

# A Day Away

**Spring/Summer 2025 Guide**

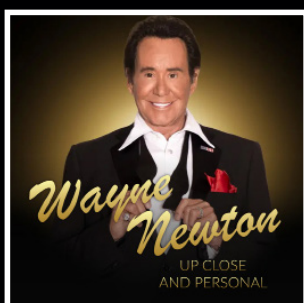
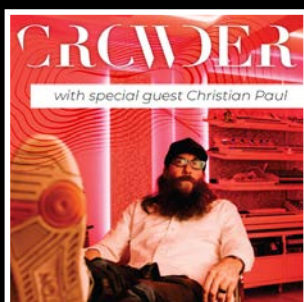
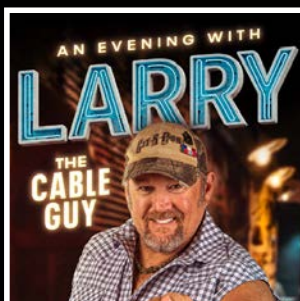
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# MARSHALL IL



## 2025 Events



### Wine & Arts Festival - 5.31.25

The first annual Wine & Arts Festival in downtown Marshall will be a day full of wine tastings, art demonstrations from various types of artists, as well as featured art shows from both children and adults alike.

### Farmer's Market (Every Friday Night) 6.6.25 - 8.1.25

A weekly market with local vendors selling fresh produce, flowers, various baked goods, handmade crafts & jewelry. Located on the courthouse square every Friday evening from 6-8PM, before the weekly City Band concert.



### Jeep Jam - 6.21.25

Marshall's 2nd Annual Jeep Jam - A fun-filled afternoon downtown on the courthouse square along with an obstacle course at the Clark County Fairgrounds. Enjoy an array of activities, giveaways, as well as food & drink specials from local businesses.

### Red, White & Blue Bash - 7.4.25

Join us in downtown Marshall on the courthouse square while we celebrate the City Band's 150th Anniversary. There will be live music, bounce houses, food trucks & so much more! Festivities will be followed by fireworks at the Clark County Fairgrounds at 9:30PM



### Autumn Festival - 9.19.25 - 9.21.25

Come experience downtown Marshall, in a weekend full of fun, food & live entertainment. There will be a variety of food trucks, a cakewalk, vendors of all kinds, a parade, & a car show.

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# A Day Away

Spring/Summer 2025

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### Rural Retreats

By Kim Hill/Illinois Farm Bureau Partners



### ON THE COVER

A child enjoys an outing at the TREC Trail. Photo by Alex Hoedebecke Photography

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# Major addition planned for TREC trail

Bikers take advantage of a clear day to ride along the TREC trail. Alex Hoedebecke Photography photo

BY CATHY GRIFFITH

**E**ffingham resident Robert Dust and his wife, Kimi, walk TREC trail four to five times a week year-round – even in bad weather.

“We have walked it during a thunderstorm, during a hail storm, and even during the remnants of a hurricane,” said Robert, adding that level of dedication has earned them and others like them the nickname “trekky.”

“It stops a lot of people, but it does not stop us. We just dress for it. When it’s bad weather, we don’t see a lot of other people out there, just a few of us hard-core ‘trekkies,’” he said.

The couple lives about an eighth of a mile from the trail and briskly walks five miles of it in an hour, taking a different path each time. They love the outdoors and seeing the animals.

“You see all kinds of wildlife on the TREC trail, anywhere from deer to raccoons, to squirrels, to rabbits. This year, we even saw a beaver by the river. Never seen that before,” said Robert.

Aside from enjoying it, Robert notes the walks are good for their physical and mental health.

“Kimi’s a mental health professional and she is the first one that will tell you how good the TREC trail is for your mental health if you just get out in nature,” said Robert.

As more outdoor enthusiasts hit the trail this spring, work is underway on a big addition to it.

A 1,400-foot section is being added to the loop around the 53-acre nature park. Plans are to begin pouring concrete in late April, weather permitting, and finish by early summer. The project is being paid for through a matching grant overseen by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



Shown is a bike awaiting its rider along the TREC trail. Alex Hoedebecke Photography photo

TREC Board members are seeking to raise \$75,000 for the final 1,200 feet to finish the loop and connect it back to the main river crossing trail. Whether that portion gets completed this year depends on how soon those funds can be raised, according to TREC Board President Mo Dust.

That isn’t the only project for the trail in the works this







year.

A website is being created for TREC that will have a set of maps for the whole trail system. It will also provide a portal for people who want to donate and provide historical information about TREC.

“We’re really looking forward to having that available this year,” said Mo, adding he does not know when the website will be ready.

Mo is particularly looking forward to the website providing a place to volunteer.

“It also is a chance for the TREC Board to see how we can use that help,” he said.

While people currently volunteer, Mo notes it’s kind of “ad hoc.”

“They just go out and do things. We want that to continue but a little bit more of an organized approach to volunteers and upkeep of the trail,” he said.

An example is when a person donated 300 daffodils last year, and volunteers planted them in the nature park area.

“That kind of thing is where people can get involved and kind of get their hands dirty not only just to keep the trail clean and looking sharp but also to add enhancements to it,” he said.

He said volunteers last year helped clean out brush in a large part of the nature park, allowing the Little Wabash River to be visible from the picnic area.

“There’s more of that to do,” he added.

Mo said feedback this past year about the trail’s upkeep has been “really good,” which he also attributes to Effingham Park District for keeping the grass cut and clean and Effingham County for maintaining the trail by keeping brush away from it, trimming trees, and repairing concrete.

“Both are doing a great job of keeping the trail up,” he said.

The website will allow people to give their input, including on areas where they would like TREC to be expanded.

“We’re continuously looking at: Are there other areas around the TREC trail properties that we could add a trail and really benefit the people in the area?” he said.

Another addition to the trail this year will be a TREC monument sign funded by the city of Effingham. It will be located at the Outer Belt West TREC trailhead. Mo said the sign’s purpose is to let people unfamiliar with TREC know where the trailhead is.

While the trail is popular with residents, it receives plenty of newcomers. Mo has met people from outside the area – and even the state – on the trail.



**Children play at the sandbar located in the TREC Nature Park during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September 2023. Daily News file photo**

“One gentleman was walking through and said, ‘I don’t live anywhere near here. I drive a truck and come through on the interstate system, and I found this and love it. I come here and stop just to walk the trails, and then I’ll keep going,’” he said.

Mo has also met people from Indiana who were in Effingham for a conference at the Thelma Keller Convention Center.

“Now they come back through just to stop at the trail,” he said.

Robert and his wife have also met out-of-towners who stop in Effingham to walk the trail.

“They will stay the night in a motel, eat, get gas, and the next day they take off and go the rest of their journey,” he said. “The last couple we met were out of Chicago and heading down to Tennessee, and they stop here all the time, get out, stretch their legs, and walk the TREC.”

Robert encourages others to get on the trail and has a goal this year to get his grandkids to join them for several walks.

“I very highly recommend walking the TREC,” he said.



**Along the TREC trail Ryan Wolters Memorial Bridge, also known as “Ryan’s Crossing,” is shown. Alex Hoedebecke Photography photo**



## Bond County Events

**May 3:** Spring Fling and BBQ Competition at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Tractor, gas engine and car parts swap meet, flea market and craft vendors, train rides, Historic Hill's Fort, Lil' Red Barn and more! BBQ samples from 30 teams at the Smok'n on the Farm BBQ Competition. Free parking and music by The Crossroads Band.

**June 14:** AHRR Train Show at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville.

**July 25–27:** Farm Heritage Days at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Tractor pulls & much more! Free parking.

**July 31–Aug. 5:** Bond County Fair at the fairgrounds in Greenville, IL.

**Oct. 3 & 4:** Halloweenville at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Jack-O-Lantern Express, pumpkins & Indian corn for sale, food & more starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 10 & 11:** Halloweenville at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Jack-O-Lantern Express, pumpkins & Indian corn for sale, food & more starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 17 & 18:** Halloweenville at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Jack-O-Lantern Express, pumpkins & Indian corn for sale, food & more starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 24 & 25:** Halloweenville at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Jack-O-Lantern Express, pumpkins & Indian corn for sale, food & more starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 28–Dec. 31:** Christmas display at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville.

## BOND COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### DeMoulin Museum

Located at 205 S. Prairie St. in Greenville. Check out spanking machines and other initiation devices. Group tours are welcome and can be scheduled at any time. Free admission. Donations welcome. For more information, visit [demoulinmuseum.org](http://demoulinmuseum.org)

### Marcoot Jersey Creamery

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## American Farm Heritage Museum

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

## Champaign County Events

**April 29:** Jazz Combo Concert at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at Illinois in the Studio Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

**April 29:** Illini Strings and University of Illinois Philharmonia Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at Illinois in the Foellinger Great Hall.

**April 30:** Jazz Trombone Ensemble in the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at Illinois in the Studio Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

**May 1:** Illinois Wind Symphony in Foellinger Great Hall at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at Illinois at 7:30 p.m.

**May 2:** Concert Jazz Band in the Studio Theatre at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at Illinois at 7:30 p.m.

**May 2–3:** Champaign Urbana Ballet presents Cinderella at 7:30 p.m. at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign.

**May 2–4:** The Farms: Bluebell Festival, a festive community event featuring a Plant Sale fundraiser all 3 days, Spring Market on May 3, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., live music, workshops, food trucks, drinks at our cash bar and more! For a special treat, make reservations for Supper Club in the Mansion Friday evening! Blooming Brunch in the Mansion, 9–10:30 a.m. Sunday. Enjoy barn quilt painting Saturday morning (requires separate registration) and more all at Allerton Park & Retreat Center in Monticello.

**May 2–4:** Parkland Theatre presents The Wedding Singer at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3 and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 4.

**May 3:** Spring Sangria Festival from noon to 7 p.m. with live Spanish style music all day and a food truck from 2–7 p.m. at Alto Vineyards in Champaign.

**May 3:** Repertory Jazz Orchestra in the Studio Theatre at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at Illinois, 7:30 p.m.

**May 4:** Jazz Vocal Ensemble & Combos at 3 p.m. in the Studio Theatre at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at Illinois.

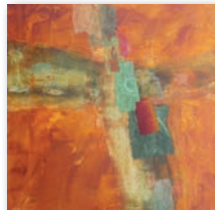
**May 4:** Lonestar, 3 p.m. at the State Farm Center in Champaign.

**May 10:** Music at the Vines w/Voodoo Exiles, a 6-piece band playing Rolling Stones music from 6–9 p.m. at Alto Vineyards in Champaign.

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**May 30 & 31:** Peter Pan: The Ballet presented by The Dance Arts Conservatory at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign Friday, May 30 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:15 p.m.) and Saturday, May 31 at 2 p.m. (doors open at 1:15 p.m.) This family-friendly and comedic ballet brings the classic story of Peter Pan to life in a new way through several dance styles. A showcase of our modern, jazz and adult dancers will follow.

**May 31:** CU Market at the Fair, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at Champaign County Fairgrounds in Urbana. Shop local vendors and food to eat for a family-friendly day!

**June 3:** A Night of Music with Crowder and Matt Maher, 7 p.m. at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign.

**June 14:** Mahomet Soda Fest 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Live music, local food and a large variety of crazy soda flavors! Sample soda from classic, family-owned bottlers from all over the country! Family-friendly games too! A wide variety of vendors to shop from!

**June 14:** Honoring the Legacy of REO Speedwagon — A Concert Event — Back Where it All Began at the State Farm Center in Champaign.

**July 18–26:** Champaign County Fair at the fairgrounds at 1302 N. Coler, Urbana, IL. Rodeo at 7 p.m. July 18. Travis Tritt in concert July 25.

**July 25:** Travis Tritt in concert at the Champaign County Fair, 1302 N. Coler, Urbana, IL.

**Aug. 2 & 3:** Crystal Lake Park Art Fair in Urbana from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. featuring local and regional art vendors set up along the park road next to the large pavilion and the Lake House at Crystal Lake Park, 206 W. Park, Urbana, IL featuring paintings, textiles, ceramics, photography, jewelry, glass, mixed media and much more! Over 40 regional and local artists!

**Aug. 22 & 23:** Mahomet Music Festival features live music, food court, vendors, crafters, carnival, drinks, beer garden and much more! Family-friendly fun in downtown Mahomet opens at 5 p.m. Friday featuring Lexi Tieffel from American Idol and Gina Miles, Season 23 "The Voice" 2023 Winner. Parade Saturday at 9 a.m. with festival opening Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Live music Saturday by Lakeview and Parmalee.

**Aug. 30:** Smokewars BBQ Festival and Competition from 3–10 p.m. Join us for a sizzling good time at 51 E. Main St, Champaign, IL. Get ready to indulge in mouthwatering BBQ dishes, watch talented pitmasters compete, and enjoy live music all day long. This event is perfect for BBQ enthusiasts and foodies alike. Come hungry and leave happy! Don't miss out on this epic BBQ showdown!

**Oct. 18:** Mania: The Abba Tribute, 7:30 p.m. at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign.

**Nov. 8 & 9:** 2025 Annual CLCU Art Fair 10 a.m.–4 p.m. both days at the Savoy Recreation Center, 402 W. Graham Drive in Savoy, IL 61874.

## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Krannert Art Museum

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

### The UI Arboretum

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

### 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.

### Curtis Orchard

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

### Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

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

## Christian County Events

**May 2, June 6, July 11, Aug 1, Sept 5, Oct 10:** Small Town Taylorville Cruise on the Taylorville Square, 4–8 p.m. Cars, trucks, 4x4, bikes, trikes, vintage, restored, off-road, new

or unique. Collectible dash plaques for the first 50 cars! Fun, food, friends, live music, all in Manners Park in Taylorville.

**May 3:** Downtown Taylorville Farmers Market on the Square. Each Saturday, May 3 thru September 27, 9 a.m.–noon.

**May 8–11:** Community City Wide Garage Sales in Taylorville, IL, starting at 7 a.m., rain or shine.

**May 23–25:** Mud Memorial Day 2025. Live music, camping, mudding & more at South Fork Dirt Riders in Taylorville, IL. Tickets at [www.etix.com/ticket/v/32628/south-fork-dirt-riders](http://www.etix.com/ticket/v/32628/south-fork-dirt-riders)

**May 31:** Mustangs and Fords in Assumption. Cruise-in night. Food truck, live music. Open to all Ford vehicles, not just Mustangs. For more info: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5891256630889083>

**July 16–18:** Christian County Ag Fair. Enjoy carnival fare from multiple food vendors & the beer tent with live music. Ferris wheel to the demo derby. Family friendly for everyone. Multiple events at the grandstand with featured artist Clay Walker on July 18 at 7 p.m.

**July 31, Aug 1 & 2:** South Fork Music & Mud Festival. Live music, camping, mudding & more at South Fork Dirt Riders in Taylorville, IL. Tickets at [www.BCConcerts.com](http://www.BCConcerts.com)

**Oct. 4 & 5:** Chillifest in downtown Taylorville on the square. 2 Day ICS (International Chili Society) sanctioned chilli cook off, cornhole tournament, craft & food vendors, pageants, parade, kiddie tractor pull, kid zone, entertainment. For more info, contact 217-824-4919.

## 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. It serves as an outdoor laboratory for students and the public. Located South of Rt 16 on Chestnut Street, in Pana, this mile-long, 200 foot strip is the old historic Illinois Central Railroad bed. For more information go to [facebook.com/panaandersonprairie](http://facebook.com/panaandersonprairie).

### Pana Tri-County Fairgrounds

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

## Clark County Events

**May 25–June 1:** Martinsville Agricultural Fair, 620 S. York Street in Martinsville, IL. Demo derby, harness racing, rodeo, tractor pulls, truck pulls. Go to [www.martinsvilleagfair.com](http://www.martinsvilleagfair.com) for more info.

**May 31:** Wine & Arts Festival in downtown Marshall. A day full of wine tastings, art demonstrations, featured children and adult art show.

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**June 6–Aug. 1, Every Friday Night:** Farmers Market on the courthouse square in Marshall from 6–8 p.m. Includes local vendors selling fresh produce, flowers, various baked goods, handmade crafts and jewelry. City Band concert after the market.

**June 7:** Music by Conner Lorré — Neil Diamond Tribute — at 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater in Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. A freewill offering will be taken. Food available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m.

**June 14:** 10th Annual Motors on Main Street Car Show & Crazy Casey Days. Car show, craft vendor market, cornhole tournament with cash prize and more! Fun, family activities for all ages! For event details, go to [www.caseychamber.com](http://www.caseychamber.com)

**June 21:** Jeep Jam includes a fun-filled afternoon in downtown Marshall on the courthouse square. Obstacle course at the Clark County Fairgrounds. An array of activities, giveaways, food and drink specials from local businesses.

**June 21:** Music by Trouble & Company — 50's & 60's music — at 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater in Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. A freewill offering will be taken. Food available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m.

**July 4:** Red, White & Blue Bash in downtown Marshall on the courthouse square. Celebrating the City Band's 150th anniversary! Live music, bounce houses, food trucks and so much more, ending with fireworks at the Clark County Fairgrounds at 9:30 p.m.

**July 12:** Music by Zachary Stevenson — Buddy Holly Tribute — at 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater in Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. A freewill offering will be taken. Food available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m.

**July 26:** Music by Terry Lee Ridley & His Million Dollar Band — Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis, Honky Tonk — at 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater in Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. A freewill offering will be taken. Food available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m.

**Aug. 9:** Music by Battle Creek Band — Country, Classic Rock — at 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater in Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. A freewill offering will be taken. Food available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m.

**Aug. 23:** Music by Scott Wattles & the Blue Suede Crew — Rock & Roll, Country, Gospel — at 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater in Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. A freewill offering will be taken. Food available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m.

**Aug. 30:** Music by Atta Boy — 2000s to today — at 7 p.m. at Linn Park Amphitheater in Martinsville. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. A freewill offering will be taken. Food available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m.

**Aug. 29–Sept. 1:** Casey Popcorn Festival in Casey. Four big days of fun, food and entertainment! For more info, go to <https://popcornfestival.net>

**Sept. 19–21:** Autumn Festival in downtown Marshall. A weekend full of fun, food and live entertainment. Food trucks, cakewalk, vendors of all kinds, parade and car show.

## CLARK COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Archer House

The Archer House, located at 717 Archer Ave in Marshall, was built in 1841 and is the oldest hotel still in operation in Illinois. It was entered into the National Register of Historic places on March 16, 1976. Both presidents Abraham Lincoln and Grover Cleveland were guests at the Archer House.

### Stone Arch Bridge

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

### Mill Creek Park

Located seven miles northwest of Marshall on the Lincoln Heritage Trail Road. Mill Creek Park opened May 29, 1982 and consists of 2,600 acres of land and 811 acres of water with 39 miles of shoreline. There are picnic areas on either side of the boat launch and at areas around the lake, a 139-site campground with shower facilities and a playground, 15 miles of ATV trails, horse and walking trails, courtesy dock facilities, annual leased docks, fuel

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Parking Entrance - 101 S. Iris Lane, Martinsville, IL 62442

dispensing, cabins, and boat rentals. The park also has a picnic area with four shelters and three playgrounds, as well as nine primitive camping sites. Please call 217-889-3901 or 217-889-3601 for more information.

### Moonshine

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

### Lincoln Trail State Park

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

### World's Largest

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

## Clay County Events

**April 30–May 3:** Black & Tan Days at Charley Brown Park in Flora, IL. UKC licensed nite hunts and bench shows sponsored by American Black & Tan Coonhound Association. 3 nights of warm-up hunts on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday!

**May 3:** Flora Tourism Spring Fest, 9 a.m. BBQ cookoff, food trucks, vendors, home & garden show, bands and more. 216 N Main St. in Flora, IL.

**June 7:** Farmers Market. Come check out your local friends that are selling homemade goods, hands on crafts, and fresh grown gardening! Flora Tractor Supply.

**July 5:** Flora Chamber Fourth of July Celebration: This event, held in Charley Brown Park in Flora, features live entertainment, inflatables, and the popular All-American Boy and Girl Contest.

**July 19–25:** Clay County Agricultural Fair in Flora, IL.

**Sept. 27:** FAF Appleknocker. A great family-friendly Arts & Science Festival event put on by the Flora Academic Foundation and held at the Flora Elementary School grounds that has free entertainment, inexpensive games for kids, and great food. Booths are run by school groups, churches, and local organizations. The money raised goes to groups working the booths. Everyone is welcome to attend! 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Oct. 24 & 25:** Louisville, IL Fall Festival.

## CLAY COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Little Toot Railroad

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

### Charley Brown Park

Located west of Flora, the park has 100 acres of rolling wooded hills, a swimming pool, camp sites for both campers and tents, picnic sites and a lake for boating and fishing. Charley Brown Park not only hosts the Little Toot Railroad, but also hosts the county fair, and is home to Flora Rotary Disc Golf Park.

### B & O Depot

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

## Clinton County Events

**May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26:** The Carlyle Farmers Market. Fresh Produce, meat, eggs and bread. Freshly cut flowers, plants, fudge, syrup. The Farmer's Market is located at the Carlyle VFW, beginning at 5 p.m. and running until dusk.

**July 14–July 20:** Clinton County Fair, a summer tradition since 1951. Get ready to experience the Clinton County Fair. The Fair Board works hard to keep the traditions alive. The fair strives to be an event for all ages to highlight agricultural products, livestock, farm machinery, and provide good family fun. Fair goers can enjoy exhibits, carnival rides, games, tractor pulls, and food. Be a part of the magic of summer at the Clinton County Fair.

**Sept. 19 & 20:** City of Carlyle hosts the City-Wide Yard Sales. Several residents, all over Carlyle, take part during the yard sale weekends by offering lots of great deals and finds. Maps are distributed around town with the addresses of the participating yard sales. Residents can call City Hall to have their address listed on the map. The start & end times of each yard sale are determined by the individual holding the sale. More information and sale descriptions can also be found in the Union Banner. The maps will be available at City Hall, Case-Halstead Library, IGA, all Carlyle gas stations & banks.





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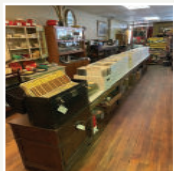


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*Kim Groothuis*

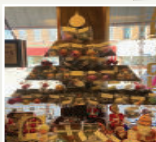
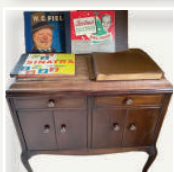
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Mary and Stan Seaman created the Has Bin Guest House out of a grain bin on their farm in Vermilion County. Photo by Nathan Lambrecht/©Journal Communications

## Meander the fields, help with chores or just breathe the fresh air during a stay at an Illinois farm

BY KIM HILL

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU PARTNERS

**S**enjoy sleeping in a grain bin, riding in a combine or gathering eggs from a chicken coop for the freshest omelet you'll ever taste. If these bucolic happenings sound perfect, it's time for an overnight stay at an Illinois farm. Meet three Illinois farms offering a variety of experiences for a sojourn into the country.

### THE HAS BIN

Mary and Stan Seaman grow corn, soybeans and wheat, raise beef cattle, and preserve fruits and vegetables from their garden on the Vermilion County farm where Stan grew up. They weren't looking for more work, but a few years ago they created The Has Bin Guest House after a neighbor asked Stan to help remove a grain bin from his property.

"I didn't know what I would do with the bin at the time, but I like to be creative and figure out how old things might be used for something else," Mary said.

Stan moved the grain bin to their farm and converted it into an 18-foot-diameter bed-and-breakfast. The flooring and beams came from an 1800s barn. An antique sewing machine and Victorian-era bowl were repurposed as a sink and washstand. The nonworking stove, circa 1920s, provides a surface for the coffee station. Mary's complimentary breakfast features homemade jam or jelly and eggs from their neighbor's chickens.

"I love people and hosting, and even though we are busy, this just fits," Mary said.

She enjoys treating guests celebrating special occasions with a homemade cake, card or colorful sign. Plus, it's a chance to teach guests about agriculture.

"On the farm, we've had people ride along on the combine who

don't know anything about harvesting," Mary said.

Those who do venture afield can visit a craft brewery, vineyard or parks for hiking and horseback riding. Nearby Danville has a rich Abraham Lincoln history, as he practiced law there for 18 years. However, many guests never leave the back deck, enjoying the comforts and peace on the farm.

"I'm busier than I ever imagined," Mary said. "People want to get away from the city out on the farm where it's peaceful."

### GRAFTON GETAWAY GUESTHOUSES

Brandon Jeffers, a contractor who has traveled to all seven continents, is a native of Winchester, population 1,700. He bought a working farm with the sole intent of hosting people to share this rural oasis.

"These rural roots are ingrained in me," he said.

His Grafton Getaway Guesthouses consist of seven sites, all located within a 15-minute drive of Grafton and each other. The farm sits on 23 acres with picturesque red barns providing the space for chicken coops, wooded trails, a firepit and the giant yard chess board that's a signature Jeffers amenity.

"It's a new adventure to a lot of guests who have never been in a chicken coop and don't know how to fetch eggs," he said. "It's fun to be able to offer that kind of experience."

At the farm, guests will find sleeping arrangements for 26 people. The venue hosts church groups, yoga retreats, small weddings and family reunions. Amenities include a trampoline, ping pong table, putting green and kids' zone in the barn. Guests can also fish in the pond or sleep in the barn's hayloft.

Nearby attractions include Pere Marquette State Park, Treehouse Wildlife Center, a waterpark, wineries, a zipline and Eckert's Orchard in Grafton. However, most of Jeffers' guests are seeking the farm stay as their main destination.

"They're coming here specifically, and they may not leave the property," he said. "We're a place where kids can just run around and be kids."



## THE COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Ed and Elizabeth Amstutz first developed The Country Experience in Jo Daviess County for summer sleepaway camps.

“Our kids had gone to a farm camp in Ohio and came back smelly, smiley and wanting to do it all over again,” Ed Amstutz said.

The Amstutz family’s desire to share their ideas for growing their own food with minimal impacts also moved them to purchase The Country Experience. School tours followed the summer camp success, then farm stays soon began, inviting all ages to the farm.

“Children who aren’t yet in school or summer camp-age can come and experience what it’s like to take care of a pig or a goat, to feed a chicken and to harvest a ripe tomato out of the garden,” said Amstutz, expanding on the decision to offer farm stays.

The 34-acre property includes five cabins, three tents, a cen-



**Mary and Stan Seaman, who farm in Alvin, turned a grain bin into a bed-and-breakfast known as The Has Bin Guest House.**  
(Photo by Nathan Lambrecht/©Journal Communications)

tury-old barn and a fishing pond. Guests can come for the entire weekend, with most meals included.

“Most people come to us seeking the opportunity to be part of the actual farm work,” Amstutz said, noting visitors say their best experiences stem from going inside the fences to feed and interact with the goats, cows, pigs, sheep, donkeys, chickens and rabbits.

Those who venture off-site can explore the historic town of Galena, located 12 miles away. And hiking trails abound at nearby Mississippi Palisades State Park.

“We get so many people who just want to experience rural life,” Amstutz said. “We provide the opportunity for people to discover a little bit about who they are and who they can be and, at the same time, getting them closer to realizing what it really takes to raise chickens for a dozen eggs.”

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit [ILFBpartners.com](http://ILFBpartners.com).*

## More Memorable Accommodations



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### THE CONNER HOUSE – PRAIRIE DU ROCHER

Stay in a piece of history at The Conner House, a unique guesthouse in Prairie du Rocher, Illinois. Known for its colonial architecture and homey feel, this inn provides guests with a tranquil setting amid the town’s historic landmarks. Ideal for those looking to blend exploration and relaxation, it is a memorable place to unwind and experience local heritage. Visit [connerhousebnb.com](http://connerhousebnb.com) for more information.



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### SPRING/SUMMER MALL EVENTS:

May 2-4 - Mother's Day Gift & Craft Show  
May 9-10 - Boutique Blvd.  
June 6-8 - Flea Market  
July 11-13 - Sports Card Show  
August 1-3 - Flea Market  
August 8-9 - Boutique Blvd.

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## CLINTON COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### General Dean Suspension Bridge

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

### Cholera Cross

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

### Coal Miners' Monument

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

### Breese Historical Park & Garden

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

### Clinton County Historical Museum

This museum is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Clinton County's heritage through education, written and photographic documentation, artifacts

and oral histories. Built in the late 1800s as a private home, the museum holds many artifacts from the area, including genealogical material, books and periodicals on the history of the county. Open every Thursday, except the first Thursday of the month, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. and by appointment.

### Excel Bottling Company

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

## Coles County Events

**May 2–4:** Mother's Day Gift and Craft Show at Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

**May 3:** Mattoon YMCA May Merriment at Mattoon Area Family YMCA starting at 5 p.m. Meal, silent & live auctions, live music by 90's Daughter. Kentucky Derby pre-party at 4 p.m. Must be 21+ to attend. For more info, contact Angela Hampton at 217-234-9494.

**May 6:** Garden Walk at Whiteside Garden. Join Master Gardener Diana Glosser for an enchanting tour of The Whiteside Garden! Discover the fascinating plants that were native to the 1700s or brought to America and learn how they were used. Register at EIU Academy of Lifelong Learning.

**May 9 & 10:** Boutique Blvd in the Rural King Event Center in Mattoon.

**May 9 & 10:** Spring Vintage Market at the Coles County Fairgrounds in Charleston, IL. Friday, May 9 from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. and Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Free admission. The Market features some of your favorite antiques/vintage vendors as well as talented metal, wood and greeting-card artists. You will find a large variety of antiques/vintage including farmhouse, primitive, mid-century, jewelry, home decor, plants and more!!

**May 9:** Dylan Raymond music at Warren James Winery, 6–9 p.m.

**May 10:** Gardenfest at Lytle Park in Mattoon.

**May 10:** Spring Market at Warren James Winery in Mattoon. 40+ vendors, live entertainment, good food and drinks and raffles.

**May 11:** Mother's Day Music Bingo at Warren James Winery in Mattoon at 2 p.m.

**May 23:** Richard Goodall, Winner of Season 19 of America's Got Talent, Live in Concert at House Bros. Tavern, 2009 Western Ave. in Mattoon, 6–11:30 p.m.

**May 24:** Vintage Base Ball at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, 402 S. Lincoln Hwy, Lerna, IL from noon–4 p.m. Pack a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic lunch to eat while you watch the game. Ice-cold drinks, light snacks and candy will be available for purchase. Event is free and open to the public. All are welcome to play or just watch.

**May 24:** Farmers Market on the square in downtown Charleston 7:30–10:30 a.m. starts today and runs every Saturday morning

**May 31:** Made in Central Illinois Annual Fundraiser starting at 6 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Lerna. Features locally-sourced food as well as drawings for prizes with items representing Central Illinois! Heavy hors d'oeuvres from local providers, Illinois beer and wines and live music. Walk around the site to try difference foods and experience the site after-hours.

**June 6–8:** Flea Market at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

**June 7:** Races for all Paces at Eastern Illinois University's O'Brien Stadium in Charleston. 5K and 10K fun run/walk, one-mile fun run/walk, toddler trot and diaper dash. Photobooth, food trucks, games for kids and more! Benefit for Sarah Bush Lincoln dental program. Register at sarahbush.org

**June 14:** Coles County Memorial Airport Young Eagles, free flights for kids.

**June 14:** Coles County Chorus Summer Show "On To Victory — A Tribute to the Greatest Generation" in The Theater at Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston starting at 4 p.m.

**June 26:** A Walk in the Woods at Walnut Point State Park in Oakland.

**June 27–29:** Mattoon Pride Summer Blast Softball Tournament at the Girls Complex, 311 North 6th Street, Mattoon.

**July 1:** 4-H Home and Family Show at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

**July 4:** Coles County Fireworks at Coles County Memorial Airport.

**July 8:** Concerts in the Park featuring Summer Strings at 7 p.m. at the Daum Amphitheater at Kiwanis Park in Charleston.

**July 11–13:** Sports Card Show at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

**July 12:** Toledo American Legion Golf Outing at Bent Tree Golf Course in Charleston. Contact Roy Clapp to register at 217-218-9553. Raising funds to support and give back to various community groups, teams and organizations.

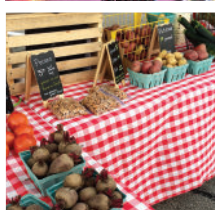
**July 12:** Coles County Memorial Airport Young Eagles, free flights for kids.

**July 12, 16–19:** Mattoon Bagelfest at Peterson Park in Mattoon. Tickets and complete list of festival activities at [www.exploremattoon.org](http://www.exploremattoon.org)

**July 17:** Concerts in the Park featuring Community Jazz Band at 7 p.m. at the Daum Amphitheater at Kiwanis Park in Charleston.

**Aug. 1–3:** Flea Market at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

# STOP, SHOP, & EAT LOCAL IN CARLYLE!



## ANNUAL EVENTS

- Polar Plunge
- Farmers Market
- City Wide Yard Sales
- Street Fair
- Clinton County Fair
- 4th of July Fireworks
- Cruisin' the Dam Car Show
- Haunted Trail
- Pumpkin Patch
- Christmas in Carlyle



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**Aug. 2:** Butterfly Festival from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at Lake Charleston. Celebrating natural resources, kids' activities, expert advice, nature walks, food trucks, kayak demos and more!

**Aug. 2–Nov. 11:** Underground Railroad Exhibit at the Visitor Center at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Lerna. A new exhibit highlighting the courageous stories of freedom seekers and the multi-racial conductors who assisted them on the Underground Railroad in Illinois are featured.

**Aug. 8 & 9:** Boutique Blvd at the Rural King Event Center in Mattoon.

**Aug. 10:** Jerry Ellis Memorial Bluegrass Jam from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Lerna. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket. Those who play an instrument are encouraged to bring theirs along and join in the jam session. Concessions will be sold.

**Aug. 14:** Concerts in the Park featuring "Hello Goodbye" — The Beatles Sing-a-long — at 7 p.m. at the Daum Amphitheater at Kiwanis Park in Charleston.

**Aug. 28:** Concerts in the Park featuring Chat Noir at 7 p.m. at the Daum Amphitheater at Kiwanis Park in Charleston.

**Sept. 5–7:** Sports Card Show at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

**Sept. 13:** Train Show in the Rural King Event Center in Mattoon.

**Sept. 13:** Harvest of Hope Family Concert at Peterson Park in Mattoon. An annual live music event, bringing together multiple Christian artists for a one-night show.

**Sept. 13:** North of Slavery: The Matson Slave Trial presented by Sam Wheeler in the Visitor Center Auditorium at 2 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Lerna. The talk will examine the critical role the Illinois Supreme Court played in ensuring Illinois developed as a free state.

**Sept. 13:** Mattoon Artisan Fair in Heritage Park in Mattoon.

**Sept. 20:** Coles County Memorial Airport Young Eagles, free flights for kids.

**Sept. 26–28:** Flea Market at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

**Sept. 27:** Tour de Charleston starting at 8 a.m. Register to participate in 1 of 3 adult bike races around the Charleston Area and compete for awards. Enjoy music and fun at the Festival if you're not a racer, or join in after you race! Commemorate your day with our selfie spot, grab a bite from a food truck, and take part in the beer garden. There's something for everyone at Tour de Charleston!

**Sept. 27 & 28:** Harvest Frolic Fall Celebration from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Lerna. Event is free and open to the public. Experience 19th-century life on the farm including children's crafts, food preservation, hearth cooking and more. Artisan demonstrations will include spinning, pottery, ropemaking, blacksmithing, tinsmithing, embroidery, soapmaking and much more. Enjoy performances from The Unreconstructed String Band, storyteller and dulcimer player Mike Anderson, the Clockwork Clown, a Punch and Judy Show and classic Americana circus performers KB Circus Spectacular. Go on a nature walk or watch a performance from storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis. Historic cricket demonstrations available on Sunday. Food trucks both days.

**Oct. 2:** Mattoon Chamber of Commerce Business Expo and Taste of the Expo at Cross County Mall, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Oct. 10–12:** Mattoon Pride Field of Screams Halloween Tournament at the Roundhouse Complex in Mattoon.

**Oct. 24:** Scare on the Square in downtown Charleston, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 25:** Torchlight Halloween Hike, Storytelling and Wiener Roast from 5 to 8 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site in Lerna. Enjoy cider, hotdogs and s'mores available for purchase. Non-frightening actors in historic clothing and "friendly ghost" makeup are walking along the torchlit path to interact with guests, carrying lanterns.

**Oct. 31:** Trunk or Treat at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

**Nov. 7–9:** Sports Card Show at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

**Nov. 11:** Veterans Day Parade in Mattoon starts approximately 10 a.m. at the east side of 21st Street and Western Avenue, proceeding to Broadway and concludes at the intersection of 6th Street and Broadway at Peterson Park, where a memorial ceremony follows.

**Nov. 14–16:** Christmas Gift and Craft Show at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

**Nov. 20:** Mattoon Lightworks Walk Thru at Peterson Park in Mattoon.

**Nov. 21–Dec. 25:** Mattoon Lightworks Drive Through at Peterson Park in Mattoon.

**Dec. 5:** Mattoon Celebrate Downtown Christmas

**Dec. 7:** Old Fashioned Christmas on the Prairie from 1–4 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Lerna. Enjoy light refreshments and visit the children's craft stations. Watch volunteers baking gingerbread on the hearth and take a horse and carriage ride around the site. The East Central Chorale will lead carols in the auditorium at 1 p.m. The Gooseneat Prairie Gift Shop is open for unique gifts including many locally sourced and handcrafted products.

## COLES COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Douglas-Hart Nature Center

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

### Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site

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

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

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

Admission is on a donation basis. The site is located at 402 S. Lincoln Highway Road, Lerna.

### Lake Charleston

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

### Thomas Lincoln Cemetery

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

### Charleston Downtown Square

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

### Charleston Riot Historic Marker

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

**MATTOON BAGELFEST**

MEGAN WOODS everclear JOSH TURNER

**JULY 17 - 19, 2025**

**PETERSON PARK, MATTOON, ILLINOIS**

**EXPLOREMATTOON.ORG**





# Top SPORTS destinations and events



## DISCOVER DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS

**G**et ready to experience the thrill of Downstate Illinois' top sports destinations and events!

From premier complexes like the O'Fallon Family Sports Complex and Emerald Acres in Mattoon to unique spots like Annbriar Golf Course, there's something for every athlete and fan. Pair that with adrenaline-filled rodeos,

exciting NASCAR races, and family-friendly baseball games, and you'll find that our region is a true hub for sports action year-round.

## SPORTS DESTINATIONS

- 1. O'Fallon Family Sports Park:** This premier facility features state-of-the-art fields for lacrosse, soccer, baseball, and softball. With 11 full-size soccer fields, 10 diamond fields, 3 concession stands, 3 playgrounds, and a splash pad, it's the go-to destination for both youth and adult leagues.
- 2. Emerald Acres Sports Connection:** This multi-sport complex in Mattoon is perfect for volleyball, basketball, cheer, and more, offering an excellent space for both competitive and recreational play. Opened in 2024, the indoor facility has 8 basketball courts and 16 volleyball courts. The expansive outdoor space will include 7 multi-purpose fields, 3 dedicated championship fields for soccer, baseball, and softball, and up to 20 diamond sports fields. With up to 12 full-size soccer fields, 2 baseball/softball flex fields, a family entertainment center, and walkable retail and restaurants nearby, this complex is designed to be a hub for athletes and families.
- 3. Robinson City Park Pickleball Courts:** Newly constructed and offering four state-of-the-art courts with bleachers, this pickleball hotspot is perfect for players of all skill levels.
- 4. Annbriar Golf Course:** Ranked as one of the top public golf courses in the Midwest, Annbriar in Waterloo offers an 18-hole layout that's both challenging and scenic. Golfers of all skill levels can enjoy this lush, rolling landscape.
- 5. Fox Prairie Disc Golf Course:** With its expansive fairways and

wooded terrain, Fox Prairie in McLeansboro is a favorite for disc golf players looking to test their skills. This course offers a fun and challenging experience for all ages.



## SPORTS EVENTS

For more information, visit [downstateil.org/events](https://downstateil.org/events)

- 6. Rodeos at Iron Saddle Ranch:** Check out Iron Saddle's monthly rodeos held throughout the summer in Salem. From bull riding to barrel racing, these exciting events are a must-see for rodeo fans.
- 7. Sparta Stampede:** Early September marks the arrival of the Sparta Stampede, a rodeo filled with thrilling action and a lively atmosphere that brings in some of the top cowgirls in the world.
- 8. Pioneer City Rodeo:** Also happening late Summer, this rodeo in Palestine offers a mix of heart-pounding events and good old-fashioned entertainment, set in the charming town of Palestine.
- 9. NubAbility All Sports Camp:** Held in mid-July in Du Quoin, this camp provides limb-different youth the opportunity to learn and compete in a variety of sports, all while building confidence and having fun.
- 10. Gateway Grizzlies Baseball:** From May through August, you can catch the Gateway Grizzlies in action at GCS Credit Union Ballpark in Sauget. With family-friendly fun and plenty of ballpark eats, it's the perfect summer outing.
- 11. 126th Grand American World Trapshooting Championships:** Held July 30th–Aug. 9th at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta, this prestigious event draws top shooters from across the country. With a legacy of competitive excellence, the Grand American Trapshooting provides thrilling action and a vibrant atmosphere for both participants and spectators.
- 12. World Wide Technology Raceway:** We're excited to announce that World Wide Technology Raceway will host its very first NASCAR Cup Series Playoff Race! The Enjoy Illinois 300 is moving to September, becoming the second event in the 10-race NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs. Mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, to be part of this historic moment. But that's not all—the NASCAR Xfinity Series is making a long-awaited return on Sept. 6, 2025, after a 15-year hiatus! With a full weekend of racing action from Sept. 5-7, 2025, this is an event you won't want to miss. Tickets are sure to sell out quickly, so grab yours early.





# Lincoln Unlocked brings new digital experiences to presidential library



The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has launched Lincoln Unlocked, a digital tool that gives visitors exciting new ways to explore Lincoln's legacy, see rare items from the library's collection and even connect with family and friends to play games.

ALPLM visitors can point their phones at exhibits to see historic figures spring to life. They can take themed tours to dive into the roles of women and African Americans during Lincoln's life. And they can hear "Lincoln" deliver the Gettysburg Address or listen to a music box owned by Mary Lincoln. It's also an accessibility aide, offering content in six languages and enriching visits for people who are deaf or visually impaired.

Developed with Google Public Sector and leading global technology consultancy Thoughtworks, Lincoln Unlocked builds on the ALPLM's tradition of marrying technology and scholarship to share history in compelling new ways.



An invisible artifact becomes visible with the help of Lincoln Unlocked. Submitted photo

"Abraham Lincoln's story still resonates today, more than 200 years after his birth. We must always search for new and better ways to tell that story to as many people as possible," said Christina Shutt, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. "This digital tool adds new layers to the experience of visiting the presidential museum. It lets us share more information about the material in our collec-

tion, the evils of slavery and the amazing men and women who helped Lincoln change history."

With Lincoln Unlocked, visitors can tour the museum and enjoy augmented reality features as they go. For instance, in an exhibit about slavery, the visitor's phone will display an array of related artifacts, with information about each – such as a badge enslaved people were required to wear in Charleston, South Carolina. In the section of the museum devoted to the Gettysburg Address, visitors can use their phones to see Abraham Lincoln come to life and deliver the famous speech or see soldiers fighting the bloodiest battle in American history.

Visitors also have the option of taking special tours on the themes "Women of the Era," "Forever Free" and "History Detective." The first two guide visitors through the museum with digital presentations of photos and artifacts about the contributions of women and African Americans. The third lets groups link their phones and compete in trivia questions about what they're learning as they visit.

Lincoln Unlocked can be used even without visiting the museum. Users anywhere can dive into its information about Lincoln's life and times, learning about people like the courageous Robert Smalls, who helped 16 people escape slavery, and Anna Ella Carroll, a writer and activist who gathered intelligence for the Lincoln administration.

"Lincoln Unlocked lets us share diverse stories and images that add context to Lincoln's accomplishments," Shutt said. "It gives visitors more opportunities to return and explore history from new perspectives. And it helps us connect with younger generations that routinely explore the world with phone in hand."

It also serves as a digital souvenir, letting people look back at their visit to the museum or show highlights to friends and family.

With its realistic scenes from Lincoln's life, the fascinating "Civil War in Four Minutes" video and the popular "Ghosts of the Library" theatrical experience, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has a well-earned reputation for creatively immersing people in history and engaging visitors of all ages. Lincoln Unlocked adds a new level.

Lincoln Unlocked delivers advanced interactive experiences — including experiential history lessons and virtual tours — all powered by Google Cloud and Thoughtworks. Technology such as Google Cloud's Immersive Stream for XR create immersive, photorealistic, and gamified experiences.



“Technology has the power to transform learning, creating immersive experiences that bring history to life and make it accessible to everyone,” said Brad Hoffman, Director of State & Local Government, and Education at Google Public Sector. “ALPLM’s in-person, and digital experiences through Lincoln Unlocked, are engaging visitors with the past in dynamic and personal ways, fostering deeper understanding and connection. We are proud to partner with Thoughtworks to provide advanced Google Cloud technology to ALPLM to ignite curiosity around our nation’s history.”

“The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has once again led the way in leveraging innovative technology to engage visitors as it brings history to life. This augmented reali-

ty experience represents the next step in that evolution, creating a dynamic and interactive way for families to connect with the stories and legacy of Abraham Lincoln,” said Joe Murray, Global Head of CX and Product at Thoughtworks. “We’re extremely proud to partner with Google in this endeavor, bringing our capabilities in customer experience and digital product development to create a truly extraordinary experience that also sets a new standard for accessibility in the museum world, ensuring that everyone can benefit from the power of AR.”

Lincoln Unlocked can be downloaded free from Google Play and Apple’s App Store. Links and more information can be found at [LincolnUnlocked.com](http://LincolnUnlocked.com).

## Illinois State Museum opens ‘Here, There’ exhibit in Springfield

The Illinois State Museum on March 15 opened “Here, There: New Perspectives on the Collection,” a guest-curated exhibition featuring modern and contemporary artworks by Illinois artists, in its second-floor galleries at its Springfield location.

Three guest curators, Mariela Acuña, Sheridan Tucker Anderson, and Allison Lacher, were invited to explore and bring a fresh perspective to the museum’s nearly 100-year-old collection of Illinois and regional artists. The curators invited Normal-based artist Jason Reblando to exhibit his “Home and Away” series. This project explores the lives of overseas and immigrant Filipino through personal and documentary photographs.

“As a child of Filipino immigrants, I have had a long-abiding and deeply held interest in what makes people move from one place to another,” Reblando said.

Visitors are invited to explore the complexities of the museum’s collection voiced by curators from outside of the state museum. It is one of several major question-driven initiatives by the ISM to find what stories are forgotten, untold, misrepresented, and eager to be heard.

“Our groundwork for this project was to review and identify works by black, Latine, Asian, and LGBTQ+ artists in our collection. This provided the curators a core inventory from which they could ground their research,” said Doug Stapleton, curator of art with the ISM. “The curators selected artworks that speak to themes of nostalgia, home, belonging, and sites of history in American art.”

The museum is located at 502 S. Spring St. in Springfield.

For more information, please contact the museum at 217-782-7386 or go online. The exhibit will be on display until Sept. 1. Admission is free.

This exhibition is made possible through support from the Terra Foundation for American Art. The Terra Foundation supports individuals, organizations, and communities to advance expansive understandings of American art. Established in 1978 and headquartered in Chicago, the foundation is committed to fostering cross-cultural dialogues on American art locally, nationally, and internationally, through its grant program, collection, and initiatives.

### ABOUT THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM

Established in 1877, the Illinois State Museum is a dynamic institution that inspires the exploration of Illinois’ past and present to inform and enrich everyday life and promote stewardship of cultural and natural resources. Headquartered in Springfield with branch facilities in Lewistown and Lockport, ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and a proud member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

### ABOUT THE TERRA FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN ART

The Terra Foundation for American Art, established in 1978 and having offices in Chicago and Paris, supports organizations and individuals locally and globally with the aim of fostering intercultural dialogues and encouraging transformative practices that expand narratives of American art, through the foundation’s grant program, collection, and initiatives.





## Crawford County Events

**May 24:** Palestine Lions Club Fish Fry, Car Club Cruise-In & Flea Market, Leaverton Park, 8 a.m. till the fish runs out. Fish/sides/hotdogs/desserts served to help the Lions with their many projects. Crawford County Collectibles Car Club will provide the opportunity to enjoy automobiles from the past and present. Browse the selection of treasures from various vendors. Contact Lion Otis Tuttle, 618-562-3881

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

**June 7 & 21, July 12 & 26:** Summer Concerts at Cross Street Station. Bring your lawn chair and listen to local musicians entertain you for the evening! Several food trucks will also be there each weekend. Visit [www.cityofrobinson.com](http://www.cityofrobinson.com) for a list of entertainment.

**June 28:** Summer Hootenanny. Visit the Village of Oblong for an old-fashioned “Hootenanny!”

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

**July 19–25:** Crawford County Fair. Located at the Oblong Fair Grounds. 4-H exhibits, Crawford County Queen pageant, carnival rides, food booths, truck and tractor pull, and a demolition derby highlight the week-long event ending with a large 4-H auction. Contact: [www.crawfordfair.com](http://www.crawfordfair.com) for more info.

**Aug. 1 & 2:** Robinson & Oblong City-Wide Garage Sales. Contact the Robinson Chamber of Commerce at 618-546-1557 for a list of those participating in these town-wide annual events.

**Aug. 1 & 2:** Hutsonville River Fest. Car Show, entertainment, vendors, parade and food, in Downtown Hutsonville. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/Hutsonville.River.Fest/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/Hutsonville.River.Fest/)

**Aug. 8 & 9:** Oblong Antique Tractor and Engine Show. This annual event draws visitors from all over to view actual working antique tractors and engines. Located at the fairgrounds in Oblong.

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

**Aug. 29–Sept. 1:** Annual Pioneer City Labor Day Festival and Rodeo. Pioneer City Arena, Leaverton Park & Main Street. Palestine plays host to a street fair, carnival, and the PRCA rodeo. Chuckwagon breakfast, parade, camping, junior-sized tractor pull, lunch with clowns, flea market, mechanical bull rides, free entertainment at the band shell, town-wide garage

sales and more! Contact: Palestine Chamber of Commerce 618-586-2222, [www.pioneercity.com](http://www.pioneercity.com) or Email: [PalestineCofC@verizon.net](mailto:PalestineCofC@verizon.net)

**Oct. 3 & 4:** Annual Heath Toffee Festival and Parade. Located on the square in Robinson. Celebrating the delicious Heath Candy Bar, created in 1928 by Heath Brothers Confectionary in Robinson. Features Friday night entertainment, street dance, and car show, and Saturday craft show, live entertainment, toffee bake-off, and parade, capped off by a free chili supper. Call 618-546-1557 for more information.

**Oct. 4 & 5:** Annual Wabash Valley Wine & Arts Festival. Several wineries provide various wines for tasting as you stroll Main Street and enjoy artworks from numerous artists from the Wabash Valley area. Some may be purchased. Food booths and live entertainment. Sat 11 a.m.–7 p.m. & Sun noon–5 p.m. Contact: Susan Goodwine 618-586-2035

**Oct. 25:** Annual Oblong Fall Follies and “Spooktacular” band fest and parade. Features nighttime parade, band field competition, food, crafts, and entertainment on the square in Oblong. Call 618-592-4355 for more information.

**Nov. 15:** Palestine Preservation Projects Society Cookie Walk. Fife Opera House 9 a.m.–?. Browse table after table of homemade cookies for purchase.

**Nov. 22:** Christmas on the River. Visit the Village of Hutsonville for beautifully decorated Christmas trees, food and entertainment.

**Nov. 28:** Leaverton Park Holiday Lighting Festival, 5 p.m. Leaverton Park comes alive with over 40,000 lights and displays. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies with Santa, listen to area church choirs and singing groups caroling. Watch the fireworks and enjoy cornbread and beans, hotdogs, & desserts served by the Lions club. Contact: Palestine Chamber of Commerce, 618-586-2222.

**Dec. 5–7:** Home for the Holidays. Join us for Robinson holiday market and lighting of the beautiful Christmas displays in Robinson. Santa arrives, food booths available, games for kids, train rides, skating rink and bounce houses. Located at the Robinson Civic Center. Call the City of Robinson for more information, 618-544-7616 or visit our Facebook page, The City of Robinson.

## CRAWFORD COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Oblong

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

### Palestine

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

### Hutsonville

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

### Flat Rock

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

### Irene’s Vineyard

Irene’s Vineyard and Winery is locally owned and operated by the Boldrey Family at their secluded countryside home nestled along the North Fork Creek at 8500 N 2250th St, Oblong, Illinois 62449. Wayne and Irene moved to their home in 1958 where they raised their 4 children at this beautiful countryside place, we now call Irene’s Vineyard. Although they have both passed now, our family still carries on the traditions of family, food, fun and wine! We welcome you to make yourselves at home and enjoy this beautiful place we proudly call home.

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

## 2025 Crawford County Calendar of Events

(Dates are subject to change. Please call ahead or visit [www.cityofrobinson.com](http://www.cityofrobinson.com) for more information)

### May 24

#### **Palestine Lions Club Fish Fry, Car Club Cruise-In & Flea Market**

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

### June - August (Every Saturday)

#### **Cross Street Market**

Local vendors come to South Cross Street in Robinson to sell their goods. Food stands are also available.

### June 7 & 21, July 12 & 26

#### **Summer Concerts at Cross Street Station**

Bring your lawn chair and listen to local musicians entertain you for the evening! Several food trucks will also be there each weekend. Visit [www.cityofrobinson.com](http://www.cityofrobinson.com) for a list of entertainment.

### June 28

#### **Summer Hootenanny**

Visit the Village of Oblong for an old fashioned “Hootenanny!”

### July 4

#### **Robinson 4th of July Celebration**

Food, live entertainment, baseball and softball tournaments, and a spectacular firework show in the Robinson City Park. Call City Hall at 618-544-7616 or visit [www.cityofrobinson.com](http://www.cityofrobinson.com) for more information.

### July 19-25

#### **Crawford County Fair**

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

### August 1-2

#### **Robinson & Oblong City-Wide Garage Sales**

Contact the Robinson Chamber of Commerce at 618-546-1557 for a list of those participating in these town wide annual events.

### August 1-2

#### **Hutsonville River Fest**

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

### August 8-9

#### **Oblong Antique Tractor and Engine Show**

This annual event draws visitors from all over to view actual working antique tractors and engines. Located at the fairgrounds in Oblong.

### August 9

#### **Flat Rock Homecoming**

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



## Cumberland County Events

**May 3 and First Saturday Evening of Each Month:** Hootenanny at the Greenup Municipal Building in Greenup.

**May 15-18:** Toledo Springfest "Board Game Bonanza." Absent Ground band Friday at 8 p.m. Parade Saturday at 11 a.m. Cake walk both nights starting at 6 p.m. Neal Center YMCA Fun Run Saturday at 9 a.m. 2025 Miss, Jr. Miss & Little Miss Toledo Spring Festival Queen pageant. Vendors: crafts, antiques, handmade and direct-sale items. Carnival by Luehrs Ideal Rides. Food vendors. Visit their Facebook for updates on events during the festival!

**May 17:** Pre-Memorial Day Bash at The Neoga American Legion in Neoga. Barbecue food items, Legion Bags Tournament, karaoke and more!

**May 24:** Spring Demolition Derby, 2 p.m. at the Cumberland County Fairgrounds in Greenup featuring bomber race, stock lawnmower, semi stock compact, modified small truck, SUV & vans, stock compact, stock full size cars, stock small truck, SUV & vans, stock ½ ton or ¾ ton pickup. For more info, contact Stacey Holsapple at 217-923-1507 or Dustin McCullough at 217-251-4614.

**May 29-31:** Neoga Days at Jennings Park in Neoga. Little Miss & Pre-Teen Pageant on the Main Stage May 29 from 6-8:30 p.m. Xtreme activities/food vendors Thursday and Friday 5-10 p.m. and Saturday noon-10 p.m. Strangers with Kandi band in the Beer Garden May 30 from 8-11 p.m. Parade May 31 at 11 a.m. Tanner Romine on the Main Stage May 31 from 4-6 p.m. Music by Max Hardiek & Camden Raddatz on the Main Stage May 31 from 6-9 p.m. Whiskey Weekend in the Beer Garden May 31 from 7-11 p.m. Fireworks May 31 at 9 p.m.

**Aug. 9-16:** Cumberland County Fair at the fairgrounds in Greenup. Horse racing, tractor pulls, rodeo, stage events, food and drink, demolition derby and much more!

**Sept. 27:** Family Fall Fest 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Camp New Hope. Games and inflatables, food trucks, vendors, music, Wheels of Hope car show, train rides on the Camp New Hope trails, and more! Open to the public!

**Oct. 9-11:** Chamber of Commerce Greenup Apple Fest in Greenup.

**Oct. 25:** Halloween Celebration at the Greenup Municipal Building in Greenup.

**Dec. 6:** Christmas Around the Square in Toledo. Join us for another magical celebration filled with festive fun, holiday cheer and community spirit.

**Dec. 13:** Christmas in the Village at the Greenup Municipal Building in Greenup.

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### National Road Covered Bridge

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

### Greenup Train Depot and Museum

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

### Cumberland Co. Historical Society Illinois Military Museum

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

### Cameo Vineyards

Enjoy complimentary tastings, purchase wine by the glass, and browse leisurely through the gift shop. Tours of the cellar provided whenever possible. Visitors may choose to enjoy a peaceful afternoon on the grand porch overlooking the vineyard, or opt to have cozy conversation by the crackling fireplace. Perched on a bluff overlooking panoramic views of

the hillside vineyard and the Embarras River Valley, the boutique winery was built using the family's grandfather's circa 1900 pin-beamed barn.

### Clock Tower

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

### Cumberland County Courthouse

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

## DeWitt County Events

**Every Saturday May 3 through October 11:** Clinton Area Farmers and Artisans Market 8:00 a.m.-noon at Mr. Lincoln's Square in downtown Clinton, IL.

**May 15-18:** MayDays 2025 at Mr. Lincoln's Square in downtown Clinton, IL, featuring Conner Family Amusements.

**May 30 & 31:** Farmer City Heritage Days. Live entertainment, Carnival, free community dinner, craft & food vendors, car show, cornhole tournament, 5K/fun run, free kids' activities and much more! [www.farmercityheritagedays.com](http://www.farmercityheritagedays.com)

**June 7:** Tour DeWitt is a bicycle ride through DeWitt County. There are four routes to choose from: 9 mile, 25 mile, 36 mile and 62 mile, with all routes starting and ending in Clinton. Visit the Tour DeWitt website for more information.

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

**Sept. 27 & 28:** Apple 'n Pork Festival. Food stands with old-fashioned harvest time treats, crafters and artisans, live music and so much more at the C.H. Moore Homestead in Clinton, IL.

## Where the Locals Eat

*Find out what makes us a neighborhood favorite!*

Inside the Toledo Service Center

**"THE FILLIN' STATION" RESTAURANT**

On the South Side of the Square in Toledo

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**Outside  
Seating**



## 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.

### Clinton Lake State Recreation Area

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

### Ultimate Play Space

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

### Weldon Springs State Park

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

## Douglas County Events

**May 2 & 3:** Town Wide Garage Sales in Arthur.

**May 4:** James Carothers country music show at 3 p.m. at Penn Station in Arthur. Stone-country originals and spot-on impressions of some of country music's greatest icons. He's played the Grand Ole Opry and was selected by Alan Jackson to open several of his shows. Bring your dancing shoes for this country dance party!



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**May 16:** Strawberry Social at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**May 16 & 17:** Strawberry Jam Festival in downtown Arthur.

**May 17:** 3rd Saturday Market/Bazaar at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**June 14:** Anthony Price with special guest Missy Dunaway from 6-9 p.m. at Penn Station in Arthur.

**June 21:** 3rd Saturday Market/Bazaar at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**June 28:** Arthur Freedom Celebration Parade in downtown Arthur.

**June 28:** Arthur Freedom Celebration Fireworks at Moultrie-Douglas Fairgrounds behind Arthur High School. Crowds estimated at 40,000 flock to Arthur for the Freedom Celebration and Fireworks.

**July 19:** 3rd Saturday Market/Bazaar at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**July 25-Aug. 2:** Moultrie-Douglas County Fair in Arthur.

**Aug. 9:** "Doc" Martin & The Mysterious Cowboys out of Nashville, TN and the Music City Bar & Grill from 6-8:30 p.m. at Penn Station in Arthur. Great country music show!

**Aug. 22 & 23:** Mennonite Relief Sale at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**August 30, 31 & Sept. 1:** Amish Country Cheese Festival in downtown Arthur.

**Sept. 5 & 6:** Town Wide Garage Sales in Arthur.

**Sept. 17:** The Great Pumpkin Patch opens in Arthur.

**Sept. 19:** Haven of Care Benefit at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**Sept. 26:** Semi-Annual Toy Auction at the Tri-County Auction Facility, 650 E County Rd 400 N, Arcola, IL 61910.

**Sept 27:** Semi-Annual Consignment Sale at the Tri-County Auction Facility.

**Oct. 10 & 11:** Harvest to Home Festival at the Illinois Amish Heritage Center on Rte. 133, 3 miles east of Arthur, IL and 5 miles west of the Arcola IL I-57 exit. Oats will be threshed by a threshing machine powered by teams of horses. Harvest activities and demonstrations will take place.

**Oct. 18:** 3rd Saturday Market/Bazaar at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**Oct. 24 & 25:** Annual Haiti Benefit Auction at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**Oct. 24-31:** Lighted Pumpkin House Display in downtown Arthur.

**Nov. 1:** Bi-Annual Fish Fry at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**Nov. 7 & 8:** Homesteaders on the Prairie Antique Show at the Arthur Sale Barn.

**Nov. 8:** Arthur Amish Country Open Houses in downtown Arthur and various locations near Arthur.

**Nov. 8:** Gathering on the Prairie Antique Show at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**Nov. 15:** 3rd Saturday Market/Bazaar at the Otto Center in Arthur.

**Nov. 28:** Black Friday Shopping Event in downtown Arthur and County Line Road businesses.

**Nov. 28:** Toy, Farm Primitives, Antiques & Collectibles Auction at the Tri-County Auction Facility.

**Nov. 29:** Advertising Signage, Petrolina, & Collectibles Auction at the Tri-County Auction Facility.

**Dec. 6:** Breakfast with Santa at Yoder's Kitchen.

**Dec. 6:** Lighted Christmas Parade in downtown Arthur.

**Dec. 20:** 3rd Saturday Market/Bazaar at the Otto Center in Arthur.



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## DOUGLAS COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Aikman Wildlife Adventure (formerly Rockome Gardens)

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### Harris Ag Museum

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

### Sears "Catalog Homes"

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

### Douglas County Courthouse

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

### Illinois Amish Heritage Center

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

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

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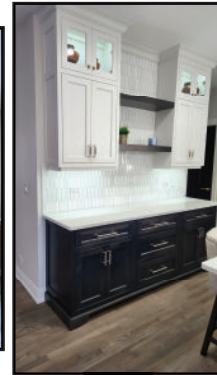
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In the year 2000, two historic Amish houses were saved from destruction and moved to a location behind Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur, Illinois. In 2014, plans had been made to move the houses to Rockome Gardens, \$102,000 was raised, and a state tourism 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

**June 14:** Benefit Derby "Smashing for Shrine Kids" starting at 6 p.m. with registration from 1-4 p.m. at the Edgar County Fairgrounds, 1104 N. Main in Paris, IL 61944. Classes: limited weld, compact/midsize, stock full size, mini trucks/SUVs/vans. Presented by Edgar County Shrine Club.

**June 20 & 21:** Homestead Freedom Festival at Southfork Homestead in Paris. Two-day event filled with distinguished speakers and demonstrations. Join us to become part of a growing

movement to acquire the essential skills of animal husbandry, seed-saving food preservation, honeybee management, and so many other essential homesteading skills. Whether you are just beginning to think about becoming more sustainable or are already actively living it now, this is the event for you! Family-friendly event with tons of fun lined up for the kids, too! For more info, visit [homesteadfreedomfestival.com](http://homesteadfreedomfestival.com)

**July 19-26:** Edgar County Fair featuring Mitchell Tenpenny in concert on July 19. For more info, go to [www.edgarcountyfair.com](http://www.edgarcountyfair.com)

**Sept. 6:** Edgar County Shrine Auction

**Sept. 13:** Spencer Day: A Night Out with Sinatra at 7 p.m. at Paris Center of Fine Arts, 14040 E. 1200th Rd., Paris, IL 61944.

**Nov. 1:** Paris Park Board's Halloween Ball. Join us for the second annual Paris Park Board Fundraiser! This year, an extravagant Halloween Masquerade is planned! We need you, your families, your friends and the best costumes you can come up with!

**Nov. 29:** Christmas in Paris.

## EDGAR COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Paris Center of Fine Arts — Performances on the Prairie

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

### Southfork Homestead & Pumpkin Patch

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

### Vance Park

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

### Twin Lakes Park

The city's oldest and principal recreation center is Twin Lakes Park, the development of which began back in 1895, when the dam impounding Paris' first reservoir was completed. The facilities of Twin Lakes Park include: a bathing beach, bathhouse and shelter, large



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### Edgar County Courthouse

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

## Effingham County Events

**April 30:** The Circus is Coming to Teutopolis. Shows at 5:30 and 7 p.m. Tickets available for purchase in advance at Teutopolis Banquet Hall.

**May 1:** Scott Swinderman Jazz at 4:30 p.m. at Village Wine in Effingham.

**May 3:** John Depew Trio at 7 p.m. at Village Wine in Effingham.

**May 3:** Unit 40 Mentoring Program Trivia Night Fundraiser at Effingham Event Center in Effingham, IL. Doors open at 6 p.m. Contest begins at 7 p.m. Kentucky Derby theme. Prizes for best decorated table, best team name and best costume! \$1,000 raffle. Food & beverage available for purchase. Proceeds to benefit the Effingham Unit 40 Mentoring Program. Trivia is not limited to just Kentucky Derby-themed questions.

**May 3:** BoomBox all 80's Pop/Rock Band at A1 Liquors on Highway 33 in Effingham at 7 p.m.

**May 3:** Anne Wilson at the Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont. Also includes James Carothers and Laila Smith Music. Gates open at 5 p.m. Show begins at 6:15 p.m. Proceeds benefit Convoying at the Crossroads.

**May 9:** Justin Willman – Illusionati Tour. Tickets online now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**May 9 & 10:** Mother's Day Market in downtown Effingham. Make & take for kids to do with moms, store specials, specialty drinks and more!

**May 10:** 5K Run/Walk For Life Event at TREC Trail in Effingham with the start/finish at Effingham Performance Center. 7 a.m. check in/ late registration with 8 a.m. start. Prayer walk to follow. This run supports the FREE services offered at the Family Life Center. Register at 605 Eden Ave, Effingham, IL. For event questions, call Linda Spindler at 217-342-5433 or email [development@familylifepcc.org](mailto:development@familylifepcc.org)

**May 10:** Wolves Show & Shine Bike & Car Show at Pagel's Silver Dollar Lanes in Effingham. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Judging at 1 p.m.

**May 10:** Jeremy Camp: These Days Tour. Tickets online now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**May 18:** Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers at the Little Ryman Auditorium in Altamont at 2 p.m.

**May 24:** Tails & Trails at 10 a.m. at Ballard Nature Center in Altamont. Family Mental Health Support & ROSC invite you and your doggo to come walk with us in support of Mental Health Awareness Month.

**May 25:** Time to Kill Campout starting at 2 p.m. at The Stage at Lake Sara, Effingham.

**May 30:** Wreckless Whiskey Band from 7-10 p.m. at Tuscan Hills Winery in Effingham.

**May 31:** Scott Wattles & The Blue Suede Crew. Tickets online now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**June 6:** Golf Cart Movie Night featuring Inside Out 2 at Teutopolis Banquet Hall parking lot with show starting at dusk. Food trucks at 5 p.m. Henna tattoos, barrel train, face painting, bounce houses, petting zoo. Blankets and chairs welcome. Free admission. Donations benefit Teutopolis for Tomorrow.

**June 7:** Rock For Kids featuring over 9 local young musicians and bands at The Stage at Lake Sara, 2 to 9:30 pm. Benefit by Crisis Nursery of Effingham County in partnership with HSHS St. Anthony Memorial Hospital.

**June 7:** Village Wide Garage Sales in Dieterich from 7 a.m.-noon.

**June 7:** More For Montrose Rodeo Night at Montrose Village Park in Montrose. Barrel racing, bull riding & mutton busting. Grounds open at 3 pm. Rodeo at 7 pm. Bar, concession stands, merchandise, food vendors, live performance and more! For more info, contact Zach Hilton 217-240-0742 or Trisha Funneman 217-343-3042 or email [m4mrodeo@gmail.com](mailto:m4mrodeo@gmail.com)

**June 7:** Magic and Mischief : A Fairy Market at 112 E. Section Ave in Effingham from 1-8 p.m. Free event. Magical street performers, live fairies, DJ music, face painting, 50+ fairy vendors, food vendors and more!

**June 7:** Jo Dee Messina. Tickets online now! Effingham Performance Center, 7 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**June 13 & 14:** June is Just for Dad in downtown Effingham. Kids can create grab-and-go gifts for Dad. Downtown Effingham store specials.

**June 14:** Father's Day Car Show at Evergreen Nursing in Effingham. Free admission. Starts at 10 a.m. Awards at 2 p.m. Food trucks, vendors, music. For more info, call 217-460-9450.

**June 19-22:** Moccasin Creek Festival at Lake Sara, Effingham, IL. Suzy Bogguss, Sister Sadie, John Moreland and two dozen more bands! Family-friendly Americana music festival.

**June 20:** Teutopolis KC 2025 Cruise Night & Car Show at Teutopolis Banquet Hall. Cruise 5:30-8:30 p.m. Car show 5:30-9 p.m. Food by Shriners and refreshments available for purchase. Power Wheel Derby 5:30-6:30 p.m. For more info, go to Facebook page "Teutopolis Cruise Car Show." Proceeds go to Teutopolis Banquet Hall, Shriners, Shop With A Cop Effingham County, Altamont High School Skeet & Trap, and Teutopolis Monastery Museum.

**July 3 & 4:** Independence Day Celebration at Dieterich. Flight 50 band starting at 8 p.m. on July 3 with opener Max Heuerman. July 4 festivities begin with a parade along Main Street, then moves to the park for the rest of the day with food trucks, kids' games and live bands! Fireworks at dusk on the 4th. Featured band on July 4 is Cornfield Mafia from 8-11 p.m.

**July 3:** Fireworks at Lake Sara starting at 9 p.m.

**July 11:** Relay for Life 2025 Effingham County from 5-8 p.m. at Teutopolis Community Park.

**July 18:** Effingham-JAM 5-7 p.m.: Big Things in Effingham — bring the kids downtown to experience some big things!, HAM CITY JAM Demo local skate competition; 5-10:30 p.m.: food trucks, vendors & beer tent; 5:30 until sold out: Hometown Throwdown Amateur BBQ Challenge with blind judging by local community reps, Hometown Throwdown Sponsors and KCBS professional judges; 5-6:30 p.m. Cowboy Space Western Folk Rock Band "The Troubadours."

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# LAKE SARA



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

Among the features are:

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

## 2025 ENTERTAINMENT AT LAKE SARA

- » May 25 - Time to Kill Campout 2 p.m.
- » June 19-22 - Moccasin Creek Festival
- » Sept. 5 & 6 - Crossroads Music Festival
- » Sept. 12-14 - Summer Sundown Music Festival





# MOCCASIN CREEK FESTIVAL SET FOR JUNE 19-22 AT THE STAGE AT LAKE SARA

The Moccasin Creek Festival will return to Lake Sara on June 19-22 featuring Grammy winner Suzy Bogguss and award-winning artists Sister Sadie, Robbie Fulks, John Moreland and Cheryl Wheeler. "I hesitate to call it the year of the woman, because it happened organically, but it kind of feels that way," said promoter Bill Poss of Poss Music Works NFP. "I just kept getting great female artists coming my way, artists I'd wanted for years."

"Sister Sadie has a great sound and recent Grammy nomination for their last record, and they feature Dani Flowers who is from our area." Suzy Bogguss is another Grammy winner with top 10 country hits like Drive South, Outbound Plane and Someday Soon. "People think her career started and ended in the 90s, but she is writing amazing songs even now, and her band is fantastic,"

Suzy Bogguss



Poss noted. "And Cheryl Wheeler is a phenomenal songwriter from the Boston area who I've admired for decades. She's got it all and is hilarious to boot."

Lots of artists with connections to Central Illinois will be featured including Chicago Farmer and the Fieldnotes, Chain Station, Matt Poss Band, LoveSeat, Taylor Steele and the Love Preachers, the Jacob Kuhns Experience.

Other amenities include close, free parking, a small festival footprint to navigate, great vendors with fair prices, flush toilets and a very laid-back atmosphere. "People hear the word 'festival' and they think about long lines, expensive parking, warm beer, porta potties. We are proud to have none of that," assures Poss. "This is a boutique festival experience with top quality entertainment from beginning to end."

Tickets and information can be found at [www.possmusicworks.com](http://www.possmusicworks.com). Tickets are \$110 for the four-day weekend and kids 15 and under are free with a paying adult. Day passes are also available. For questions and vending inquiries: [possmusicworks@gmail.com](mailto:possmusicworks@gmail.com).

JUNE 19-22

MCF

LAKE SARA



20

Poss  
MUSIC WORKS  
NFP 501(c)(3)

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TIX & DETAILS AT [MOCCASINCREEKFESTIVAL.COM](http://MOCCASINCREEKFESTIVAL.COM)

25



## VISIT DOWNTOWN EFFINGHAM

Just beyond a 198-foot cross located at the junction of Interstates 57 and 70 lies one of the most progressive cities in Illinois named Effingham. A short drive into the city brings you to the heart of downtown where you'll find fascinating museums, galleries, a coffee roaster, entrepreneurs and several restaurants and bars. You can spend a day taking it all in or experi-



ence downtown Effingham with an overnight stay in one of the coolest Airbnb spaces in town. Located above XCHNG, these Airbnb's are available for short or long term stays. Another feature is Effingham Public Library located just across the street from Effingham County Museum.

Downtown Effingham hosts a number of fun events during the year including Farmers Market each Saturday morning during the summer months, Food Trucks on the square each Friday during the summer months, Ladies Night Out, seasonal open houses, EffinghamHAM JAM barbeque festival, Cruise Night, a huge Halloween parade, a downtown Trick or Treat event and a marvelous Christmas celebration that includes tasty treats, stunning lights and a visit from Santa at Santa's House. Traditional activities during the Christmas celebration include carriage rides, live entertainment, an ice rink, light parade, train rides and live reindeer, to name a few!

There are many monstrous light displays that stay all winter long on the lawn of the Effingham County Museum as an awesome photo op for thousands of visitors.

The City of Effingham was proud to be ranked second in a line-up of Illinois' Best Downtown Areas in 2022! Effingham invites you to come see what draws thousands to visit this thriving downtown area all throughout the year!





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**July 26–Aug. 2:** Effingham County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Altamont, IL. Featured artist Dylan Scott in concert on Aug. 1 with opener Jake & Mikayla. Car show July 26 at 9 a.m., queen pageants July 27 at 7:30 p.m. and July 29 at 7 p.m., parade July 27 at 4:30 p.m. in front of the grandstand, rodeo July 31 at 7:30 p.m., talent show July 27 at 6:30 p.m., demo derby Aug. 2 at 6:30 p.m., Pro Pulling Champions Tour Tractor Pull July 26 at 6:30 p.m., ITPA Tractor Pull July 28 at 6:30 p.m., Pro Pulling Western Series & Local Classes Tractor Pull July 30 at 7 p.m. Horse racing Sunday through Friday afternoons daily.

**Aug. 3:** We The Kingdom. Tickets online now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**Aug. 7–10:** Mill Road Threshermans Association Annual Show. Tractor pulls, tractor games, flea market, vendors, field demonstrations, farm toy show, molasses making, rope and broom making, sorghum harvesting, kids games, bounce houses, playground, wheat threshing, petting zoo, bluegrass music, draft horse pull, church service, and more!! Visit the Mill Road Thresherman's Association Facebook page for full schedule. Events at the Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont.

**Aug. 20:** Happy Together Show 2025. Tickets online now! Effingham Performance Center 7:30 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**Aug. 23:** Tracy Lawrence. Tickets online now! Effingham Performance Center, 7 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**Sept. 6:** Cruise Night in downtown Effingham.

**Sept. 12 & 13:** Fall Open Houses in downtown Effingham.

**Sept. 12–14:** Summer Sundown Music Festival at The Stage at Lake Sara, Effingham.

**Sept. 21:** Fall Craft & Vendor Show at Thelma Keller Convention Center, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 80+ booths to shop from. Gift card giveaways.

**Sept. 27:** Schutzenfest at Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont. Strangers with Kandi play at 8 p.m.

**Sept. 27:** Oktoberfest at Teutopolis Banquet Hall grounds from 5 p.m.–midnight. Bands include Dave Hylla's Good Time Band from 5:30–9 p.m. and Nerdvana band from 9 p.m.–end. Free admission. Free inflatables for the kids! German-style food! German-style beer! Stein holding contest!

**Oct. 4:** Fall Fest in downtown Effingham.

**Oct. 4:** Fall Village Wide Garage Sales in Dieterich from 7 a.m.–noon.

**Oct. 25:** Downtown Trick or Treat in downtown Effingham.

**Oct. 26:** Rotary Halloween Parade in downtown Effingham at 1 p.m.

**Oct. 26:** Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood. Tickets online now! Effingham Performance Center, 7 p.m. [www.theepc.org](http://www.theepc.org)

**Nov. 21:** Pink Friday in downtown Effingham. Shop small first before the holidays!

**Nov. 29:** Hometown Christmas in downtown Effingham. Lighted parade, food trucks, kids and adult activities, Santa and much more!

**Nov. 30:** All I Want for Christmas Craft & Vendor Show at Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Free Entry. 80+ booths to shop from. Free pictures with Santa! Free entry!

**Dec. 7:** Small Town Christmas in Dieterich at Liberty Park from 2–5 p.m.

**Dec. 20:** Stocking Stuffer Saturday in downtown Effingham. Downtown stores have great stocking stuffer offers!

**Dec. 22:** Scrooge Day in downtown Effingham. Last minute shopping ideas from your downtown Effingham businesses!

## EFFINGHAM COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Sculptures on the Avenues

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

### Ballard Nature Center

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

### The Cross at the Crossroads

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

### Effingham County Museum

Located at 110 E. Jefferson Avenue in downtown Effingham, the Effingham County Museum is housed in the historic 1871 courthouse which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The galleries located on two floors of the building are loaded with artifacts which tell the story of the area's rich heritage. The Museum is open to the public on Tuesdays and







Above, the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail spans 40 miles and 12 wineries, each offering striking views and their own unique spin on fine wine, good food and fun times. Right, the roots of the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail stretch back 40 years ago to a visionary farmer. (Photos by Nathan Lambrecht/©Journal Communications)

## Savor the flavors and scenery of the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail

CELESTE HUTTES

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU PARTNERS

**W**hile the proverbial “road not taken” might appeal to poets, wine lovers prefer a trail well-traveled. In the southernmost stretch of Illinois, the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail proves that fine wines and the great outdoors are the perfect pairing.

### A WINE TRAIL IS BORN

The roots of the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail stretch back 40 years ago to a visionary farmer.

“It all started in 1984 when Guy Renzaglia established Alto Vineyards by planting 5 acres of then-unheard-of grape varieties – chancellor, chambourcin, vidal and Villard blanc – that are now widely accepted by Midwestern wine drinkers,” says Carol Hoffman of the Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau. “Word got out, curiosity grew and by the time the winery was built and the first wine released in 1987, people were standing in line waiting to buy this new Illinois wine as fast as the crew could label it.”

By the summer of 1995, the owners of Pomona Winery and Owl Creek Vineyard had joined Alto Vineyards and – with the help of local tourism bureaus – Illinois’ first wine trail was born.

Today, the trail spans 40 miles and 12 wineries, each offering striking views and their own unique spin on fine wine, good food and fun times. In 2006, the region earned the prestigious American Viticultural Area designation, recognizing Shawnee

Hills as a unique wine grape growing region. Along with eccentric wines, the area boasts a range of outdoor activities and other attractions, plus views that will take your breath away.

“Along the trail, you’ll encounter an array of specialty shops, farms, unique eateries, art galleries and a growing number of breweries,” Hoffman says. “And the Shawnee National Forest provides some of the most beautiful scenery in the Midwest.”

### PEACHES & DREAMS

According to Hoffman, the trail adds an estimated \$126 million to the local economy every year and welcomes 150,000 visitors, including people like Jenny Schroeder.

When not working as a nurse anesthetologist, Jenny’s favorite pastime involved visiting wine trails in Illinois and Michigan with a group of friends.

During one visit, Jenny had an “aha! moment” while chatting with a server.

“She mentioned that she had friends who had retired and opened a winery,” Jenny recalls. “It hit me like a lightning bolt that maybe my husband, Scott, and I could do that, too.”

The unexpected dream became a reality when the Schroeders, originally from Watseka, purchased the Peachbarn Winery & Cafe in Alto Pass in 2020.

Scott, a former construction contractor, volunteer fire chief and beer-over-wine guy, began learning the ropes of grape farming and winemaking. Jenny took the reins of managing and





rebranding the business, which had previously specialized in traditional Swedish food and formal dining.

“We try to stay authentic to our roots,” Jenny says. “The Peachbarn Winery & Cafe is in a real barn that was once a livestock and produce barn built in 1946. The kitchen used to be a horse stall, and the rental suite in the basement was once a manure pit – it’s fun to tell guests that.”

The Schroeders grow red grape varietals Corot noir and chambourcin, which is similar to merlot, and chardonnay, a white grape similar to chardonnay – and, of course, peaches.

“We only make wine from grapes that grow right here,” Jenny says. “We are definitely known for our Peach Fuzz wine – it’s pretty unique. It’s like biting into a fresh peach. In the winemaking world, if you’re making a non-grape-flavored wine, you typically start with a white wine base. But our peach wines are 100% peaches. Even more unique is that we have a dry peach wine, too.”

From the sangria to the salads, the Schroeders strive to incorporate seasonal, locally sourced ingredients into their menu, like the lavender that grows at the farm just down the road every June.

“It’s really fun to feature something from local farms in our creations,” Jenny says. “The farms and restaurants in this region are mutually supportive. We all try to source ingredients from area producers.”

## CAMARADERIE VS. COMPETITION

The mutual support helped seal the deal for the Schroeders to do business in southern Illinois. It becomes even more critical today as area grape growers navigate challenges related to weather and higher costs.

“There is an obvious camaraderie in the way the Shawnee Hills wineries support each other and emphasize each other’s strengths,” Jenny says. “Even as a customer, I could see the cohesiveness of the trail. As winemakers and wineries, we want to produce the highest quality and most regionally authentic wines.”

From the sweet peach wines and rustic charm of Peachbarn Winery & Cafe to the Apple Knocker hard cider and outdoor entertainment at Owl Creek Vineyard, you’ll find something special at every stop along the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail.

As the trail’s slogan suggests, you may come for the wine but you’ll stay for the experience, which Jenny learned firsthand.

“It’s gorgeous down here, and the people are really laid back and friendly,” she says. “The Shawnee Hills Wine Trail has always been my happy place.”

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit [ILFBpartners.com](http://ILFBpartners.com).*

**From the sweet peach wines and rustic charm of Peachbarn Winery & Cafe to the Apple Knocker hard cider and outdoor entertainment at Owl Creek Vineyard, you’ll find something special at every stop along the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail. (Photo by Nathan Lambrecht/©Journal Communications)**





Saturdays, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., from March through December, or by appointment on other days of the week, or at different times of the day. For more information, call (217)240-2471 or visit [effinghamcountymuseum.org](http://effinghamcountymuseum.org). or on Facebook Effingham County Courthouse Museum Effingham IL

#### Effingham Performance Center

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

#### Lake Sara

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

#### MY Garage Museum & Retail Store

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

#### Teutopolis Monastery Museum

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

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

Located at 3 W. Jackson Avenue in Altamont, IL. Dr. C. M. Wright built this stately Renaissance revival home in 1889. It was subsequently owned by his son, also a doctor, and his grandson, an attorney. The lineage ended with the third Mr. Wright, who donated his home as a museum. Many of the original furnishings, including carpets, remain in the 18 rooms on

the tour. The doctor's surgery, the nursery and the library are particularly memorable. Open every Sunday; 2-4 p.m.: May thru September. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$1 for students (ages 6-18). Throughout the year, tours of 2 to 55 may be scheduled on other days. Special tours are offered for grade school or high school classes. Volunteer guides share information about the three generations of the Wright family who lived in the home from 1889-2001. It is one of two buildings in Effingham County listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information, or to schedule tours please email [scott@wrightmansion.org](mailto:scott@wrightmansion.org)

#### Tuscan Hills Winery

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

#### Barn & Bottle Winery

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

## Fayette County Events

**May 23:** Annual Chamber Golf Outing at Vandalia Country Club.

**June 7:** Backroad Boogie band at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia.

**June 14:** Farmers Market in downtown Vandalia, 8-11 a.m.

**June 14:** Grand Levee Celebration at Vandalia Statehouse in Vandalia.

**June 21:** Feudin' Hillbillies band at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia.

**June 27 & 28:** Summerfest at Vandalia Lake.

**July 10-15:** Fayette County Fair at the fairgrounds in Brownstown; will include a Carnival!

**July 12:** Farmers Market in downtown Vandalia, 8-11 a.m.

**Aug. 9:** Farmers Market in downtown Vandalia, 8-11 a.m.

**Aug. 15 & 16:** Vandalia Car Show & Cruise in downtown Vandalia. Cruise on Aug. 15 from 6 p.m.-? with Boombox 80's Live from 6-9 p.m.; Car Show Aug. 16 from noon -7 p.m with

# VISIT HISTORIC VANDALIA ILLINOIS

## UPCOMING EVENTS



#### Charters Patio

Live Music  
Every Weekend  
June-September  
Downtown Vandalia  
[f Charters Patio](#)



#### Farmers Markets

2nd Saturdays 8-11am  
June - October  
[f Vandalia, IL](#)  
Farmers' Market



#### Annual Grande

##### Levee

June 14

Statehouse Lawn  
[f Vandalia Statehouse](#)  
State Historic Site

#### Summerfest

June 27 & 28  
Vandalia Lake  
[f Vandalia, IL](#)

#### Fayette County Fair

July 10-15

Fairgrounds, Brownstown  
[f Fayette County Fair Illinois](#)

#### 2nd Annual Car

##### Cruise & Show

August 15-16  
Downtown Vandalia  
[f Vandalia, IL](#)  
Show & Cruise

Stay up-to-date with events at  
[vandaliaillinois.com/calendar-of-events](http://vandaliaillinois.com/calendar-of-events)



free admission, live music all day, food trucks, door prizes every half hour, 50/50 drawing. Awards starting at 5 p.m. Tribute live music from 6–8 p.m. followed by Silver Bullet — The Ultimate Bob Seger Tribute from 8:30–10 p.m.

**Aug. 15:** Boombox 80's Band at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia.

**Aug. 22:** Dakota Danielle at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia.

**Aug. 22 & 23:** St. Peter Prairie Days in St. Peter.

**Sept. 1:** Cages Annual Bike Show at 215 S. Third St. in Vandalia.

**Sept. 12 & 13:** Brownstown Cool Down in downtown Brownstown.

**Sept. 13:** Farmers Market in downtown Vandalia, 8–11 a.m.

**Sept. 19:** Vandalia Chamber Fall Golf Outing at Indian Springs Golf Course.

**Sept. 27:** Backroad Boogie Band at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia.

**Oct. 11:** Farmers Market in downtown Vandalia, 8–11 a.m.

**Oct. 30:** Lions Club Annual Halloween Parade in downtown Vandalia.

**Nov. 14 & 15:** Olde Tyme Christmas in downtown Vandalia.

**Nov. 27–Jan. 1:** Festival of Lights in Vandalia.

**Dec. 5:** Statehouse Gala at Vandalia Statehouse in Vandalia.

**Dec. 13:** Vandalia Statehouse Christmas Open House, 5–7 p.m.

## FAYETTE COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Vandalia State House

The Vandalia State House, built in 1836, is the fourth capitol building of the U.S. state of Illinois. It is also the oldest capitol building in Illinois to survive, as the first, second, and third capitol buildings have all disappeared. The brick Federal style state house has been operated by the state of Illinois as a monument of Illinois pioneer years since 1933. It is located in Vandalia, Illinois, on the National Road (and National Old Trails Road), and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was the scene of most of the service of Abraham Lincoln as a member of the Illinois state legislature. Open Tues- Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sun and Mon. Located 315 W Gallatin St., Vandalia, IL 62471

### Fayette County Museum

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

### National Road Interpretive Center

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

### Axe on Main/Forge A Memory

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

## Jasper County Events

**May 3:** Jeep Run & Road Rally. Register from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sky Saloon, Ste Marie, IL. Stops include Sky Saloon, Hi-Benders, MVP Happy Holler, Muddy Saloon, and BJ's Saloon. Matt Poss performs at BJ's after run. Benefit for Jasper County Cancer Support & Richland County HOPE.

**May 4:** Cinco De Drinko Cinco De Mayo Patio Party with live music by Hawt Mess, 3 to 6 p.m. at Muddy Saloon, rural Wheeler.

**May 24:** Memorial Day Run: Honoring Our Heroes & Cruising for a Cause. All vehicles welcome including classic cars, trucks, Jeeps, bikes and cars starting at the Newton American Legion Post 20 in Newton IL. Sign up 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Leave at 11:10 a.m. Sons of the American Legion will be grilling porkburgers before the run. Poppy sales. 50/50 and band following the run.

**Saturdays June through September:** Farmers Market 8 am to noon at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie, IL.

**June 14:** Veterans Jeep Run. Sign in from 10 a.m. to noon at MVP Happy Holler in rural Newton. Baywolfe band from St. Louis plays from 5 to 9 pm.

**June 21:** Fireworks & Flight Fifty Band at Sky Saloon, Ste Marie, IL starting 2 p.m.

**June 22–28:** Jasper County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Newton, IL. Queen contest June 22. Harness Racing June 23 & 24. Tractor Pull June 25. ITPA Tractor Pull June 26. Whippoorwill Rodeo June 27. Demolition Derby June 28.

**June 27:** Whippoorwill Rodeo at Jasper County Fair in Newton, IL., 7 p.m.

**July 12:** Cork & Pork Festival in Sainte Marie, IL. Wineries offering tastings, delicious pork including pulled pork, pork burgers, America's cut chop, pulled pork nachos and live bands performing throughout the day. Don't like wine? There's also a beer garden!

**July 12:** Cork & Pork Jeep Run in memory of Jeff Lybarger. Registration 9 to 10 a.m. at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie, IL. Jeep run leaves at 10 a.m.

**Aug. 31:** St. Mary's Church Picnic in Sainte Marie, IL.

**Sept. 13:** Jasper County Fall Festival on the courthouse square in Newton.

**Dec. 6:** Holiday Vendor Market at West End Event Center in Newton, IL starting at 9 a.m.

## JASPER COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Sam Parr State Fish and Wildlife Area

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

### Drive N Theatre

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

### Embarras River

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

## Jefferson County Events

**June 7:** Mt. Vernon Brewers Festival showcases the art of beer, produced by commercial brewers and homebrewers! Huge variety of beer samples, music, great local food. Must be 21+. Event happens rain or shine from noon to 4 p.m. in downtown Mt. Vernon, IL.

**June 14:** PawFest! A celebration of pets. Find your new best friend, dogs and cats on site ready to adopt. A variety of demonstrations, pet contests, pet-themed vendors, pet exhibitors with pet entertainment, food booths, arts and crafts and more, all held at 800 S. 27th St. in Mt. Vernon, IL from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**June 14:** Market Days: Flea Market & Vendor Fair. Antiques, collectibles, flea market, fresh produce, jewelry, plants, kettle corn and much more. Admission is free on the second Saturday of every month.

**July 4:** Salute to Freedom at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Food vendors, entertainment, kid zone, fireworks and more! Free to attend.

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

## JEFFERSON COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### The Aquatic Zoo

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

### Appellate Courthouse

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

### Cedarhurst Center For The Arts

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

### Jefferson County Historical Village

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

## Macon County Events

**May 2 & 3:** Rummage Sales in Forsyth.

**May 2 & 3:** Decatur Quilters Guild Quilt Fest "Color Them Heroes" Friday, May 2 from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Saturday, May 3 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at The Decatur Civic Center in Decatur.

**May 3:** Finders Spring Market from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at Progress City, 1 College Park in Decatur, IL (next to Richland Community College). The best of vintage & handmade shopping + the fun of a treasure pickin' flea market. Shop 3 barns plus lots of outdoor spaces filled with vintage and antique furniture, textiles, collectibles, architectural pieces, quality handmade goods, gourmet items, home decor, boutique clothing, accessories, great food trucks and lots of fun!



**May 10:** Decatur Craft Beer Festival from noon-4 p.m. at Central Park, downtown Decatur, IL. Sample beers from far and wide, including many Central Illinois breweries. Live music, food trucks and more!

**May 10:** ABBA LA at 7:30 p.m. at Kirkland Fine Arts Center, 1215 W. Kirkland Drive, Decatur. ABBA tribute band.

**May 22:** Bret Michaels Parti-Gras Tour, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**May 29:** LeAnn Rimes, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**May 31:** Burning Red: Tribute to Taylor, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**June 4:** Alison Krauss and Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas with special guest Willie Watson, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**June 4-8:** Macon County Fair. For list of events, visit [www.maconcountyfair.com](http://www.maconcountyfair.com)

**June 6:** Strutter: America's #1 Kiss Tribute Band, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**June 8:** I Love the 80s Trivia at Lock Stock & Barrel starting at 6 p.m. Test your knowledge on classic films, chart-topping hits, iconic TV shows, and unforgettable pop culture moments from the 1980s. Email [TwinCityTrivia@gmail.com](mailto:TwinCityTrivia@gmail.com) to reserve your spot!

**June 13 & 14:** Forsyth Fest. Celebrating 160 years of Forsyth!! Craft vendors, food trucks, petting zoo, climbing wall, inflatables, foam machine, live music, fireworks and more!

**June 20:** Billy Currington, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**June 21:** Dogs of Society - The Ultimate Elton Rock Tribute, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**June 22:** Tesla, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**June 27:** Chris Young, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**July 11:** Clint Black, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**July 18:** Forsyth Market in Forsyth.

**July 19:** Mac 'n Cheese Fest at Fairview Park in Decatur.

**July 27:** The Band Perry: A Homecoming with special guest The Henningsens, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**Aug. 2:** The Phil Collins Experience, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**Aug. 8:** Steve Adler of Guns N Roses, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**Aug. 14-17:** Mt. Zion Pony Express Days at 5318 Traughber Rd, Mt. Zion, IL. Bands, Mud drags, mud volleyball, bags tournament, carnival and great food!

**August 15:** Forsyth Market in Forsyth.

**Aug. 23:** Grunge Fest - Featuring Hollow and Creep, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**Sept. 10:** Styx, 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur.

**Sept. 27:** Farm to Fund 2025 at Merchant Street, 145 N. Merchant St, Decatur, IL. Spend an evening under the lights of Merchant Street! As you enjoy a farm-to-table dinner prepared by Richland Community College chefs, you'll be surrounded by others dedicated to the support and growth of our neighbors in need. The evening includes cash bar, live entertainment, and both silent and live auction items. Visit our Facebook page for more info.

**Oct. 4:** Finders Harvest Market from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Progress City, 47 College Park Dr., Decatur, IL. 90+ curated vendors filling 3 barns + lots of outdoor spaces, featuring unique, original and irresistible goods! Great vintage and antiques, flea-market finds, handmade items, original art, gourmet and artisanal items, furniture, decor, boutique clothing, seasonal goods, food trucks and lots of fun!

**Oct. 4:** Forever Janis at 8 p.m. with doors opening at 7:30 p.m. Playing all of the best of Janis Joplin while honoring her legacy and her legendary, blues-rock vocals at Decatur Civic Center.

**Oct. 18:** CryBaby! And Kiss The Sky: The #1 Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix Experience at 7 p.m. at Lincoln Square Theater in Decatur.

**Dec. 5 & 6:** Rudolph's Village Market in Forsyth at Forsyth Park, 4-8 p.m. each day.

## MACON COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Scovill Zoo

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

## Marion County Events

**June 7:** Take Me Out to the Car Show held at Mountain Dew Park in Marion, IL. Cars, trucks and bikes on display, food trucks, a 50/50 raffle and a burnout contest. Event is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and is free to attend. Register 9 a.m.-noon with awards at 1:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Hospice of Southern Illinois & The Gary Sinise Foundation.

**July 25:** Yung Gravy Live in Concert, 7 p.m. at Castle Ridge in Centralia, IL. Enjoy soul music and oldies, sampling a wide range of musical styles dating from 1940s to the present day.

**Aug. 15-17:** Centralia Balloon Fest features hot air balloons, entertainment, crafts, tethered balloon rides, car show, fireworks, food and craft vendors, balloon glow and more, all in Centralia, IL.

**Sept. 6:** Dueling Pianos at Castle Ridge. Experience the ultimate dueling pianos event, featuring Howl at the Moon Dueling Pianos. This highly anticipated event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6 in Centralia, Illinois. Secure your tickets now to avoid sell-out. With spirited cocktails, beautiful lakeside views, and adornments built for royalty ... this is an event that you do not want to miss.

**Sept. 20 & 21:** Fall Festival at Kinmundy Log Cabin Village in Kinmundy, IL.

**Sept. 27 & 28:** Fall Festival at Kinmundy Log Cabin Village in Kinmundy, IL.

## MARION COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Centralia Carillon & Musical Fountain

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

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

### Centralia Area Historical Society Museum

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

Centralia is rich in mining history, and detonators, lunch 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](http://kinmundylogcabinvillage.com)

### Stephen A Forbes State Park

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

## Moultrie County Events

**June 5-15:** Mary Poppins: The Broadway Musical at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan.

**June 19-29:** Ring of Fire: Cash at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan.

**July 3-13:** The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan.

**July 17-27:** Too Darn Hot! Broadway Sizzling Showstoppers. A New Musical Review at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan.

**July 31-Aug. 10:** Hairspray: The Broadway Musical at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan.

**Aug. 14-24:** Forever Plaid at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan.

**Sept. 12 & 13:** Backyard Bluegrass Festival at 790 Souther Rd, Sullivan, IL.

**Sept. 19 & 20:** CIL-Con at the Front Street Event Center in Gays.





A statue of young Abraham Lincoln stands outside the gift shop and concessions building at the New Salem Historic Site in Petersburg. (Medill Illinois News Bureau photo by Athan Yanos)

## New Salem volunteers blame state for letting historic site fall into disrepair

*After public pressure, Illinois commits \$8M to repair deteriorating site where Lincoln launched political career*

ATHAN YANOS AND ERIN DRUMM / MEDILL ILLINOIS NEWS BUREAU  
HANNAH MEISEL / CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

**N**early a century after the Civil Conservation Corps reconstructed the once-thriving village of New Salem where Abraham Lincoln spent his 20s working odd jobs, studying law and winning his first election, the historic site just northwest of Springfield has fallen into disrepair.

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site is a replica of the hamlet where Lincoln lived for six years during his early adulthood, and where he won his first elective office – though only after losing his first election. For decades, it's been a destination for school field trips and tourists visiting Springfield to immerse themselves in the 16th president's adopted hometown.

But these days, the roofs on three of the site's structures are caving in.

The Carding Mill, a replica of the original machine at the site that spun wool into fabric and the only animal-powered one of its kind in the United States, is at risk of being irreparably damaged. Last month, a big section of the mill's roof "totally collapsed" onto the wheel that would have been rotated by oxen.

In fact, many of the two-dozen buildings on the site are deteriorating, according to Gina Gillmore-Wolter, president of the New Salem Lincoln League, a volunteer organization that puts on events and tours at the site. In addition to moss, saplings

are sprouting from rooftops while rot and mold are spreading inside the buildings, which was evident on a recent media tour of New Salem.

"It's no exaggeration when we say without swift intervention, we risk losing these historical assets," Gillmore-Wolter said at a Capitol news conference in February.

New Salem includes 23 historical replicas, including homes, barns, stores, a tavern, school, and three mills for wool, lumber and wheat. The site also has a visitor center with museum exhibits and an auditorium, plus an outdoor theater and acres of hiking trails, a campground and playground.

Prompted by Gillmore-Wolter's efforts, a pair of Republican state lawmakers are seeking a fix for New Salem via a package of legislation introduced in February to prioritize and fund repairs. The trio of bills, which have bipartisan support, initially sought to spend \$5 million from the state's infrastructure fund.

But state Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield, said that after the Illinois Department of Natural Resources informed him that it would take \$19 million to fully repair the site, he intended to amend his legislative funding request accordingly.

However, IDNR beat McClure to it in March, announcing in tandem with the state's Capital Development Board that it would spend \$8 million to repair "up to 23 log village buildings and update the outdoor theater" at New Salem.

"For decades, Illinois families have enjoyed visiting New Salem for class trips, historical demonstrations, scouting excursions, theater outings, candlelight walks, summer picnics, and more," IDNR Director Natalie Phelps Finnie said in the news release announcing the funding. "We want to ensure visitors can continue enjoying all that New Salem has to offer for years to come."





**State Rep. Wayne Rosenthal, R-Morrisonville, and state Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield, show reporters around to deteriorating structures at Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site in Petersburg on March 10, 2025. (Medill Illinois News Bureau photo by Athan Yanos)**

## DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Despite New Salem's deteriorating condition, the crumbling roofs and general rot of the buildings don't even make IDNR's list of top five deferred maintenance projects, according to agency spokesperson Jayette Bolinski. The \$19 million in estimated repair needs at New Salem represent less than 2% of the agency's total \$1 billion deferred maintenance bill for properties statewide ranging from other state historic sites to critical water infrastructure.

In the last eight years, IDNR has spent \$2.8 million at New Salem on projects as banal as HVAC repairs and replacements to expensive endeavors like building new bathrooms at the site's concession center, reconstructing a barn on site and repairing a covered bridge.

State Rep. Wayne Rosenthal, R-Morrisonville, who intends to carry McClure's bills in the House, said the list of necessary repairs at New Salem wouldn't be so expensive had IDNR received adequate funding from the state to repair damages when they happened instead of letting them linger.

"Normal maintenance becomes deferred maintenance when you don't have the resources to pay for it or the people to do the work," he said. "And deferred maintenance becomes deterioration."

Rosenthal served as IDNR director from 2015 to 2019, including during the state's two-year budget impasse under former Gov. Bruce Rauner. But he pointed to ex-Gov. Rod Blagojevich's administration as the beginning of a series of budget cuts that severely limited the agency's ability to maintain historic sites and national parks like New Salem.

"At one time we had probably close to 3,000 personnel and now they're down to probably 1,200, so when you lose that much manpower, it makes a world of difference on everything," Rep. Rosenthal said.

According to Bolinski, IDNR had approximately 2,400 employees in the late 1990s, but when Gov. JB Pritzker took office in early 2019, agency payroll had shrunk to 1,140. IDNR continued getting smaller even as the agency was tasked with more responsibilities in the years that followed its transformation from the hunting and fishing-focused Department of Conservation in 1995.

While Rosenthal was serving as IDNR director in 2017, responsibility for the state's 56 historic sites was also transferred to the agency's purview after the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency was dissolved into it.

In the last six years, the Pritzker administration has added a modest number of staffers to IDNR; according to Bolinski, agency headcount currently stands at 1,245.

Only seven IDNR employees are dedicated full-time to New

Salem. One of those staffers is a carpenter, though he generally works on smaller projects like repairing picnic tables and fences. According to Bolinski, the agency is authorized to hire a construction company to do repairs – but only if IDNR has the funds. And for construction projects that exceed \$350,000, the project must go through approvals from the Capital Development Board, likely involving organized labor.

But McClure and Rosenthal are pushing for legislation to waive normal state procurement rules for repairs on New Salem so the state can more easily find and contract with skilled tradesmen who are capable of construction techniques true to the era in which the village was built.

One of the larger needed repairs at the site includes the Grist Mill, a replica of the mill where New Salem residents would grind wheat into flour. The mill's drive shaft has been lying in the weeds near the structure since 2016 after it was dislodged due to flooding.

Gillmore-Wolter, who grew up visiting the site as a child, said she doesn't recall the last time the Grist Mill was operable but is eager to see it repaired.

"I think this would be top on the priority list of repairs," she said, citing the mill's importance not just to New Salem but to the local economy. "It brought tourists out here. They would go on into Petersburg and eat lunch and buy gas."

Gillmore-Wolter estimated New





Salem used to draw upwards of 400,000 people a year as school buses dropped off students on field trips and visitors from across the world traveled to central Illinois.

Gillmore-Wolter said that because of the decay at the site, its popularity has dwindled significantly, though IDNR's official visitor count for 2024 was 359,950.

In addition to setting aside funds for repairs at New Salem and suspending procurement requirements, one of McClure and Rosenthal's proposed bills would also create a dedicated 13-member commission to oversee New Salem, which they said is necessary to make recommendations, develop plans and coordinate repair and maintenance efforts.

All three legislative proposals have already picked up Democratic co-sponsors but the commission bill passed through a Senate committee in February.

However, IDNR is not supportive of the idea, panning it as merely "creating additional bureaucracy and red tape."

Instead, the agency encouraged Gillmore-Wolter's group, the New Salem Lincoln League to accept its offer of re-entering into a "Friends" agreement, which include memorandums of understanding between IDNR and nonprofits with vested interest in a particular state property. The MOU outlines rights and responsibilities of both parties – including financially. The league's previous MOU has been expired since the end of 2022.

"Historic sites Friends groups and advocacy groups have been able to work well with IDNR on site improvements for years," the agency said.

## LINCOLN IN NEW SALEM

When Lincoln arrived in New Salem in 1831, the village was new, having only been settled two years prior. During his six years there, the future president held a series of jobs, including as postmaster, running a general store-turned-tavern and picking up side work harvesting crops, helping at the mill and

**The Carding Mill at Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site in Petersburg, a replica of the original machine at the site that spun wool into fabric and the only animal-powered one of its kind in the United States, is at risk of being irreparably damaged. Last month, a big section of the mill's roof "totally collapsed" onto the wheel that would have been rotated by oxen. (Medill Illinois News Bureau photo by Athan Yanos)**



**State Sen. Steve McClure speaks at a Capitol news conference on Feb. 26, 2025, joined by state Rep. Wayne Rosenthal and New Salem Lincoln League President Gina Gillmore-Wolter and actors portraying Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. (Medill Illinois News Bureau photo by Athan Yanos)**

splitting rails – a task that would later inspire the nickname "railsplitter" decades later as Lincoln ran for president.

Lincoln began cutting his political teeth soon after moving to New Salem, working the polls the day of the 1831 congressional election, which allowed him to meet most of the men in town, whom Gillmore-Wolter said were key to his development.

"The residents of New Salem really recognized his potential for leadership, his ingenuity, and they really fostered that in him," she said. "For example, some residents would bring him books to read from Illinois College."

In 1832, Lincoln was elected captain by his company in the state militia during the Black Hawk War, but he also experienced his first electoral loss that same year in a failed bid for a seat in the Illinois House.

Two years later, however, he was elected state representative, a post he'd hold through his move to Springfield. Not long after Lincoln's departure from New Salem, the town was abandoned and left to pasture.

"If it wasn't for New Salem, President Lincoln would not be in the state of Illinois, and he would have never run for office, potentially," McClure said.

State Sen. Robert Peters, D-Chicago, who signed on as co-sponsor of the New Salem commission bill, also emphasized the site's significance.

"This legislation not only safeguards a key part of our state's heritage but also guarantees the story of Abraham Lincoln's early life will continue to inspire and educate for years to come," he said in a statement.

*Erin Drumm and Athan Yanos are graduate students in journalism with Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and fellows in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.*

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*



## 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 [sullivan.il.us](mailto:sullivan.il.us).

#### Sullivan Beach and Recreation Area

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

#### Okaw Valley Orchard

U-pick and retail: gift items, pasteurized fresh cider, cider slush, peaches, apples, plums, apple doughnuts, apple dumplings, jams and jellies. Playground, picnic area and group tours. The address is 724 CR 1750N, Sullivan, IL. For more information, call 217-460-0283.

## Richland County Events

**April–October:** Olney Downtown Market at Bower Park. Every Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Rediscover the charm of downtown shopping with local artisans at the market and nearby merchants.

**May 17:** Spring Crash Demolition Derby, 7 p.m., Richland County Fairgrounds. A great night of local entertainment awaits! Check out all the details on the Richland County Fair Facebook page.

**Thursdays in June & July:** Free Sounds of Summer concert series in Bower Park, 6 to 8 p.m.

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

**July 18–26:** Richland County Fair, Olney City Park. For more information, call 618-392-0766 or visit [richlandcountyfair.org](http://richlandcountyfair.org)

**August 17:** 38th Annual Olney Car Show, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Registration opens at 9 a.m. with a \$20 entry fee for participants. Judging begins at 11 a.m. with awards at 2 p.m. Free entry.

Bring the entire family and enjoy the wide variety of show cars. Concessions available. 502 White Squirrel Drive, Olney, IL.

**Oct 31:** Olney Halloween Parade, downtown Olney, 6 p.m.

**Nov 28–30:** Christmas lights display, City Park, 5 p.m. in Olney.

**Nov 29:** Christmas Parade, downtown Olney, 6:30 p.m.

**Dec 1–31:** Christmas lights display, City Park, 5 p.m. in Olney.

## RICHLAND COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### White Squirrels

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

### The Elliott Street Historic District

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

## Shelby County Events

**May 2:** FREE Kentucky Derby Music Bingo with prizes for the best Kentucky Derby hat and outfit! at Willow Ridge Winery in rural Shelbyville, starting at 6 p.m.

**May 9 & 10:** Chet Kingery Memorial Bluegrass Festival at the historic Chautauqua Auditorium at Forest Park in Shelbyville, featuring bands Special Consensus Friday evening, Kings Highway band Friday evening and Saturday, Host Band Mackville Friday evening and Saturday, The Grascals band on Saturday and The Little Roy & Lizzie Show and The Price Sisters on Saturday. Instrument Workshops on Saturday from 2–7 p.m. Jamming encouraged. For more info [www.mackvillebluegrass.com](http://www.mackvillebluegrass.com) or call 217-460-1439.

**May 10:** West End Spring Festival at the EPOC parking lot at Johnstowne Mall in Shelbyville from noon–10 p.m. Food trucks noon–7 p.m., local vendors noon–4 p.m., live music. Classic car show noon–4 p.m., barstool golf signup at noon with tee-off at 12:30 p.m. lasting until 6:30 p.m., music by Max Heuerman from 4–6:30 p.m. and music by Josh Holland Band from 7–10 p.m. (21+ ONLY) in tent.

**May 10:** Decade of Decadence: Ultimate 80's Hair Night, 8–11 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor. Doors open at 6 p.m. Free parking. For tickets: H18brewing.com

**May 11:** Mother's Day Brunch with music by Andy Rueter. Featuring a brunch menu as well as bottomless mimosas and a beautiful flower bar available to build your own bouquets at Willow Ridge Winery, 1796 N 1475 East Road, Shelbyville, IL, all starting at 11 a.m.

**May 17:** Country Sky band at 6 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery, rural Shelbyville, featuring a broad range of country, rock 'n' roll and pop favorites.

**May 24:** Village Wide Rummage Sales in Strasburg starting 7 a.m.

**May 24:** Buffett Night with The Boat Drunks band from 6–9 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery, rural Shelbyville. Food vendor onsite. The Boat Drunks have performed from coast to coast with nearly every member of Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer Band and have opened shows for Jimmy Buffett, The Beach Boys and Little Feat among many others. Enjoy Buffett hits to Johnny Cash to The Beatles and more!

**June 5–7:** Moweaqua Pow Wow Days in Moweaqua, IL.

**June 7:** Lions Club Chicken Fry starting at 4 p.m. in Strasburg.

**June 14:** Summer Solstice Artisan & Merchant Market, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at the park in Tower Hill.

**June 14:** Carrie'd Away/A Tribute to Carrie Underwood at Hangar 18 in Windsor, 8–11 p.m.

**June 22:** Berries & Burgers at the village park in Strasburg. Porkburgers and fresh strawberry shortcake from 4–6 p.m.

**June 29:** Extreme Dwarf Wrestling, 4–7 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor.

**July 12:** Dueling Piano, 8–11 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor.

**July 19:** Second Hand News/A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac, 8–11 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor.

**July 25 & 26:** Walleye Festival in Findlay. Food, beer tent with live bands, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, parade & loads of fun!

**Aug. 2:** Tribute to Garth Brooks/Tim McGraw, 8–11 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor.

**Aug 14–16:** Windsor Harvest Picnic at the park in Windsor. Visit their Facebook page for more info on the announcement of the talented country artist to perform a concert this year!

**Aug. 15:** Feuding' Hillbillies, 9 p.m.–midnight at Hangar 18 in Windsor.

**Aug. 16:** Matt Poss Band, 9 p.m.–midnight at Hangar 18 in Windsor.

**Aug. 23:** Kashmir/A Tribute to Led Zeppelin, 8–11 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor.

**Aug. 24:** Car, Truck, Motorcycle & Golf Cart Show at Windsor American Legion in Windsor. Registration noon–12:30 p.m. with awards at 3 p.m. Proceeds to benefit American Legion projects. For more info, call Mike at 217-962-9945 or Jeff at 217-259-5333.

**Aug. 30:** Fall Village Wide Rummage Sales in Strasburg.

**Sept. 13:** Broken Hearts/A Tribute to Tom Petty, 8–11 p.m. at Hangar 18 in Windsor.



Between hanging out at the pool, boating at the lakes, exploring parks and nature trails, and relaxing at the wineries, there is a lot of fun to be had in Olney! In the summer, make sure to swing by Bower Park on Thursdays to enjoy the Sounds of Summer Free Concert Series in June and July.



Visit our website: [www.cityofolney.com](http://www.cityofolney.com)  
618-395-7302 | City of Olney, Illinois



**Oct. 10–12:** Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon Fest in Shelbyville.

**Oct. 24:** halloween soup supper, parade, costumes, and cake walk at the Community Center in Strasburg.

**Nov. 2:** American Legion Christmas Auction starting at 1 p.m. at the Community Center in Strasburg.

**Nov. 8:** Santa Brigade Breakfast starting at 6 a.m. with Christmas Market starting at 7 a.m. at St. Paul's Social Hall & Gym in Strasburg.

**Dec. 7:** American Legion Christmas Auction starting at 1 p.m. at the Community Center in Strasburg.

**Dec. 12 & 13:** Christmas Store/Cookie Walk at the Community Center in Strasburg.

**Dec. 13:** Santa comes to the Community Center in Strasburg from 9:30–11 a.m.

**Dec. 14:** Lutheran Churches Christmas Cantata at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in Strasburg.

## SHELBY COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

### Vahling Vineyards

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

### Willow Ridge Vineyards and Winery

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

### Tallman House

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

### Shelby County Courthouse

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

### Tree-filled Forest Park

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

### Lincoln Public Square

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

### Johnson's Goat Tower

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

### Paddling Lake Shelbyville

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

### Moweaqua Coal Mine Museum

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

## Boorman's Roxy Theatre

The Roxy Theatre ran movies until November 6, 1966, when its final curtain fell on "Mary Poppins." After the marquee was removed the building became home to several different businesses over the years. In 2003, Bob Boorman put up \$100,000 of his own money to get the ball rolling to reopen the theatre and it was decided the theatre would be named the Boorman Roxy Theatre. A group of interested business owners and towns people put in hundreds of volunteer hours to bring the theatre back to life. The first movie to be shown in the newly refurbished theatre was Mary Poppins on November 6, 2003, exactly 37 years after it closed.

## 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 (44.9km<sup>2</sup>) at an elevation of 183 meters (600.4 ft). The area that surrounds the lake is the Shelbyville State Fish and Wildlife Area. The lake is managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the wildlife is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

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

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

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



**Shelby Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**www.shelbyelectric.coop**

**1355 State Hwy 128 • SHELBYVILLE**

**217-774-3986 or 1-800-677-2612**

**P.O. Box 560 Shelbyville, IL 62565**

**Office Hours: M-F 7:00am-4:00pm**





# Historic GREENUP, IL

I-70  
EXIT 119

www.villageofgreenup.com  
"Village Of The Porches"



## RETAIL

**Grissom Family Orchard  
and Farm Market**  
Growers Of Quality Fruit  
680 IL Route 130  
217-923-3736

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

**Dollar General**  
107 N. Haughton Hwy  
618-703-5440

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

**Toy's Auto Parts**  
1002 E. Cumberland  
217-923-3145

**The Hubcap**  
305 W. Cumberland St.

**Linda's Place/119 Pub**  
Pub, Video Gaming, and Laundry  
200 N. Haughton Hwy.  
217-923-6057

**Scott's Building Center**  
1200 E. Cumberland On Rt. 40  
217-923-3161  
www.scottsbldgcenter.com

**Lil' River Rats  
Bait & Tackle**  
104 E. Cumberland St.  
217-549-8737 or  
217-849-4158

**Lincoln Trail Motorsports**  
5 Miles East On US 40  
Off-Road Riding Park & Race Facility  
217-932-2041  
www.ridelincolntrail.com

**Awesome Blossoms**  
101 W. Cumberland St.  
217-923-5048  
www.awesomeblossomsil.com

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

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

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

**Lincoln Brothers  
Fuel & Convenience Store  
"Middle Eastern Food"**  
110 N Haughton Hwy.  
217-923-3434

**AV Tobacco and Liquor**  
400 S Haughton Hwy  
217-923-5512

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

## CLUBS

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

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

## RESTAURANTS

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

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

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

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

**The Greenup Mill Cafe &  
Cocktail Lounge**  
120 W. Cumberland St.  
217-923-2001

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

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

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

**Hootenanny**  
**Greenup Municipal Building**  
1st Saturday of the Month

**Cumberland County Fair**  
August 9 - August 16, 2025

**Chamber of Commerce**  
**Greenup Apple Fest**  
October 9-11, 2025

**Halloween Celebration**  
**Greenup Municipal Building**  
October 25, 2025

**Christmas in the Village**  
**Greenup Municipal Building**  
December 13, 2025

## MUSEUMS

**Cumberland Co. Historical Society  
Railroad Museum & Johnson Bldg.**

211 W. Cumberland St.  
217-923 -8362

**Cumberland Co. Historical Society  
Illinois Military Museum**  
101 N. Mill St.  
217-923 -8362

## CARNEGIE MILITARY MUSEUM



## NATIONAL ROAD COVERED BRIDGE



## LODGING

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Vintage Charmer on Main St.**  
612 E. Cumberland St. • Vrbo

## SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ELSTUN CORNER PORCHES



## JACKSON TRUSS COVERED BRIDGE

