! Instead of normal bingo numbers, they will play the popular songs that people love to sing along with! Players listen to the music and mark the right songs on their bingo cards. When a player gets the songs right they will shout "BINGO!" and then we might have a winner! Free to play and there will be prizes!

Dec. 4 — American Legion Christmas Auction at 1 p.m. in the Community Center in Strasburg, IL.

Dec. 9-10 — Christmas Store/Cookie Walk at the Community Center in Strasburg, IL.

Dec. 10 — Visit with Santa from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Community Center in Strasburg, IL.

Dec. 11 — Lutheran churches Christmas Cantata at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg, IL.

Dec. 17 — Music Bingo from 6-9 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery in Westervelt, IL. Prairie Fire DJ Service is bringing their Music Bingo to Willow Ridge Winery! Instead of normal bingo numbers, they will play the popular songs that people love to sing along with! Players listen to the music and mark the right songs on their bingo cards. When a player gets the songs right they will shout "BINGO!" and then we might have a winner! Free to play and there will be prizes!

Shelby County Attractions

Vahling Vineyards



Check out our selection of
Apples, Fresh Apple Cider Donuts,
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Apple Dumplings, Jams, Jellies,
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f Hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm Sunday 12-5pm
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Vahling Vineyards is a winery located at 2683 Co. Hwy 6, Stewardson IL. (217)682-5409. vahlingvineyards.com. They have a Wine & Brandy Tasting Room. Enjoy a glass inside or on their large patio!

Willow Ridge Vineyards and Winery

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

Tallman House

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

Shelby County Courthouse

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

Tree-filled Forest Park

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

Lincoln Public Square

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

Johnson's Goat Tower

Johnson's Goat Tower is located at 1968 N. 2500 East Road at Windsor, IL 61957. The tower is a structure consisting of 5000 handmade bricks from North Carolina, 276 concrete steps that are 40 inches long and cantilevered into the brick and a copper roof. The six compartments, three on each side, have a concrete floor. At 31 feet tall with a 7 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

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 December 24, 1932 disaster that killed 54 workers, the coal mine closed in 1935 and the museum was dedicated in 1986. Hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Moweaqua.org

The Best Wedding Chapel

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

The Pam & Bob Boarman Chevy BelAir Museum

The Pam & Bob Boarman Chevy BelAir Museum opened in 2005 and features Bob's private collection of 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



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Indy Pace Car with only 28 miles on it. The museum is located at 224 West Main St. in Shelbyville and is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday thru Friday and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Lake Shelbyville

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

\$57 million was appropriated for the dam and lake project. Groundbreaking on the dam occurred May 4, 1963. Filling of the reservoir began August 1, 1970. The lake was officially dedicated 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.

RICHLAND COUNTY EVENTS

Sept. 3 — Surviving the Color 5k — Olney City Park, 812-208-0928

Sept. 3 — Bicycle Rodeo — Olney City, 618-388-0477

Sept. 10 — Olney Bicycle Classic — Olney City Park, 618-392-2241

Sept. 10 — Family Bike Ride — Olney City Park, 618-429-9226

Sept. 24 — Olney Arts Council Fall Festival at Olney City Park

Oct. 1 — Oktoberfest — Rotary Park, Olney, IL, 618-843-3238

Oct. 1, 8 & 15 — Annual Squirrel Count at Olney City Park. Volunteers welcome! Call 618-395-7302 ext 3. Cityofolney.com

Oct. 10 — Bicycle Classic at Olney City Park.

Oct. 22 — Day of Hope at Olney City Park. Call 618-843-3470.

Oct. 28 — TrustBank Halloween Parade at 6 p.m. in downtown Olney, 618-429-9226

Nov. 26 — Olney Christmas Parade in downtown Olney, 618-302-7989

Nov. 24 – Dec. 31 — Christmas Light Display at Olney City Park, 618-395-7302

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.

Endless Fall Fun in Olney!

Care to
Join Us?



ILLINOIS ^{enjoy} **South** **illinois**
TOURISM

Upcoming Events

Bicycle Classic
September 10
Olney City Park
618-392-2241

Olney Arts Council Fall Festival
September 24
Olney City Park

White Squirrel Count
October 1, 8, & 15
Olney City Park
Volunteers Welcome!
618-395-7302 x3 cityofolney.com

Day of Hope
October 22
Olney City Park
618-843-3470

Halloween Parade
October 28
Downtown at 6 p.m.

Olney City Hall 618-395-7302



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209 N. Haughton Hwy
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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

RESTAURANTS

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

Carl's Pizza
117 W. Cumberland • 217-923-3093
Carry Out, Dine-In, Delivery

Taco Rey
IL Rt. 130 & Elizabeth St. • 217-923-5100

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

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

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

JACKSON TRUSS
COVERED BRIDGE



Hootenanny
1st Saturday of the Month

Greenup Cruise Nite
September 23, 2022

**Greenup Chamber of
Commerce Fall Festival**
September 22 - 24, 2022

Halloween Celebration
October 29, 2022

Christmas in the Village
December 10, 2022

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



NATIONAL ROAD COVERED BRIDGE



LODGING

Budget Host Inn
716 E. Elizabeth
217-923-3176
Cumberland Road Guesthouse - Airbnb
501 E. Cumberland St.
www.airbnb.com

Greenup Inn
400 S. Haughton Hwy
217-923-5512
Cozy Corner - Airbnb
107 S. Marietta St.
www.airbnb.com

BEAUTY

Designs Unlimited
102 W. Cumberland
217-923-5468

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

Bliss Salon & Spa
116 W. Cumberland St.
217-923-3339

SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

Ti Kwon Do
Generous Zuluetae
704 E. Elizabeth St.
217-923-5458 • 217-549-0028

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

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

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

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

**Events by MLB, LLC
& Brittany's Power Tumbling**
119 S Kentucky St • 217-840-9189

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

Cutt's Insurance
1004 E Cumberland • 217-923-5010

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

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

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

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

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

Greenup Chamber of Commerce
217-254-8461

**Burton Home Repair, LLC
Handyman Service**
217-343-8689

ELSTON CORNER PORCHES

