

A Day Away

Fall/Winter 2024 Guide

Special events, festivals, shopping, attractions and more for the whole family to enjoy — **all within a day's drive from home in Illinois!**

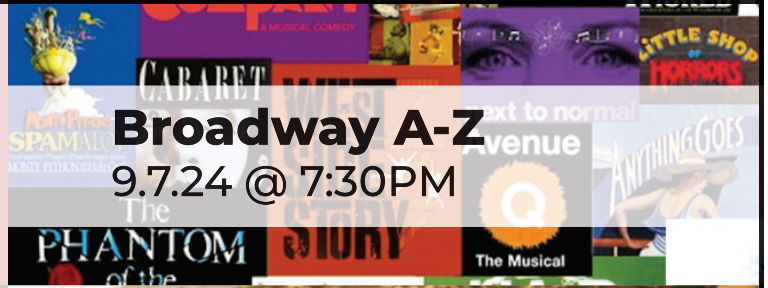




Fruit Flies Like A Banana

8.24.24 @ 7:30PM

Photo Credit: Andy Batt - www.andybatt.com



Broadway A-Z

9.7.24 @ 7:30PM

Radius

9.28.24 @ 7:30PM



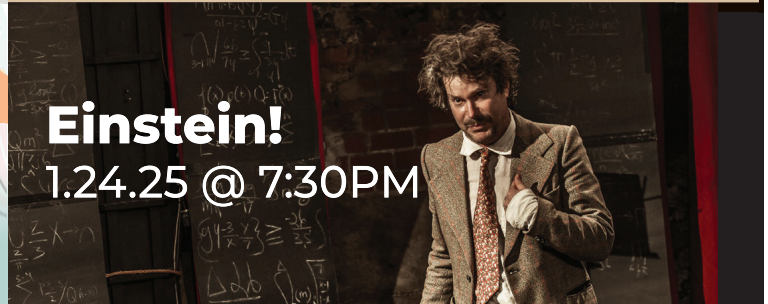
Grupo Bella

10.26.24 @ 7:30PM



She Loves Me: The Musical

10.31.24 - 11.10.24



Einstein!

1.24.25 @ 7:30PM

Jazz Fest

Featuring Chad LB

2.7.25 @ 7:30PM

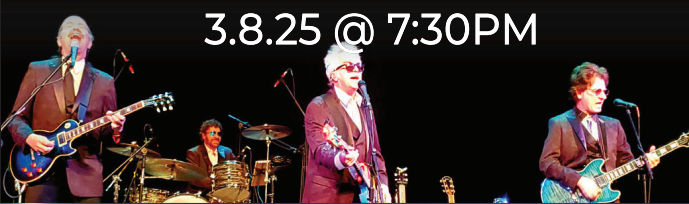


Afro-Caribbean Jazz Collective

2.22.25 @ 7:30PM

The Weeklings (Beatles Tribute)

3.8.25 @ 7:30PM



Chanticleer

4.5.25 @ 7:30PM



2024-2025 PREMIER EVENTS



GROUPS OF 4+ SAVE \$5 A TICKET



DOUDNATIX.COM 217-581-3110



MARSHALL, IL

Autumn Fest

**September 20th-22nd
Courthouse Square**

We have something for everyone and every age!

- Live Music All Weekend
- Various Food Vendors
- Annual Cake Walk
- Various Arts and Craft Booths
- Parade • Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show

marshallautumnfest.com

Fall Frolic & Trunk or Treat

**October 26th
Courthouse Square**

Enjoy some Halloween fun with safe trick or treating out of vehicle trunks that are decorated in a Halloween theme. Also, be sure and stay for the frolic where costumes are judged on the gazebo based on ages and categories. Fun prizes are given away for participation.



www.marshall-il.com / 217-826-8084 /

Hometown Holly Days

December 7th - Downtown Marshall

Come experience a hometown Christmas!

More exciting scenes in 2024!

LIVE NATIVITY

Walk through 10+ different scenes depicting the story of stories!

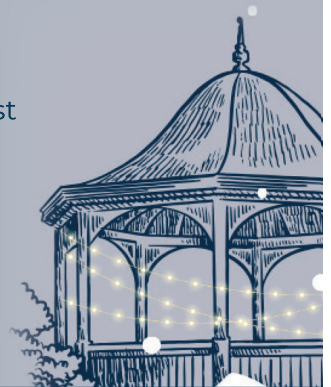
POLAR EXPRESS

Ride the Polar Express Train! Hosted by the Marshall Public Library

PLUS MUCH MORE!

- Carolers • Slide and Bounce Houses • Food Trucks
- Christmas Music • Cookie Walk • Visit Santa
- Christmas Characters Around Town • Window Display Contest
- Lighting of the Christmas Tree • Julie's Elf Workshop
- Christmas Market at Harlan Hall • Shopping • Dining
- Santa Run • Lighted Christmas Parade

Hometown Holly Days



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A Day Away

Fall/Winter 2024

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Illinois Farms Supplement Incomes by Hosting RVers
By Phyllis Coulter / FarmWeek



ON THE COVER

Steve and Paula Buxton pose on their Moultrie County farm with their grandson, Rhett Sherwood. Photo by Daniel Grant / FarmWeek

STAFF

PUBLISHER

Amy Winter
amy.winter@effinghamdailynews.com

EDITOR

Jeff Long
jeff.long@effinghamdailynews.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Cathy Griffith
cathy.griffith@effinghamdailynews.com

ART DIRECTOR

Natalie Reidford

SALES SUPERVISOR

Jody Hardiek
jody.hardiek@effinghamdailynews.com

ADVERTISING SALES CONSULTANTS

DeeAnn Bauguss
Julie Harkins

CONTACT US

PHONE

(217) 347-7151

E-MAIL

news@effinghamdailynews.com

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Please recycle when you're done with it!



RVers who are members of Harvest Hosts can park for free at farms like Heartland “Criations” Alpacas LLC in Knox County, in return for shopping at the farm’s store. The owner said alpaca socks are big sellers. This is one of 5,000 such RV-friendly businesses in the U.S. enrolled in the Harvest Hosts program. Photo by Kathy Albert.

ILLINOIS FARMS supplement incomes by HOSTING RVers

PHYLLIS COULTER
FARMWEEK

Kathy Albert has found a profitable and enjoyable way to add customers to her alpaca business in Rio in Knox County.

She is not alone as dozens of Illinois farmers and entrepreneurs capitalize on the option of joining Harvest Hosts, a North American-based organization that provides RVers with a safe place to stay the night in return for shopping at their businesses.

“I’ve had over 100 good experiences in the year I’ve belonged,” said Albert, owner of Heartland “Criations” Alpacas LLC.

Harvest Hosts is a network of farms, wineries, breweries and distilleries and attractions across the nation, which invite RVers, who are members, to stay overnight at unique places.

Albert, who has raised alpacas for 24 years, said she was initially reluctant to sign up because she was worried a guest might start a dangerous fire. Other alpaca farmers she consulted told her she could set rules, one being “no fires”.

“I would love to travel if I could be home at night,” Albert said of the drawbacks of being a livestock farmer.

Her other passion is antiques and she hosted an Antiques and Artisans Market July 6 and is planning a fall open house for Sept. 28-29.

BIG SPENDERS

Amy Wertheim has also seen a big boost to her business from Harvest Hosts at RGW Candy and Wertheim’s Gardens in Atlanta.

“Last year we had the most successful with 327 rigs,” she said. That’s up from 150 from their first year four years ago. This year, in May alone, they had 67 rigs.

Active hosts average \$10,000 in income from the RVers, a Harvest Hosts spokesperson said.

For Wertheim, each guest spends an average \$71 on her products, which include chocolate, herbs, garden produce and readymade frozen entrees.

The Logan County farmer said location is a big reason for her

success. She is halfway between Springfield and Chicago, near Route 66, which draws both national and international travelers. It is also a stop for those coming and going to Florida, celebrating graduations at Illinois State University in May, attending the Illinois State Fair in August, or Abraham Lincoln sites throughout the year.

In April and May, many of the guests to her pet-friendly location have dogs competing in dog shows in the St.

Louis area. Some have five to seven dogs that need some space to run.

“It’s kind of unique,” Wertheim said of the clientele she attracts.

She seldom has negative experiences with guests. Harvest Hosts helps monitor reports of problems and can ban troublemakers. Making and enforcing sensible rules makes things run smoothly, she told Farm-Week.

STILL WAITING

Not all the farmers who signed up for the program successfully attract RVers. Regenerative Life Farm founder Jarrod Yantis signed up as a host over a year ago and hasn’t seen an influx of guests yet. He had hoped Harvest Hosts would add profit to his farm to cover the labor costs of full-time employees.

“We would like to draw on some of the several thousand campers who are in the area every year,” said Yantis, who produces eggs, pastures 270 chickens and grows multiple



For Lynn Crafts and Dan Dougherty, meeting “gentle, adorable and curious” alpacas at Heartland “Criations” Alpacas LLC on one of their RV tours is a highlight of being a member of Harvest Hosts. (Photo by Kathy Albert)

market garden crops on his 19-acre property near Lake Shelby. The lake is the biggest draw for tourists, he said.

Yantis added that the view of the pond, which helps irrigate some of the 20 crops he grows, is part of the scenery that he hopes will attract RVers.

WINERY BUSINESS

For Dave Poland of Hidden Hills Vineyard and Winery, meeting the guests is a big bonus. “They come from all over. I was quite

the traveler in my day, and I’ve been to most of the places they are going to or coming from,” said Poland, of rural Knoxville, close to Galesburg.

“Harvest Hosts really took off for us this year. We’ve had a few dozen RVers already with one or two every week,” he said.

The farm’s events with live music on the weekends are usually a big draw. People are also drawn to the eight acres of pet-friendly vineyards. Coming soon, his new corn maze will add to his agritourism offerings including wine tastings. The RV shoppers make it worthwhile belonging to the program, Poland said.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Dozens of Illinois farmers and entrepreneurs capitalize on the option of joining Harvest Hosts, a North American-based organization that provides RVers with a safe place to stay the night in return for shopping at their businesses.

Gain a NEW APPRECIATION of ILLINOIS AG while RVing

PHYLLIS COULTER

FARMWEEK

A program that gives RVers, often urban-oriented, a chance to experience farms and rural businesses is just the ticket for Lynn Crafts and Dan Dougherty.

They pay a membership fee of about \$85 annually to belong to Harvest Hosts, which provides an interactive map and information about more than 5,000 host farms, wineries and other businesses to help plan their trips. In return for staying free at some spots they might not find otherwise, they shop at the host's business.

"We are kind of city people," said Crafts, an animal lover. Some of their favorite stops included interacting with "gentle and curious alpacas" at Heartland "Criations" Alpacas LLC in Knox County; visiting "adorable doll sheep" in Shelbyville; meeting regal, 18-hand-high draught horses in Kentucky and watching "Oreo cows" (Belted Galloway) frolicking in Kansas.

"We didn't have farms in our lives. This gives us exposure to a lifestyle we haven't experienced," Dougherty said.

In the past two years, the couple has visited 18 Harvest Hosts sites in Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas, Wisconsin and several in Illinois, now their home state.

"We're batting 1,000. We've never had a mediocre experience," Dougherty said.

"Along the way, we discovered we enjoy wine," he said of looking for more wineries to stay at as they travel north to get out of the heat. With no air conditioning this time of year, they avoid 90-degree weather and note many people are using generators for cooling.

"It's not for everyone," he said. Some people can't downsize enough to enjoy an RV life. The couple lives in a small home in Morrison when they aren't on the road exploring or visiting relatives.

"Social media is part of it," he said. They use it

to discover some of the best places to visit and share stories on Caboose Adventures, their YouTube channel.

Some RVers are also relatively new to Harvest Hosts, including Rosemarie Barnes of Peterborough, Ontario, who has children to visit on the West Coast in Whitehorse, Yukon, and has found the hosts along the way really make the trip.

The Grey Mill, a working mill on a farm in Montana, and Kathy Albert's alpaca farm in Rio were among her favorites. "It was a really nice experience. We'd definitely go back," said Barnes, who bought her granddaughter alpaca socks.

Bob Roat and Holly Grote left their home in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Memorial Day, driving to the Pacific Northwest and are out adventuring all summer.

"We use Harvest Hosts as our overnight stops on the way to our general destination," Roat said.

"We keep coming back, not just for the experiences. It's the people we meet," said Roat of 30 Harvest Hosts stops they visited so far. They liked some so much, they stayed three times.

"There's only two we wouldn't go to again," he said. One was a winery in Tennessee that is no longer part of the program, he said. "Well over 90% have been good stays."

The couple usually travels six to eight weeks, three times a year, then returns home to Ohio to connect with their kids and grandkids.

They map their routes carefully. "Deciding factors for us are convenience to our main route, and ease of parking our rig for the night," said the driver of a 32-foot fifth wheeler and a Chevy 2500 pickup truck.

"We support the local economies. Probably we support them a little too much sometimes," Roat said with a chuckle.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Bond County Events

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

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

Oct. 5: Art Walk & Apple Day Festival on the Square in downtown Greenville. Art, Food, Music, Maker's Fair, Vendors, wine, and much more! Celebrate creativity in all its forms!

Oct. 10: Witches Night Out in downtown Greenville IL from 5 to 9 p.m.

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

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

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

Oct. 30: Chamber Trunk or Treat 4 to 6:30 pm in Greenville IL

Nov. 29 - Dec. 31: Christmas Lights Wonderland Display at American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville. Open nightly from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. See our unique and extensive collection of light boxes, Christmas displays, Christmas lights and Holiday scenes. Admission to display=donation accepted.

Nov. 30: Come Home for Christmas Event in downtown Greenville IL from 4 to 9 p.m.

BOND COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

DeMoulin Museum

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

Marcoot Jersey Creamery

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

American Farm Heritage Museum

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

Champaign County Events

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

Aug. 23 & 24: Mahomet Music Festival, a family friendly festival featuring live music, street vendors, crafter's village, carnival rides, cornhole tournament, parade, beer tent, food court, and more. Hours: Noon-8pm both days in downtown Mahomet IL

Aug. 30: Candelight Serenade: Symphony Edition, 8:30-10 p.m., The Lake House in Crystal Lake Park, 206 W. Park St., Urbana. Call the Urbana Park District at 217-367-9575 for more information.

Sept. 8-14: University of Illinois Homecoming, U of I campus, Champaign. Visit website for a listing of daily events: homecoming.illinois.edu/2024-illinois-homecoming-week-events/

Sept. 12: Eli Winter Trio, 7 p.m. at Spurlock Museum at 600 S. Gregory St., Urbana. Free event open to the public. Call 217-333-6280 (10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Tues.-Fri.) for more information or Email: kran-tix@illinois.edu.

Sept. 13: Justin Moore in Concert with Special Guest Tenille Arts, 8 p.m. at State Farm Center on U of I Campus, 1800 S. 1st St., Champaign. Phone 217-333-2923 for ticket information.

Sept. 15-22: Pride Fest 2024 with daily events and Pride Fest Parade & Fair Sept. 21, Downtown Urbana.

Sept. 19-21: Lyric Under the Stars, 7:30 p.m. nightly, in beautiful sunken gardens at Allerton Park & Retreat Center, 515 Old Timber Rd., Monticello. Multiple times. Call 217-333-6280 (10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Tues.-Fri.) for more information or Email: kran-tix@illinois.edu.

Sept. 21 & 22: Champaign Comic & Toy Show, Market Place Shopping Center, 2000 N. Neil St., Champaign.

Sept. 28: The Life & Music of George Michael, 7:30 p.m. at State Farm Center on U of I Campus, 1800 S. 1st St., Champaign. Phone 217-333-2923 for ticket information.

Oct. 2: Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse Live in Concert, 7 p.m. at State Farm Center on U of I Campus, 1800 S. 1st St., Champaign. Phone 217-333-2923 for ticket information.

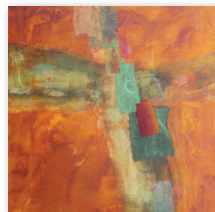
Oct. 3-5: C-U Folk & Roots Festival, Downtown Urbana. folkandroots.org/2024-festival/

Oct. 10-13: Uncorked Jazz Festival, four-day event, kicks off at 5-7 p.m. on Oct. 10 at Krannert Center for Performing Arts, 500 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana. Free event and open to the public.

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Oct. 10: Brad Williams, 7 p.m. at Virginia Theatre, 203 W. Park Ave., Champaign. Call 217-356-9063 for ticket information.

Oct. 15: Sesame Street Live! 6:30-8 p.m. at State Farm Center on U of I Campus, 1800 S. 1st St., Champaign. Phone 217-333-2923 for ticket information.

Oct. 20: Christie Clinic Presents: Annual Halloween Costume Parade, 3-4:30 p.m. Lincoln Square, 300 S. Broadway Ave., Urbana.

Nov. 7: Chicago Symphony Orchestra, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Krannert Center for Performing Arts, 500 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana.

Nov. 9 & 10: 41st Annual Art Fair of Craft League of C-U, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Savoy Recreation Center, 402 Graham, Savoy. www.craftleaguecu.com/events/craft-fair

Nov. 12-16: Oklahoma! Nightly at 7:30 p.m. at Krannert Center for Performing Arts, 500 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana.

Dec. 11: Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert: Season of Glory, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Krannert Center for Performing Arts, 500 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Krannert Art Museum

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

The UI Arboretum

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

Gordyville USA

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

Curtis Orchard

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.

Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

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

Christian County Events

Aug. 28 – Sept. 2: Pana Tri-County Fair. This year in its 75th year!

Carnival from 4 to 10 p.m. Aug. 28, 29 & 30. Carnival from Noon to 5 p.m. on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. Carnival from Noon to 6 p.m. on Sept. 2.

Wednesday Aug. 28: Little Miss, Jr. Miss, Teen & Queen Contest at 6 p.m.

Thursday Aug. 29: Whippoorwill Rodeo at 7 p.m. with bareback riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, team roping and more! Bean Bag Tournament in the Beer Tent with sign up from 6 to 6:45 p.m. and the bag fly at 7 p.m.

Friday Aug. 30: Great Lake Timber Show time TBA. Monster Trucks Nitro Tour at 6:30 p.m. Speed & Barrel Horse Show time TBA. Live Music by Off The Wall in the Beer Tent from 9 p.m. to Midnight.

Saturday Aug. 31: Western Horse Show in the Arena time TBA. Harness Racing time TBA. Great Lake Timber Show time TBA. Truck Pulls at 7 p.m. Live Music in the Beer Tent by Money Shot from 8:30 p.m. to Midnight.

Sunday, Sept. 1: Harness Racing time TBA. Great Lake Timber Show time TBA. Demo Derby 6 p.m. Live Music in the Beer Tent by The Antics from 9 p.m. to Midnight.

Monday, Sept. 2: Harness Racing time TBA.

Sept. 2: Labor Day Parade in downtown Pana at 10 a.m.

Sept. 6: Small Town Taylorville Cruise. Join vehicle enthusiasts on the Taylorville Square from 4-8 p.m. All wheels welcome! Collectible Dash Plaques for the first 50 cars! Bring the family and check out some amazing vehicles!

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

Oct. 11: Small Town Taylorville Cruise. Join vehicle enthusiasts on the Taylorville Square from 4-8 p.m. All wheels welcome! Collectible Dash Plaques for the first 50 cars! Bring the family and check out some amazing vehicles!

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

Nov. 9: Pana Holiday Market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pana Sr. High School in Pana, IL. Vendors and Food Booths!

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.

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.

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Clark County Events

Aug. 24: Gatherings at Linn Park Amphitheater, 14 N. Mill St., Martinsville. Featuring Creole Stomp, Cajun, Zydeco, Swamp Pop beginning at 7 p.m. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Free & open to public.

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

Aug. 31, Sept. 1-2: Casey Popcorn Festival at Fairview Park. Casey's signature Labor Day weekend festival with Free Popcorn, craft vendors, food trucks, Beer Garden, Free entertainment by Feudin' Hillbillies, X-Krush, Matt Poss Band, Easton Corbin, Silver Lake Band and Mitch Faulkner Band. For more information visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/CaseyPopcornFestival.

Aug. 31: Labor Day Weekend Show begins at noon, Casey Saddle Club, 704 E. Monroe St., Casey.

Sept. 1: Lincoln Trail Triathlon begins at noon at Lincoln Trail State Park, 16985 E. 1350th Rd., Marshall.

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

Sept. 20: Friday Night Light Series, Casey Saddle Club, 704 E. Monroe St., Casey.

Sept. 20-22: Marshall Autumn Festival. Visit Marshall Autumn Fest on Facebook for updates about the event. This is their biggest event of the year! Enjoy food truck vendors, concerts, street dances, parade, princess contest and much more! On Sunday check out the biggest car, truck and motorcycle show in the area.

Oct. 5: Lincoln Trail State Park Frolic in Marshall, IL.

Oct. 26: Hometown Harvest, "Big Celebration in a Small Town," begins at 10 a.m. in Casey. Features hay rides, photo ops, shopping, cake walk, corn hole tourney, entertainment and more!

Oct. 26: Marshall Fall Frolic. Trunk or Treat around the Marshall Square from 3:30-5 p.m. Trick or Treat around the community from 6-8 p.m. www.marshallchamber.com.

Nov. 30: Marshall Shop Small to support small businesses in Marshall.

Dec. 6-7: Candy Cane on Mane, Downtown Casey. Friday Night Lighted Parade; Saturday all day event with businesses running Christmas specials; events by local library and big mailbox for kids to mail their Letters to Santa.

Dec. 7: Marshall Hometown Holly Days 7 a.m.-5 p.m. in Marshall. Events all day, Santa 5K Run, Breakfast with Santa at Methodist Church, vendors at Harlan Hall, Make a Bear at Marshall Public Library, Elf Workshop at Fried Green Tomatoes, Food Trucks, Bounce Houses on Courthouse Lawn, Live Nativity, Christmas Carolers, Photo-Op with Christmas Character, Christmas Parade.

CLARK COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Archer House

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

Stone Arch Bridge

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

Mill Creek Park

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

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

Moonshine

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

Lincoln Trail State Park

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

World's Largest

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

Clay County Events

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

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

Oct. 12: Disc Golf at 8:00 am at the Flora Rotary Disc Golf Park in Charley Brown Memorial Park - Park Pavilion. Check with the Flora Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates.

Oct. 25-27: Louisville Fall Festival on the square in Louisville, IL. Parade Saturday.

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

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

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

Dec. 8 & 9: Kriskindle Market Christmas Festival. Check with the Visit Flora Tourism Facebook page for updates.

CLAY COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Little Toot Railroad

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

Charley Brown Park

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

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Steve and Paula Buxton pose on their Moultrie County farm with their grandson, Rhett Sherwood. Photo by Daniel Grant / FarmWeek

DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

Fall is a special time of year for Moultrie County Farm Bureau member Steve Buxton and his family.

The Sullivan native starred in football as an offensive lineman at Indiana State University from 1981 to 1984. He was then drafted in the same NFL class as William “The Refrigerator” Perry and played for the Chicago Bears, at one point serving as a backup for Hall of Famer Jimbo Covert.

But long since he retired from the gridiron, Buxton still finds himself heading to the field every season wearing a pair of work boots instead of football cleats. Steve and his wife, Paula, started a farm in Moultrie County that continues to thrive.

Buxton’s Garden Farm & Flower Shop operates four greenhouses and produces everything from spring annual plants, perennials, and shrubs to pumpkins. Buxton also grows a variety

of organic crops and specialty grains including heirloom wheat along with food grade corn, soybeans, oats and hard red wheat.

“Our family landed here in Moultrie County in 1832. I still own one of our original farms,” Buxton told FarmWeek. “So, farming has been in my blood all my life.”

The Buxtons started the farm with an emphasis on vegetable production and kept expanding each season based on customer demand. Some of their specialties now include the floral and wedding business, mostly run by their daughter, Abbey Sherwood, and potted plants since opening four 30-by-100-foot greenhouses.

“It was a way for our kids (four daughters) to earn vacation money,” growing mostly green beans and sweet corn, Paula said. “People would always be asking if we have this or that, so we turned it into a produce farm.”

The flower and floral business has since taken off as well. And the Buxtons responded by upgrading their greenhouses and

expanding the store on their farm. “It was his (Steve’s) dream, and I made it a reality,” said Paula, who vividly recalls planting the first tomato crop (about 1,000 plants) on the farm by hand with a tulip bulb digger nearly a quarter-century ago.

The Buxtons grow a variety of pumpkins and gourds for sale. This year’s crop was good, although they cut back on acreage compared to past years due in part to a shortage of available farm labor.

“At one point we hand-picked 80 acres of produce and pumpkins,

“Our family landed here in Moultrie County in 1832. I still own one of our original farms. So, farming has been in my blood all my life.”

— Steve Buxton

but we’ve cut back on that stuff,” Steve said. “I think the crops are doing good. They got planted late and some got flooded out.”

Buxton was still waiting to begin harvest of his field crops in late September.

“We typically don’t harvest early,” he said. “Food grade buyers like it field dried. They don’t like it dried in the bin.”

For more information about the family farm and business located about three miles west of Sullivan on Route 121, visit the website buxtonsgarden.com.

Production of ornamental pumpkins was good this season on the farm of Steve and Paula Buxton near Sullivan, as evidenced by rows of the crop for sale. Photo by Daniel Grant / FarmWeek





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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sept. 6-8 - Sports Card Show
- Sept. 14-15 - Train Show at Rural King Event Center
- Sept. 27-29 - Fall Flea Market
- Oct. 3 - Chamber Business & Taste Expo
- Nov. 8-10 - Sports Card Show
- Nov. 15-17 - Christmas Gift and Craft Show
- December: Christmas vendors throughout the month, plus Santa visits

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- September 28-29: Harvest Frolic. Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site
- September 28: Tour de' Charleston Bike Race
- October 5: Eastern Illinois University's Homecoming
- October 12: Uncle Abe's BBQ Showdown
- December 7: Christmas in the Heart of Charleston

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The City of Mattoon sponsors an annual festival of holiday lights called "Mattoon Lightworks" in Peterson Park, visited by over 15,000 each year.

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

Aug. 23: Carlyle Farmers Market from 5 to 8 p.m. at Carlyle VFW, 1250 Franklin Street in Carlyle IL 62231. Fresh produce, meat, eggs and bread, freshly cut flowers, plants, fudge, syrup and more!

Sept. 1: Albers Hootenanny at Lehrter/Jaycee Park & Stage, 500 Park Ave, Albers, IL. Hoop'nanny at 11 a.m. (3 on 3 basketball contest), Live Music rock n roll by The Jorrells from 1 to 5 p.m. and The Cheers Band from 6 to 10 p.m.. 7 Inflatables, Kids Activities, Concessions. For more information see our Facebook page Albers Hootenanny 2024.

Sept. 1: Annual Fireworks Celebration at Twelve Oaks Vineyard, 18975 Vogel Rd, Carlyle, IL. Live Music begins at 4 p.m., Food Trucks and Fireworks with patriotic music. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Doors open at Noon. This year's donations will benefit the Hoffman, Carlyle and Huey-Ferrin-Boulder Fire Departments.

Sept. 6 & 7: Carlyle Street Fair in downtown Carlyle. Live Music, Beer & Soda Wagon, Car Show, Pet Parade, Kids Activities, Delicious Food, Vendor Sales, Basketball Tournament, Bags Tournament & Lots of Family Fun! 4 to 10 p.m. on Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday.

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

Sept. 21: Rock Fest featuring Vince Neil with Head East. Joe Dirt with Side Stage Performances by Taco Truck and Cheers Band. Schoendienst Park in Germantown IL. Gates open 3 p.m., Side Stage 3 p.m., Main Stage 5 p.m.. Party Pit is the Section Closest to the Stage, in front of General Admission. The Party Pit section includes a separate bar and restrooms. Food and Drink Trucks will be on site. Proceeds benefiting GES Dist 60 Raise The Roof Campaign.

Sept. 27: Carlyle Farmers Market from 5 to 8 p.m. at Carlyle VFW, 1250 Franklin Street in Carlyle IL 62231. Fresh produce, meat, eggs and bread, freshly cut flowers, plants, fudge, syrup and more!

Oct 12: FRIENDS Trivia Night "I'll Be There for You" at Beckemeyer American Legion at 7 p.m.. Payout for top 3 teams. Lightning Game Available at Intermission. Cash Bar, Mulligans, Cash Raffle and Photo Opps available. Bring your own snacks! To reserve a table text 618-210-1157. Limited Availability so text today!

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

Nov. 9: Breese Fall Craft and Vendor Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Breese Elementary School, 777 Memorial Dr., Breese IL 62230. Come shop a variety of wares from a group of vendors. Concessions available all day. Free admission.

Nov 29, 2024 – Jan 5, 2025: Christmas Lights in Carlyle City Park in Carlyle IL. 5 to 9 p.m.. Drive through display.

CLINTON COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

General Dean Suspension Bridge

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

Cholera Cross

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

Coal Miners' Monument

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

Breese Historical Park & Garden

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

Clinton County Historical Museum

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

Excel Bottling Company

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

Coles County Events

Aug. 24: "Fruit Flies Like A Banana" at 7:30 p.m. at The Theatre, Doudna Fine Arts Center in Charleston IL on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. Few musical ensembles earn top marks for their "deft choreography," (The Wall Street Journal) but The Fourth Wall is no ordinary ensemble. Part chamber music group, part theatre company, part modern dance troupe, part circus act, The Fourth Wall blends music, theatre, dance, and acrobatics into a new hybrid art form. This trio of musicians creates new interdisciplinary works and reinterprets classic repertoire to make music that leaps off the stage.

Aug. 29: Ain't Misbehavin' Band at 7 p.m. at Kiwanis Park in Charleston IL. Bring lawn chair or blanket. Free Concert!

Sept. 6-8: Sports Card Show at Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

Sept. 7: Touch A Truck & Tractor Event at Coles County Memorial Airport from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free event for the whole family!

Sept. 7: Broadway A-Z at 7:30 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center in Charleston IL on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. Broadway's greatest hits of all time, from Tony Award winning Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber to Comden and Green. Featuring songs from Cabaret, Mamma Mia!, Les Misérables, Spamalot, Rent, La Cages Aux Folles, A Chorus Line, Phantom of the Opera, and more! These are the songs that Broadway fans around the world want to hear sung by our stars of the Great White Way!

Sept. 13: Cruisin' Broadway in downtown Mattoon from 6 to 10 p.m.

Sept. 13 & 14: MHS Craig Dixon Memorial Golf Invite at Meadowview Golf Course and Mattoon Country Club.

Sept. 14 & 15: Train Show at Rural King Event Center in Mattoon.

Sept. 19: Jazz Showcase Concert at 7:30 p.m. at The Theatre in the Doudna Fine Arts Center in Charleston IL on the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

Sept. 21: Special Olympics "Under The Sea" Family Festival starting at 8 a.m. at Lake Land College in Mattoon. For more information, visit consolidated.com/about-us/community-matters/special-olympics-family-festival.

Sept. 27-29: Fall Flea Market at Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

Sept. 28: Family Fall Fest/50th Anniversary Celebration at Camp New Hope. , 1364 Co Rd 100E, Neoga IL. Open to Public. Free Entry. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. DJ, Vendors, Games, Train Rides, Inflatables, Food Trucks, Car Show, Wheels of Hope, Pool & Boat Rides, weather permitting.

Sept. 28: Radius at 7:30 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center in Charleston IL on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. Distinguished by their mesmerizing harmonies and innovative arrangements, Radius, a dynamic 5-piece vocal band, specializes in high-energy pop music. With repertoire that is carefully curated to resonate with audiences of all ages, Radius transcends generational boundaries, creating an unforgettable sonic experience.

Sept. 28: Tour de' Charleston bike race starting at 8 a.m. with start and finish lines on the square in Charleston IL that also includes a Festival on the square. Visit their Facebook page at Tour de Charleston - Illinois for more information.

Sept. 28 & 29: Harvest Frolic at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site. Free event. Experience 19th Century Life on the Farm, Children's Games, Crafts, Hearth Cooking & Activities, Artisans demonstrating their crafts including spinning, pottery, broom making, blacksmithing, embroidery & more!

Sept. 29: Mattoon YMCA Last Chance Triathlon. The swim portion of the race is held at the indoor pool at the Mattoon Area Family YMCA and the bike and run segments also begin and end at the Y. Start time 1 p.m. For more information go to <https://mattoonyymca.org/last-chance-tri/>

Oct. 3: Mattoon Chamber Annual Expo at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

Oct. 4: Wind Symphony & Concert Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center in Charleston IL on the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

Oct. 5: EIU Homecoming. For more information, visit eiu.edu/homecoming

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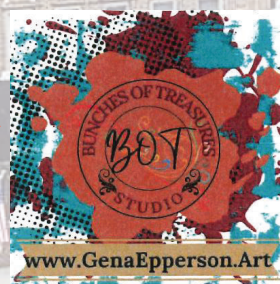


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Oct. 5 & 6: Mattoon Cobra's Softball Donny Howell Fall Classic/Showcase. For more information contact Mike Starwalt at cobratournaments@gmail.com or call him at 217-273-5783.

Oct. 6: Choral Concert at 4 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Oct. 11: Cruisin' Broadway in downtown Mattoon from 6 to 10 p.m.

Oct. 12: Uncle Abe's BBQ Showdown. A BBQ competition and celebration of street food on Charleston's historic downtown square starting at noon.

Oct. 11-13: Mattoon Pride Field of Screams Halloween Tourney. USSSA Fast Pitch Event at the Roundhouse Sports Complex in Mattoon IL.

Oct. 18: Eastern Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. in Dvorak Concert Hall on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL.

Oct. 18 & 19: Beetlej Juice Haunted Hike at The Douglas-Hart Nature Center, 2204 Dewitt Ave E, Mattoon IL 61938 from 5 to 8 p.m. with the last hike leaving at 8 p.m. Features outdoors guided hike with spooky characters on a decorated trail with flashing lights, strobes, jump scares and screams! Hayride and photobooth. Tickets at the door are not guaranteed so buy tickets ahead by visiting www.dhnature.org/haunted-hike. New to 2024 is the Reverse Scares from 5 to 6 p.m. in which children in attendance are encouraged to dress up and scare our characters during kid-friendly hour!

Oct. 19: Coles County Memorial Airport Young Eagles, FREE flights for youth ages 8 to 17. Go to <https://youngeaglesday.org/?ydetail&event=8ChkWIADu> to register.

Oct. 25: Celebrate Downtown Mattoon Trunk or Treat from 5 to 8 p.m. Free Candy for Costumed Children. Games, Food, Music & More!

Oct. 26: Mattoon YMCA Ghouls in the Pool Swim Meet

Oct. 26: Grupo Bella at 7:30 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL. Grupo Bella is a multi-faceted ensemble from the Los Angeles area, quickly becoming known for their excellent musicianship and diverse repertoire. With their use of traditional Mariachi instrumentation, they have their roots in the Mariachi genre, while also spanning the music of many different cultures, decades, and various Latin American and American styles.

Oct. 31: Trick or Treating from 5 to 8 p.m. at Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

Oct. 31-Nov. 10: She Loves Me: The Musical at The Theatre in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL. She Loves Me is about a charming case of mistaken identity set in a 1930s European perfumery. Feuding perfume clerks Amalia and Georg work together begrudgingly by day, and write beautiful love letters to their "secret admirers" by night. Constantly bumping heads while on the job, the sparring coworkers can't seem to find common ground. But little do they know, the anonymous pen pals they are both falling for happen to be each other! Shows Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9 at 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Nov. 3 and 10.

Nov. 1: Jason Crabb in Concert 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Family Worship Center, 5475 Lerna Rd, Mattoon IL. Grammy & Dove Award-Winning Christian artist.

Nov. 1-3: Sports Card Show at Cross County Mall in Mattoon

Nov. 3: Panther Marching Band Concert at 2 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL.

Nov. 5: Mattoon & Charleston Chamber Fall Community Breakfast at Unique Suites in Charleston IL.

Nov. 8-10: Sports Card Show at Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

Nov. 11: Veterans Day Parade in Mattoon at 10 a.m.

Nov. 14: Jazz Lab Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. at The Theatre in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL.

Nov. 14: Lightworks 2024 Walk Thru at Peterson Park in Mattoon IL.

Nov. 15-Dec. 25: Lightworks 2024 at Peterson Park in Mattoon IL.

Nov. 15: Wind Symphony & Concert Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL.

Nov. 15-17: Christmas Gift and Craft Show at Cross County Mall in Mattoon.

Nov. 21: Jazz Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. at The Theatre in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL.

Dec. 5: Jazz Combos at 7:30 p.m. at The Theatre in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL.

Dec. 6: Celebrate Downtown Mattoon Christmas in downtown Mattoon from 5 to 8 p.m. Light-up Parade, costumed characters, food vendors, lots of family fun! Ride the trolley!

Dec. 7: Christmas in the Heart of Charleston around Charleston Courthouse Square. Parade begins at 4:45 p.m., carriage rides, refreshments, window displays, entertainment, photos with Santa & much more. Check out our event page on Facebook under "Christmas in the Heart of Charleston." For more info call: 217-348-0430.

Dec. 8: Holiday Concert at 4 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL. Start inside the visitor center to enjoy all the hand-made cardboard gingerbread houses from our competition and enjoy a

hot cup of cocoa before heading out onto the trails! The trail is a half-mile trail and loops from the visitor center through the outdoor classroom and around pine tree trail and includes 25+ lighted scenes of holiday favorites such as Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and many more! The trail ends near the parking lot. Check our website and Facebook page for up-to-date information about weather cancellation. Free Will Donation.

Jan. 24, 2025: Einstein! at 7:30 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL. A one-person theatrical play telling the true story of a younger, pre-crazy haired Albert Einstein set in 1914 in Berlin.

Feb. 7, 2025: Jazz Fest featuring Chad LB at 7:30 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL. Hailed as a "Sax Phenom" by the New York Daily News, Chad LB is a featured artist on 2 GRAMMY winning albums and has toured 6 continents playing venues from Carnegie Hall to the Super Bowl.

Feb. 22, 2025: Afro-Caribbean Jazz Collective at 7:30 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL. Led by guitarist Jose Guzman, the band embraces traditional rhythms from the Puerto Rican and Cuban songbooks, and expands their sonic palette by incorporating modern jazz idiom.

March 8, 2025: The Weeklings (Beatles Tribute) at 7:30 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL. America's most unique celebration of The Beatles, The Weeklings perform explosive renditions of The Beatles album and Top 40 hits of the era.

April 5, 2025: Chanticleer at 7:30 p.m. at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston IL. This Grammy award-winning vocal ensemble is known around the world as "an orchestra of voices" for its wide-ranging repertoire and dazzling virtuosity. Founded in San Francisco in 1978, their repertoire is rooted in the renaissance with a wide range of classical, gospel, jazz and popular music.

COLES COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Douglas-Hart Nature Center

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

Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site

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

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

Thomas Lincoln Cemetery

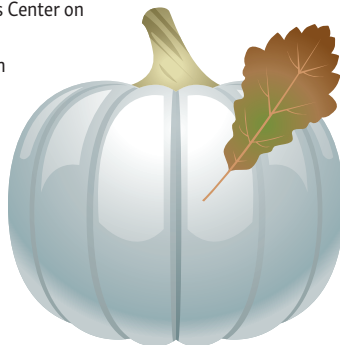
Many visit this cemetery in the Lerna area to see the burial site of Abraham Lincoln's father and stepmother, Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln. Free admission. Open each day until dusk.

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.





EXPLORING eastern Illinois

Pictured is Hutson Memorial Chapel in Hutsonville. Submitted photo.

BY DISCOVER DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS

Ready for another road trip? Outdoor enthusiasts and those that love adventure, get ready to explore Cumberland, Jasper, Richland, Edwards, White, Wabash, Lawrence, Crawford, and Clark counties.

Ready for an eastern adventure? Let's go!

Start your trip with brunch at The Fillin' Station in Toledo.

Then, just 10 minutes down the road visit Greenup and learn about local railroad history at the Greenup Train Depot and Museum, which was built in 1870.

Stretch your legs in Newton with a hike around Sam Parr State Park, which has amazing sunflower fields in late summer and beautiful colors in the fall.

Next, visit Olney and see the world-famous white squirrels around town. While there, pick out a souvenir from The White Squirrel Shop & Wildwoods Gallery & Framing.

Getting hungry? Drive 30 minutes to Albion and have a pizza break at Bailey's Bistro, then see the oldest public library in Illinois just down the street.

Fifteen minutes away from Albion lies the western themed Grayville / I-64 KOA Holiday. There, you can enjoy mini golf, ice cream, dinner at the Smokin' Pig BBQ, and a wonderful overnight stay.

If you are not in the mood for BBQ, you also can't go wrong with DiMaggio's Pizza in Carmi.

Wake up, because it's time to drive 25 minutes to Mt. Carmel and get a coffee from Milk & Honey. Then, let the current of the Wabash River take you for a ride with a kayak tour through River Rat Kayak Rentals.

After that, visit the place where Abraham Lincoln and his family entered the state of Illinois at the Lincoln Trail State Memorial. If you're hungry, you are in for a treat at COCO's Café and Wine Bar in Lawrenceville.

30 minutes away in Robinson, learn the history of the oldest candy bars in the United States at the Heath Museum & Confectionery – and treat yourself to ice cream!

Experience what it may have been like to be an early settler in Illinois at the Hutsonville Memorial Village, just 15 minutes from Robinson.

Next, drive 25 minutes to Marshall, and see how you measure up to the World's Largest Gavel. Then explore the city to find all 45 painted lion statues.

Keep the fun going and stay at Hampton Inn in Paris, and then in the morning grab a drink from Stagecoach Coffee.

Before heading home, visit Martinsville's iconic Moonshine Store, where visitors travel from all over the U.S. to try their famous Moonshine burger. They're open for breakfast, but the grill shuts off at 12:30 p.m. sharp, so don't be late!

Editor's Note: Please check the hours of operation for the businesses listed prior to travel and schedule tours ahead of time.

‘HERE I HAVE LIVED’ now has a new ONLINE HOME

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXHIBIT

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has won a national “Leadership in History” award for its exhibit exploring the many ways and reasons that people have made Illinois their home over the centuries. The exhibit, “Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois,”

is now available online so that people anywhere in the world can explore the lives of immigrants, Native Americans, future presidents and social activists.

The award was bestowed by the American Association for

State and Local History. The association’s awards, now in their 79th year, are the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

“The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future,” the association said.

The presidential library has produced an online version of “Here I Have Lived,” with photos, videos, audio and text descriptions of fascinating people from Illinois. It can be found at www.HereIHaveLived.com

The exhibit features dozens of people, including:

- » Black Hawk, the Sauk leader who refused to be driven away from the land where he grew up
- » Ritta DeFreitas, a Portuguese immigrant who worked for Abraham and Mary Lincoln
- » Michelle Obama, who started out in a Chicago bungalow and made it to the White House
- » Richard Pryor, who grew up in Peoria and



A bust owned by Abraham and Mary Lincoln is part of the exhibit “Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois.” The exhibit now has a new online home. Submitted photo.

used humor to make Americans face difficult truths.

- » Oscar Micheaux, a farm boy who broke barriers for Black artists in Hollywood
- » Louisa Phifer, who ran a farm and raised seven children while her husband served in the Civil War.

ALPLM Executive Director Christina Shutt was the exhibit curator.

“We wanted to give visitors a sense of the incredible breadth of Illinois history while also keeping the spotlight on people, not lists of dates and places. What better way to connect the people of today with the people of yesterday than by focusing on the very personal idea of home?” Shutt said. “This recognition by the American Association for State and Local History is truly an honor. It’s a testament to the countless hours of hard work by the whole ALPLM team.”

Lance Tawzer, the ALPLM’s director of exhibits and shows, also thanked the American Association for State and Local History.

“Creating this exhibit required imagination, hard work, organization and painstaking craft by many, many people,” Tawzer said. “We’re so happy the exhibit has a new home on the internet, so all these stories will continue to inform and entertain people about the state’s fascinating legacy.”

The exhibit took its name from a phrase Lincoln used when saying farewell to the city of Springfield for the final time:

“Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return ...”

It was sponsored in part by Isringhausen Imports of Illinois.

The mission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is to inspire civic engagement through the diverse lens of Illinois history and sharing with the world the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. We pursue this mission through a combination of rigorous scholarship and high-tech showmanship built on the bedrock of the ALPLM’s unparalleled collection of historical materials – roughly 13 million items from all eras of Illinois history.

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



Visitors stroll through the gallery of the exhibit “Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois,” which tells the stories of 31 people who lived in Illinois. The exhibit now has a new online home.

“We’re so happy the exhibit has a new home on the internet, so all these stories will continue to inform and entertain people about the state’s fascinating legacy.”

— Lance Tawzer, ALPLM’s director of exhibits and shows

A student examines a sculpture at the exhibit “Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois.” The exhibit now has a new online home.



Crawford County Events

Aug. 30 – Sept. 1: Annual Pioneer City Labor Day Festival and Rodeo, Pioneer City Arena, Leaverton Park & Main Street Palestine play hosts to a Street Fair, Carnival, and the PRCA rodeo. Chuckwagon Breakfast, Parade, Camping, Junior-sized Tractor Pull, Lunch with Clowns, Flea Market, Mechanical Bull Rides, Free Entertainment at the Band shell, Town-Wide Garage Sales and more! Contact: Palestine Chamber of Commerce 618-586-2222, www.pioneercity.com or Email: PalestineCofC@verizon.net

Oct. 4 & 5: 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. 5 & 6: 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 11am-7p.m. & Sun 12-5 p.m. Contact: Susan Goodwine 618-586-2035

Oct. 26: Annual Oblong Fall Follies and "Spooktacular" Band fest and Parade. Features night time parade, band field competition, food, crafts, and entertainment on the square in Oblong. Call 618-592-4355 for more information.

Nov. 16: Palestine Preservation Projects Society Cookie Walk. Fife Opera House 9 a.m. - ? Browse table after table of homemade cookies for purchase

Nov. 23: Christmas on the River. Visit the Village of Hutsonville for beautifully decorated Christmas Trees, food, and entertainment.

Nov. 29: Friday after Thanksgiving. Leaverton Park Holiday Lighting Festival, 5 p.m. - Leaverton Park comes alive with over 40,000 lights and displays. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies with Santa, listen to area church choirs and singing groups caroling. Watch the Fireworks and enjoy cornbread and beans, hotdogs, & desserts served by the Lions club. Contact: Palestine Chamber of Commerce 618-586-2222

Dec. 6-8: 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 bookstore throughout the year. Antique and specialty stores round out the village, along with a clock shop 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.



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

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

August 30 September 1
Annual Pioneer City Labor Day Festival and Rodeo
Pioneer City Arena, Leaverton Park & Main Street Palestine play hosts to a Street Fair, Carnival, and the PRCA rodeo. Chuckwagon Breakfast, Parade, Camping, Junior-sized Tractor Pull, Lunch with Clowns, Flea Market, Mechanical Bull Rides, Free Entertainment at the Band shell, Town-Wide Garage Sales and more!
Contact: Palestine Chamber of Commerce 618-586-2222
www.pioneercity.com or Email: PalestineCofC@verizon.net

October 4 - October 5
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.

October 5-6
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 11am-7pm & Sun 12-5pm
Contact: Susan Goodwine 618-586-2035

October 26
Annual Oblong Fall Follies and "Spooktacular" Band fest and Parade
Features night time parade, band field competition,


food, crafts, and entertainment on the square in Oblong. Call 618-592-4355 for more information.

November 16
Palestine Preservation Projects Society Cookie Walk
Fife Opera House 9:00 a.m. - ?
Browse table after table of homemade cookies for purchase

November 23
Christmas on the River
Visit the Village of Hutsonville for beautifully decorated Christmas Trees, food, and entertainment.

November 29 – Friday after Thanksgiving
Leaverton Park Holiday Lighting Festival
5:00 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

December 6-8
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.





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

Cumberland County Events

First Saturday of Each Month: Hootenany. A night of free dancing and great country & bluegrass music begins at 7 p.m. at Greenup Municipal Building.

Sept. 7: Homesteaders Market 8 a.m. to Noon at 115 W Cumberland Street in Greenup. Locally grown food, Baked goods, Artisan Products and more!

Sept. 28: Sooye Fest at Neoga in Jennings Park. Smokeoff, craft and food vendors, games, and much more! Follow Neoga Partnership for Progress Facebook Page for more information.

Oct. 4 & 5: Greenup Fall Garage Sales. Hosted by the Greenup Volunteer Committee. Pick up a map of garage sales at the Greenup Municipal Bld.

Oct. 5: Homesteaders Market 8 a.m. to Noon at 115 W Cumberland Street in Greenup. Locally grown food, Baked goods, Artisan Products and more!

Oct. 9-12: Greenup Apple Festival. Ham & Bean Supper Oct. 9 from 5-7 p.m., Hosted by the Greenup Volunteer Committee Pageant; Parade, Food Trucks, Live Music, Children Activities, Vendors. Some activities on the square in Greenup. Apple Tastings & Activities also at Grissom's Family Orchard & Farm Market.

Oct. 26: Halloween Celebration & Costume Contest. Hosted by the Greenup Volunteer Committee begins at 5 p.m. at Greenup Municipal Building. Dinner & Music with Free Will offering.

Oct. 31: Trunk or Treat Hosted by the Greenup Volunteer Committee from 6-8 p.m. in Downtown Greenup. Also Trick or Treat at houses with porch lights on.

Dec. 7: Christmas Around the Square & Lighted Parade in Toledo. Begins at 3 p.m. Free Family Activities, Food Trucks, Photo Ops, Pictures w/Santa, Lighted Parade, Tree Lighting

Dec. 14: Christmas in the Village. Hosted by the Greenup Volunteer Committee from 4-8 p.m. at Greenup Municipal Building.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

National Road Covered Bridge

The Embarras River near Greenup was the site of a covered bridge built by Abe and Thomas Lincoln and Dennis Hanks. The original bridge was 200 feet long. Reconstruction of the

bridge began in 1998 and was dedicated in 2000. Call 217-923-3401 or visit villageofgreenup.com for more information.

Greenup Train Depot and Museum

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

Cumberland Co. Historical Society Illinois Military Museum

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

Cameo Vineyards

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

Where the Locals Eat

Find out what makes us a neighborhood favorite!



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Our 23rd Year
Anniversary!

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ANNUAL APPLE 'N PORK FESTIVAL

AT THE C.H. MOORE HOMESTEAD DEWITT COUNTY MUSEUM
219 E. WOODLAWN • CLINTON, ILLINOIS



SEPT. 28 & 29

9AM-5PM

**FREE ADMISSION
TO FESTIVAL
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- 25 Old-Fashioned Food Booths
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- Crafter Tent & Carriage Barn Offering Unique Hand-Crafted Items
- Living History Interpreters
- 19th Century Craft & Artisan Demonstrations

- Huge Flea Market
- Victorian Mansion Tours (Adults \$10, Ages 6-18 \$5, Age 5 & under & members FREE)
- Antique Tractor & Farm Machinery Exhibits
- Meal Grinding & Blacksmith Demonstrations
- Juried Fine Art Show
- Kids Activities



C. H. MOORE HOMESTEAD DeWitt County Museum

*For festival information, contact the C. H. Moore Homestead & DeWitt County Museum
chmoore_homestead@gmail.com or 217-935-6066 or find us on Facebook www.chmoorehomestead.org

LINDA'S PLACE



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Sleeps 6! Full kitchen. Your
home away from home!**

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www.airbnb.com**

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 Now through October 12: Clinton Area Farmers and Artisans Market 8 a.m. to Noon at Mr. Lincoln's Square in downtown Clinton IL.

Sept. 28 & 29: Apple 'n Pork Festival. Food stands with old-fashioned harvest time treats, crafters and artisans, live music and so much more at the C.H. Moore Homestead & DeWitt County Museum, 219 E. Woodlawn, in Clinton, IL.

Nov. 29: Santa Night from 5-7 p.m. at C.H. Moore Homestead & DeWitt County Museum, 219 E. Woodlawn, in Clinton, IL.

Nov. 29 & Dec. 6, 13, 20: Candlelight Tours from 5-8 p.m. (doors close 7:30 p.m.) at C.H. Moore Homestead & DeWitt County Museum, 219 E. Woodlawn, in Clinton, IL.

DEWITT COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

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



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 Sept 1 & 2


Labor Day Weekend

- National Cheese Curling Eating/Spitting Championships
- Buggy Rides
- Pony Rides
- Rat Race
- Live Entertainment
- Sidewalk Sales
- Food Vendors
- Variety of booths

You'll have a a great time at the Arthur Cheese Festival - a "Family Friendly Festival"!

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Clinton Lake State Recreation Area

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

Ultimate Play Space

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

Weldon Springs State Park

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

Douglas County Events

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

Aug. 22-24, 29-31, Sept. 5-7, 12-14, 18-21: "The National Anthem" a new musical, 5:30 p.m. at Penn Station, 100 N. Vine St, Arthur.

Aug. 23 & 24: Mennonite Relief Sale at Otto Center, Arthur. From 4 p.m. Friday to 4 p.m. Saturday. This is an annual community celebration of generosity to support the relief, development and peace work of the Mennonite Central Committee. Includes a general auction, activities for children, excellent food and wonderful quilts. Visit arthurreliefale.org for more details.

Aug. 28, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25: Gunny Sack Review, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at Penn Station, 100 N. Vine St, Arthur.

Aug. 31: Tuscola's Family Fun Day! 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Golf Cart Parade, Inflatables, Balloons, Face Painting, Live Music, Mural Painting, Photo Ops, Shopping, Live Music, Cake Walk, Ice Cream Eating Contest, Rock Painting, Kids Crafts & Activities and More!

Aug. 31, Sept. 1-2: 51st Annual Amish Country Cheese Festival, downtown Arthur. Crafts, food, flea markets, sidewalk sales, parade, kids rides and games, and lots of cheese. An auto show, live entertainment, 10k, Amish strongman competition, antique tractor show. something for everyone. Free cheese each day. Downtown Arthur 138 S Vine St. illinois-amishcountry.com

Sept. 6-8: 52nd Annual Arcola Broom Corn Festival, Downtown Arcola. Vendors, live music, National Broom Sweeping contest, beer tent, see brooms being made, arts & crafts vendors, free entertainment, 5K and 10K race, great food, gigantic parade. This year's free entertainment will be Drake Milligan at 2 p.m. on Sept 8. For more information go to arcolachamber.com

Sept. 14: The Great Pumpkin Patch, located 2 miles south of Arthur, opens Sept. 14-Oct. 30

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Sept. 21: Becky's Buddies presents: The Ivory Brothers Dueling Pianos at 6 p.m. at Tuscola Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Sept. 27: Tri-County Fall Toy Auction 8 a.m.-5 p.m at 650 E CR 400 N, Arcola, IL 61910.

Oct. 24: Lighted Pumpkin House, 5 p.m., 138 S. Vine St, Downtown Arthur.

Oct. 25: Annual Haiti Benefit, 5 p.m. at Otto Center, Arthur.

Nov. 7: An Accidental Christmas Musical, 5 p.m. at Penn Station, 100 N. Vine St, Arthur.

Nov. 8 & 9: Fall Antique Show Weekend. Some of the finest primitive antique dealers at the Otto Center and multiple locations in Arthur.

Nov. 8: Antique Weekend at the Moultrie-Douglas Fairgrounds, Arthur. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nov. 9: Arthur-Amish Country Christmas Kickoff, Downtown Arthur. Special shopping specials and events.

Nov. 29: Black Friday Shopping Downtown Arthur 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dec. 7: Lighted Christmas Parade begins at 5 p.m. in Downtown Arthur.

Dec. 7: 5th Annual Jingle Jog One Mile Fun Run in Arcola.

Dec. 7: Christmas Parade begins at 6 p.m in Downtown Arcola.

DOUGLAS COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Aikman Wildlife Adventure (formerly Rockome Gardens)

Located between Arcola & Arthur. Come see and take pictures of animals from 6 different continents. Hours are 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday and noon - 5 p.m. Sunday through Labor Day weekend. Fall hours: Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday noon - 4 p.m. For more information call 217-268-3500, email info@aikmanwildlife.com or visit aikmanwildlife.com

Harris Ag Museum

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

Sears "Catalog Homes"

Tuscola is home to four "catalog homes." From 1908 until 1940, the Chicago-based catalog giant Sears, as well as Montgomery Ward, offered and sold roughly 100,000 build-it-yourself home kits. There were 450 various models ranging in price from \$150 to a little more than \$5,000. One home is located at 309 N Main. It was ordered in 1931 and is called "The

Cambridge". Another is located at 106 E. Buckner. The home was built in 1915 and located 5 ½ miles west of Tuscola, before being moved to it's present site in 1946. Yet another home is located a few miles north of Tuscola on Route 45. It was built 1920-22. The fourth home is located on Scott St. and was built in 1915.

Douglas County Courthouse

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

Illinois Amish Heritage Center

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

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

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

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

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



A Walk Through Time Museum

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

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

A donation is required for entry to the museum.

Edgar County Events

Aug. 31: 8th Annual Doc Acklin Race begins at 7:30 a.m. at Paris High School. A three-mile race open to the public will start at 7:30 am at the school's Cross Country Team Race Course. Anyone is welcome to participate by running and/or walking. Following the open race, an invitational for local cross country teams will begin.

Sept 7 & 8: Opening day at Southfork Homestead Pumpkin Farm, 12330 E. 275th St., Paris. Opening 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday & Sunday Opening Weekend Only; Remaining September Open Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; All October Open Wednesday-Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Outlaw Grill & Saloon Fall Hours: Open Saturday-Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Follow them on Facebook or visit www.southforkhomestead.com

Sept. 7: Paris Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Masquerade Ball Themed Celebration from 1-4 p.m. at Ernie Eveland Gym, 306 S. Central, Paris.

Sept. 13: Foundation Music Series from 7-10 p.m. at Prospect Community Foundation Amphitheater, 245 N. Main St., Paris. Free & open to the public. Follow their Facebook page: [Facebook.com/PCFamphitheater](https://www.facebook.com/PCFamphitheater).

Sept. 27-29: Honeybee Festival around the courthouse square in Paris. Music, car show, food trucks, arts & crafts and more! 2024 Miss Paris Honeybee Festival Queen Pageant Sept. 22.

Oct. 5: Paws at Prospect Jeep Ride, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., start at Prospect Bank, 177 West Wood St., Paris. Reg. Fee \$30 per Jeep or 1 Large Bag of Dog Food. All proceeds go to the Edgar County Animal Shelter. Register from 9-10 a.m., Rain or Shine Wheels Roll at 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 29-30: Christmas in Paris. Entertainment, music, food trucks, Mistletoe Market, Cookies & Canvas, kids activities, face painting, Scavenger Hunt, Festival of Trees, Photos with Santa, Gingerbread House Display Contest, Touch a Truck, lighted parade and more.

EDGAR COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Paris Center of Fine Arts — Performances on the Prairie

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

Southfork Homestead & Pumpkin Patch

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

Vance Park

It is a calm and quiet place that's perfect for meditation. Inside you will find a lushly landscaped sunken garden with its own traces of history. A serpentine wall, that reflects a

design by Thomas Jefferson, located in Charlottesville, NC, and a Lions Head fountain at the far end of the small park duplicates one found in Paris, France.

Twin Lakes Park

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

Edgar County Courthouse

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

Effingham County Events

Aug. 21: Happy Together Tour 2024. A show full of chart-topping hits from the 60s and 70s from The Turtles, Jay and the Americans, The Association, Badfinger, The Vogues and The Cowbills. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7:30 p.m. www.thepec.org

Aug. 23 & 24: Convoyn' For Wishes benefiting Make-A-Wish Illinois. Doors open 4 p.m. Concert starts 5 p.m. at Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont: Concert by Kip Moore, Larry Fleet, Crawford & Power and Laila Smith on Aug. 23. Truck Convoy on Aug. 24. Food Trucks, Vendor Booths, Build-A-Bear, Live & Silent Auction, Bounce House with grounds opening at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

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

Sept. 6 & 7: Midwest Market at Village Square Mall in Effingham. 80+ Vendors, Food Trucks, Mobile Boutiques, Home Décor, Vintage, Antiques & More! Sept 6 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Sept 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sept. 7: Downtown Effingham Car Show & Cruise. Show and Shine Car Show starting at 2 p.m. around the old courthouse square. Open Downtown Cruising – show off your ride and cruise through the heart of downtown Effingham. Food Vendors, Live Music, Beer & Wine Garden. All proceeds from event go to Operation Blackhawk, supporting the families of active-duty soldiers in our community. No charge. To register call Lori Worman at 217-821-2238.

Sept. 7: Last Chance Pull at Beecher City Community Park 5 p.m. Start Time with Weigh-In at 3 p.m. Tractors, Trucks & Local Semis.

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

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

Sept. 15: Taylorville: A Tribute To Taylor Swift. Get ready to immerse yourself in the world of Taylor Swift! "Taylorville" is your ticket to a show filled with chart-topping hits and cherished deep cuts. This dynamic tribute band, armed with unmatched musical talent, takes you on a journey through Taylor's iconic career. The stage comes alive with a stunning video wall production, adding a visual spectacle that complements the music perfectly. Dress in your favorite "era" and come ready to sing and dance! Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 3 p.m. www.thepec.org

Sept. 20 & 21: Shumway Sesquicentennial Celebrating 150 Years of Shumway IL! Friday, Sept 20 events include Dinner at Kluthe Building from 4 to 7 p.m. then Captain Rat & the Blind Rivets at 7:30 p.m. at Plumb Park. Saturday, Sept 21 events include: Shumway Volunteer Firefighter Breakfast from 6 to 10 a.m. at the fire station, Vendor Craft Fair from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Plumb Park, Parade at 10 a.m. with Car & Tractor Show to follow, Lunch at Kluthe Building hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Kids Games & Activities from Noon to 5 p.m., Bingo from 2 to 4 p.m., Dinner at Kluthe Building hosted



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- » Summer Sundown Music Festival Sept. 13-15 at The Reel Marina
- » Crossroads Music Festival Sept. 28 Noon - 1 a.m. at The Reel Marina



by St. Mary's Catholic Church from 4 to 7 p.m. and a Band TBD at 7:30 p.m. See Shumway Sesquicentennial Celebration Facebook page for more details.

Sept. 21: Enduring Freedom Ministries Freedom Fest at 304 S. West, Shumway, IL. Live Music, Food, Family Fun. Free Event. Follow Enduring Freedom Ministries Facebook page for updates.

Sept. 21: Corvette Fun Fest at the Mid America Motorworks grounds in Effingham IL.

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

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

Sept. 27 & 28: Altamont Schuetzenfest. Beer Garden, German Food, Live Music, Contests, Lots of Fun! Held at the Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont IL. Find us on Facebook at "Fritzy Schuetzenfest" for updates on the event.

Sept. 28: 2024 Oktoberfest at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall grounds starting at 5 p.m. Live Music by Butch's Polka Kings from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and Bad Habit from 9 p.m. to the end. Free admission! Free inflatables for the kids! German style food! German style beer! Stein holding contest! Event by Teutopolis Civic Club.

Sept. 28: Crossroads Music Festival noon - 1 a.m. at the Reel Marina at Lake Sara in Effingham.

Oct. 5: Dieterich Village-Wide Garage Sales

Oct. 5: Boom Box All 80's Band 7 p.m. at The Whistle Stop Saloon in Altamont.

Oct. 11: Forever Simon and Garfunkel: A Tribute. Iconic songs include "The Sounds of Silence", "Bridge Over Troubled Water", "Mrs. Robinson", "I am a Rock", "The Boxer", "Cecilia", "Hazy Shade of Winter" and so many more! Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Oct. 18: Jack Willhite Rock & Roll Comedy Show at Tuscan Hills Winery starting 7 p.m. See winery website for tickets.

Oct. 18: Linda Davis Evening in the Round. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Oct. 25: The Rocky Horror Picture Show: An Interactive Movie Experience. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 8 p.m. www.theeepc.org

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

Oct. 26: Walking With Ghosts: Real Life Hauntings With Amy Bruni, Paranormal investigator, author, podcaster and star of Kindred Spirits and Ghost Hunters, Amy Bruni shares hair-raising tales from her countless hours hunting ghosts at America's most haunted locations. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

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

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

Nov. 2: BritBeat: The Immersive Beatles Tribute Experience. BritBeat is an unparalleled fusion of live musical prowess and cutting-edge multimedia technology. This show isn't just about music; it's a multimedia spectacle that redefines the future of live entertainment and makes you feel like a part of the Beatles' historic journey! Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Nov. 2: Boom Box All '80s Band 7 p.m. at A1 Liquors on Rt 33, Effingham.

Nov. 7-10: "Oklahoma!" Musical presented by St. Anthony High School

Nov. 15: Terri Clark. Terri has produced hit songs such as "Better Things To Do", "Poor Poor Pitiful Me" & "Girls Lie Too". Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

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

Nov. 22: Hairball. Homage will be paid to some of the biggest arena acts in the world including Van Halen, KISS, Motley Crue, Queen, Journey, Poison, and Aerosmith. Hairball's show includes lights, sound, video screens, smokebombs, confetti and more! Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 8 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Nov. 23: Ozark Jubilee's Branson Country Christmas. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. www.theeepc.org

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

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

Dec. 6: Buckets N Boards Holiday Remix. Celebrate the holiday season with this hilarious, high-energy show chock-full of amazing percussion, ridiculous songs, spectacular tap dancing, inventive instrumentation and an incredible variety of musical talents! Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Dec. 7: Hometown Christmas festival in downtown Effingham

Dec. 7: Lee Greenwood Christmas. An icon in country music, Lee Greenwood sings his Christmas hits! His hits include "I Don't Mind the Thorns if You're the Rose", "Dixie Road",

"Somebody's Gonna Love You", "Mornin' Ride" and "Going, Going, Gone". Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Dec. 8: Christmas In The Air. Christmas In The Air is a first class, Broadway-style song and dance review, wrapped up within a feel-good holiday storyline told by Santa's favorite elves. Starring Rand Productions' dazzling precision dancers, known as the Tinseltotes, the show delivers the perfect mix of classic holiday melodies with modern favorites and original music. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 4 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Dec. 14: The Polar Express: An Interactive Movie Experience. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 3 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Jan. 5: Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood: Asking for Trouble. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Jan. 18: Aladdin: An Interactive Movie Experience. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 3 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Jan. 24: One Night in Memphis: Presley, Perkins, Lewis & Cash. One Night in Memphis is a rocking concert tribute to legendary Sun Records recording artists Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley. Be a witness to a rock and roll royalty jam session that pays tribute to the famous night of Dec. 4, 1956 when the four legendary artists played together at the Sun Records studio in Memphis, featuring the hits including "Blue Suede Shoes", "Folsom Prison Blues", "Great Balls of Fire", "Whole Lotta Shaking Going On", "Shake, Rattle and Roll", "Don't Be Cruel", "Hound Dog" and many more! Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Jan. 25: Serial Killers with Dr. Scott Bonn. Renowned criminologist and serial killer expert Dr. Scott Bonn takes you inside the minds of the world's most savage and prolific murderers. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Feb. 1: Bored Teachers: The Struggle Is Real. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Feb. 6: DRUMLine Live! DRUMLine Live in an international tour based on the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) marching band tradition, incorporating original compositions and soul-infused interpretations of Top 40 hits. Group performances range from colorful, choreographed routines to heavy doses of drum riffs and cadences. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Feb. 7: Puppy Pals Live! Action-Packed, Comedic Stunt Dog Show As Seen on America's Got Talent! Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Feb. 8: The Marshall Tucker Band. Hits include "Heard It in a Love Song", "Can't You See", "Fire on the Mountain", "Long Hard Ride", "Ramblin" and many more! Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Feb. 15: EagleMania. EagleMania is the World's Greatest Eagles Tribute Band! EagleMania has been thrilling audiences all over the country with its stunning five part harmony and its uncanny ability to emulate the unmistakable sound of the Eagles. The show includes some of the Eagles' greatest hits, as well as some of the solo work of Don Henley, Glenn Frey and Joe Walsh. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

Feb. 22: Six String Summit. This show features six of the area's best guitar players backed up by the amazing Summit Band. The 2025 line-up features: Marty Williamson of Effingham, Flight 50; Terry Smith of Fairfield, Edgewood Opry; John Sawyer of Lerna, Sawyer Brothers Band; Isaac Biver of Freeburg, Isaac Biver Music; John Spicer of Patoka, The John and Dave Duo; and Jon Clarkson of Mattoon, The Brat Pack. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

March 8: Mike Super: Magic & Illusion. Mind-blowing illusions combined with the hilarity of a headline comedian! Mike Super is the winner of NBC's hit TV show Phenomenon and is the only magician in history to win a LIVE magic competition on primetime network television and voted America's Favorite Mystifier! Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theeepc.org

March 14: Starship featuring Mickey Thomas. Mickey Thomas is the owner of the soaring voice that propelled Starship through the decade of the 80s. Hits include "We Built This City", "Sara", "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now" and "It's Not Over Til It's Over". Starship's live

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They say dogs are a man's best friend, and we agree. We have gathered a few spots to take your pup for a day adventure!

Ever wanted to drink with your four-legged friend? Head to Hair of the Dog in Centralia, a bar with a dog-friendly atmosphere! Enjoy coffee, beer, cocktails, and board games in a totally unique way!

Our furry friends deserve the world, and at Furchild in O'Fallon you can get them all the toys and treats they could possibly need. Find doggy-designer outerwear and get a nail trim all in one trip!

After getting the nail trim, head to Millpond Brewing in Millstadt to sip on a brew and relax with your pup in their beer garden.

Take your pup for a much-needed leg stretch at the Shiloh Dog Park in Shiloh. Just 10 minutes from I-64, this is perfect for a quick stop.

For our more adventurous canines, take a hike around Silver Lake in Highland. Go as far as 5.4 miles (one-way) along this shady pathway while you traverse alongside a beautiful water feature. The hike is rated easy.

Looking for a chill café day but don't want to leave your pup? Enjoy your morning on the patio at Wabash Coffee House in Hutsonville.

A day outside is a day well spent – especially if you and your companion are hiking through beautiful Pyramid State Park in Pinckneyville. There is plenty to see and sniff hiking through some of the park's 19,000 acres on the 9-mile loop trail. This trail is rated moderately challenging.

A day at the vineyard sounds perfect, so make sure your dog is as pampered as you that day and bring them with! Visit The Pour Vineyard in Red Bud and bring your pup with you on the patio!

We all love a good movie, and your pup will too at the Skyview Drive-In in Belleville. While we can't guarantee that they will stay awake for the entire film, taking them to the movies should definitely be on the bucket list!

Counter-clockwise from top: Shown are Hair of the Dog in Centralia, the beer garden at Millpond Brewing in Millstadt and Shiloh Dog Park in Shiloh. Submitted photos.



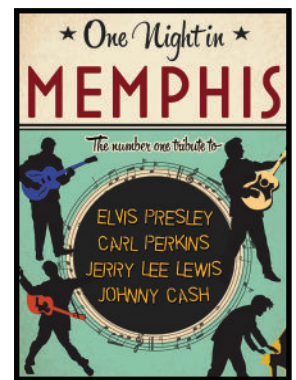


EFFINGHAM
PERFORMANCE
CENTER

SEASON
15

**NEW
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DATE/TIME	SHOW	TOP TIER	LEVEL A	LEVEL B
Aug. 16 7:00 pm	Newsboys	\$79.99	\$59.99	\$39.99
Aug. 21 7:30 pm	Happy Together Tour 2024	\$65	\$53	\$49
Sep. 15 3:00 pm	Taylorville: A Tribute to Taylor Swift	\$35	\$25	\$25
Sep. 21 7:00 pm	Aaron Tippin	\$55	\$45	\$35
Oct. 11 7:00 pm	Forever Simon & Garfunkel: A Tribute	\$40	\$30	\$20
Oct. 18 7:00 pm	Linda Davis: Evening in the Round	\$45	\$35	\$30
Oct. 25 8:00 pm	The Rocky Horror Picture Show (Interactive Movie)	\$15	\$15	\$15
Oct. 26 7:00 pm	Walking with Ghosts with Amy Bruni	\$45	\$30	\$20
Nov. 02 7:00 pm	BritBeat: A Tribute to the Beatles	\$55	\$45	\$35
Nov. 15 7:00 pm	Terri Clark	\$55	\$45	\$35
Nov. 22 8:00 pm	Hairball: A Tribute to Arena Rock	\$32	\$32	\$32
Nov. 23 2:00 pm Nov. 23 7:30 pm	Ozark Jubilee's Branson Country Christmas	\$35	\$25	\$20
Dec. 06 7:00 pm	Buckets N Boards: Holiday Remix	\$40	\$25	\$15
Dec. 07 7:00 pm	Lee Greenwood Christmas	\$60	\$45	\$35
Dec. 08 4:00 pm	Christmas In The Air	\$55	\$40	\$25
Dec. 14 3:00 pm	The Polar Express (Interactive Movie)	\$35 VIP	\$15	\$15
Jan. 05 7:00 pm	Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood	\$65	\$50	\$40
Jan. 18 3:00 pm	Aladdin (Interactive Movie)	\$35 VIP	\$15	\$15
Jan. 24 7:00 pm	One Night in Memphis: Presley, Perkins, Lewis & Cash	\$45	\$35	\$25
Jan. 25 7:00 pm	Serial Killers with Dr. Scott Bonn	\$45	\$30	\$20
Feb. 01 7:00 pm	Bored Teachers Comedy Tour	\$55	\$45	\$35
Feb. 06 7:00 pm	DRUMline Live!	\$50	\$35	\$25
Feb. 07 7:00 pm	Puppy Pals Live!	\$30	\$20	\$15
Feb. 08 7:00 pm	The Marshall Tucker Band	\$75	\$55	\$40
Feb. 15 7:00 pm	EagleMania	\$45	\$35	\$25
Feb. 22 7:00 pm	Six String Summit	\$20	\$20	\$20
Mar. 08 7:00 pm	Mike Super: Magic & Illusion	\$55	\$35	\$25
Mar. 14 7:00 pm	Starship featuring Mickey Thomas	\$65	\$50	\$40
Mar. 21 7:00 pm	Hank & My Honky Tonk Heroes	\$45	\$35	\$25
Mar. 22 7:00 pm	Here Come The Mummies	\$35	\$35	\$35
Mar. 28 7:00 pm	The Drifters, The Platters, & The Coasters	\$65	\$55	\$35
Apr. 05 7:00 pm	BlackHawk	\$55	\$40	\$30
Apr. 12 7:00 pm	Great White & Slaughter	\$75	\$55	\$45
Apr. 25 7:00 pm	EPC Idol Finals	\$10	\$10	\$10
May 31 7:00 pm	Scott Wattles & The Blue Suede Crew	\$25	\$25	\$25



TICKETS ON SALE AUGUST 10

Purchase tickets at the Box Office, by calling 217.540.2788,
or online at www.TheEPC.org or www.ticketmaster.com/EPC.

performances include its hits, as well as a few selections from Jefferson Airplane. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theepec.org

March 21: Hank & My Honky Tonk Heroes with Jason Petty. Celebrate Hank Williams 100th birthday with this tribute! Over the years, Jason Petty has had the chance to meet and become friends with those who know and played with Hank Williams. Jason has translated the stories he learned from them into a beautiful mosaic of live music and storytelling, taking the audience down memory lane. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theepec.org

March 22: Here Come The Mummies. The Mummies is an eight-piece, funk-rock band of 5,000-year-old Egyptian mummies with a one-track mind who have been direct support for P-Funk, Al Green, Mavis Staples, KC and the Sunshine Band and Cheap Trick and have rocked Super Bowl Village as well as being regulars on "The Bob and Tom Show" and appeared on "That's My Jam" with Jimmy Fallon. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theepec.org

March 28: The Drifters, The Platters, & Cornell Gunter's Coasters. It's not a concert...it's a party! Enjoy the Rock N Roll/Doo wop sound with hits including "Charlie Brown", "Yakety Yak", "Poison Ivy", "Only You", "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes", "The Great Pretender", "Under the Boardwalk", "Up on the Roof", "This Magic Moment" and "On Broadway". Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theepec.org

April 5: BlackHawk BlackHawk produced hit songs including "Goodbye Says It All" and "Every Once in a While". Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theepec.org

April 10-13: "Disney's Newsies" Musical presented by Newton Community High School Choral and Theater Department

April 12: Great White & Slaughter. Great White & Slaughter are two esteemed acts who will share the stage for a night of rock! Great White has hits including "Once Bitten, Twice Shy" and "Rock Me". Slaughter's hits include "Up All Night" and "Fly to the Angels". Two of the 80's biggest acts together in one night! Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theepec.org

April 25: EPC Idol Finals. Singers from across the region are invited to participate in a singing competition to determine who will be the next EPC Idol and the winner of a \$1,000 cash prize! Preliminary contests will be held at sponsoring locations with winners of each preliminary contest to take the stage for a night of performances to determine who will be voted the EPC Idol, voted by audience members via electronic voting. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theepec.org

May 31: Scott Wattles & The Blue Suede Crew. Songs include Elvis hits and Gospel music. Tickets Online Now! Effingham Performance Center 7 p.m. www.theepec.org

EFFINGHAM COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Sculptures on the Avenues

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

Ballard Nature Center

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

The Cross at the Crossroads

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

Effingham County Museum

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

Effingham Performance Center

Located on the north side of Effingham along Outerbelt West, is a 1,500-seat theatre that hosts a variety of performances a year. Local, regional and national acts are scheduled to perform. For more information on performances, visit theepec.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 muse-

VISIT HISTORIC VANDALIA ILLINOIS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Charters Patio

Live Music Every Weekend
June-September
Downtown Vandalia

[f](#) Charters Patio

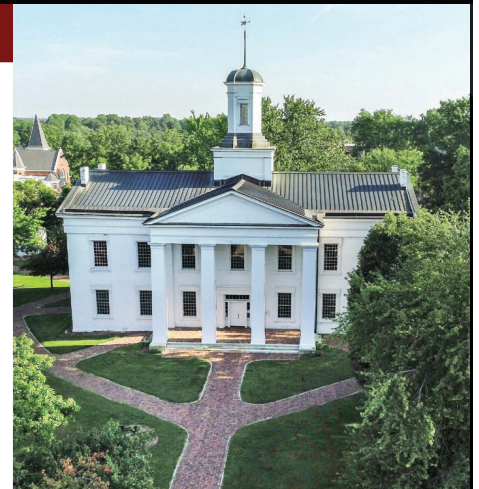


Farmers Markets

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

2nd Saturday of each month from June-October

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



Stay up-to-date with events at
vandaliaillinois.com/calendar-of-events

Rich HISTORY and outdoor ADVENTURE in CENTRAL ILLINOIS

BY DISCOVER DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS

A or those who are always looking for something new and exciting to do, then this is the itinerary for you! From rich history to outdoor adventures, this road trip will take you through Perry, Washington, Clinton, Bond, Fayette, and Marion counties.

Ready for an adventure in the central region? Let's go!

Kick off your trip by grabbing a pastry from Marks' Bakery in Du Quoin.

Before your busy day of exploring, grab a cup of coffee from "Gather. Okawville," a family owned and operated coffee bar in Okawville. Then drive 10 minutes to Rainbow Ranch Petting Zoo in Nashville, where you can hangout with over 200 cute critters.

History buffs will then want to drive 25 minutes to Germantown to visit Eversgerd Fort, a 1:1 ratio Civil War Fort replica.

You can't visit Clinton County without having lunch and ice cream at Wally's Drive-in in Breese.

Then, depending on the season, pick fresh peaches, apples, and sip cider at Taphorn Orchard in Beckemeyer – which is just 10 mins from Wally's Drive-In.

Steaks at Popeye's Chop House in Breese make for the perfect way to end day 1. Then, rest up for the night at a lovely Bed & Breakfast, the Breese Inn.

Start day 2 with some pastries and coffee from Oh So Sweet Bakery and Café in Carlyle – just 15 minutes from the B&B.

Explore Caryle Lake like never before with an hour-long airboat tour located in Keyesport, through Duck Island Airboat Services.



Oh So Sweet Bakery and Cafe is in Carlyle. Submitted photo.

Next, drive 25 minutes to Pocahontas, where you could spend a couple of hours shopping at the antique shops as well as the Pocahontas Mercantile and Sweet Shoppe.

Just 15 minutes away in Greenville lies the DeMoulin Museum, which is famous for its large and rare collection of DeMoulin initiation devices. Not ready to leave Greenville? Take a shopping break at Evergreen Plant Co.

Your next stop is just off I-70, 25 minutes away in Vandalia. Bring your appetite because you won't want to miss dinner at The Copper Penny.

Not ready to head home? Stay the night in Vandalia at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites. Sleep in and grab a drink from Shimoji Coffee, then stop at the fire breathing Kaskaskia Dragon before hitting the road!

On your way home grab a bite to eat from Chuck's Place in Salem. Then treat yourself with a visit to Dairy Mart in Salem for some delicious ice cream.

Editor's Note: Please check the hours of operation for the businesses listed prior to travel and schedule tours ahead of time.



Duck Island Airboat Tours is located in Keyesport. Submitted photo.

um is owned by Mid-America Motorworks and is headed by Corvette enthusiast Mike Yager, owner of Mid-America. The museum is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. For more information, visit mamotorworks.com.

Teutopolis Monastery Museum

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

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

Tuscan Hills Winery

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

Barn & Bottle Winery

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

Fayette County Events

Aug 30 – Sept 2: St Elmo Labor Day Celebration. Held at St. Elmo Community Park. City-wide garage sales on Saturday. Parade on Labor Day. Food, Live Music and Fun!

Aug. 30: Bill Poss & Loveseat at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia

Sept. 6: The Cody Ryan Band at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia

Sept. 7: The Hip Huggers at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia

Sept. 8: Spirit of the Dragon Festival!! Come one Come all! Pull up a chair and join in on Various games of gambling, wit, and more! Attendees are welcome to peddle their wares or come shop in the marketplace. The Dragon Festival is held to celebrate the Twelve Great Aspect Dragons and their relatives alike. The celebration starts off with a Potluck Feast and then Jumps into games and more, Feel free to bring a dish to share! Players earn 2 skill points for attendance to this event. Each Faction and Guild is challenged to run a booth for the Festival! The best booth overall will win a 50 dreka purse prize!!! Event held at 217 W. Main St in Ramsey, IL from 2 to 8 p.m.

Sept 13 & 14: Brownstown Cool Down featuring music by Katie Hatch & Back Road Boogie on Sept 13 and music by Hip Huggers and Bryor Rhodes Band on Sept 14. Car Show, Bags Tournament, Vendors and Food Trucks, Kids Fun and more!

Sept. 13: Dakota Danielle at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia

Sept. 14: Farmers Market In Vandalia 8 a.m. to 11 am.

Sept. 20: Reverend Robert at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia

Sept. 21: Big Shake Daddies at Charters Patio in downtown Vandalia

Sept. 28: Wine & Ale with Abe Street Fest in downtown Vandalia at Charters Patio.. Wine & Beer Tasting, Live Music from Local Musicians at Charters Patio, Local Restaurants, Food Trucks, Craft Vendors, Local Artists. Kid Friendly. Many local musicians!

Oct. 12: Farmers Market In Vandalia 8 a.m. to 11 am.

Oct. 24: Vandalia Halloween Parade. Parade lineup begins at 5 p.m. at the former Washington School. The parade begins at 7 p.m. at the Fayette County Courthouse in Vandalia.

Oct. 26: Witches Night Out at This N That in Vandalia IL. Live Music, Vendors, Contests, Games, Kids Area & Much More!

Nov. 15 & 16: Olde Tyme Christmas in Vandalia IL. Lighted Christmas Parade, Live Reindeer, Food Trucks, Train Show, Magic Show, Carriage Rides, Outdoor Vendors, Indoor Vendor Market, Cookie Walk, and more! Fayette County Museum Tours and National Road Interpretive Center Tours.

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

Saturdays Now through Sept.: Farmers Market 8 a.m. to Noon at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie, IL.

Aug. 23 & 24: American Legion Post 20 Smoke Off at the Jasper County Fairgrounds in Newton IL. CCBS sanctioned BBQ Competition, Kids Pork Steak BBQ Competition, People's Choice and other fun! Live Bands and Beer Garden both days. Car Show 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Aug. 24: Boom Box All 80's Band at MVP Happy Holler at 2 p.m.

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

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

Sept. 14: Jasper County Fall Festival on the courthouse square in Newton IL. Family Friendly Science Show with Steve Belliveau from 3 to 3:45 p.m.; Foam Gone Bananas Foam Party from 4 to 5 p.m. that is Hypo Allergenic, dye free, eco and pet friendly; Taylor Swift Dance Party Fall Festival Version that Includes bracelet trading, 13 temporary tattoos and photo ops starting at 5 p.m. and Dance Party starting at 5:30 p.m. Parade will include several school bands. If you would like to participate in the parade call 618-783-3399 or email sdk.jccc@gmail.com

Sept. 28: Wabash Valley Whitetails Unlimited Banquet at West End Reception & Event Center in Newton IL starting at 4 p.m.

Dec. 7: Holiday Market at West End Reception & Event Center in Newton IL starting at 9 a.m.

March 7: Jasper County Shop with A Cop Fish Fry at West End Reception & Event Center in Newton IL starting at 4:30 p.m.

March 29: Spring Fling Vendor Market at West End Reception & 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

Aug. 24 : Blues, Brews & Bourbon from 6 to 11 p.m. at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts Museum Back Patio (Mitchell House Back Yard), 2600 E. Richview Rd, Mt Vernon IL 62864. Concert moves inside if weather requires. Must be 18 to attend. Dog Friendly. Gates open 6 p.m. Opening Band "Cat Daddy 'O" at 7 p.m. and Headliner Band "The Mike Wheeler Band" at 8:30 p.m. Bring lawn chairs. No coolers. Cash Bar = Regular Bar + Baum's Brauhaus Craft Brews + Bourbon Bar. Cash Only – No ATM on site.

Sept. 6-8: Cedarhurst Art & Craft Fair Sept. 6 from 5 p.m. to dusk/7:30p.m. and Sept. 7 & 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon. In addition to shopping the art booths, our weekend festival features food vendors, beer tent, live music, and a Kid Zone with make-and-take crafts and family-friendly entertainment. Visitors to the weekend Fair are encouraged to experience our 80-acre sculpture park and visit our indoor art museum galleries.

Sept. 21: 50th Anniversary Champagne Buffet at Mitchell Museum on the grounds of Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon, IL. Sip cocktails while you preview the special gallery exhibition Golden. Black tie encouraged. Music and Festivities. Doors open 5:30 p.m. For tickets call 618-242-1236 x 225.

Sept. 21: Mount Vernon Fall Flea Market featuring flea market items, thrift, crafts, small businesses, artists, farmer's market, baked goods, and much more. Hours: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Times Square Mall, Broadway Street, Mount Vernon, IL 62864

Sept. 29: Ironclad Art – The Motorcycle Festival is a family friendly event using the outdoor Sculpture Park at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts as an exhibition area to recognize the motorcycle as a sculptural object and a vehicle for self-expression. This is unlike any other bike show as it strives to capture the history and culture of motorcycling and includes awards, giveaways, motorcycle sculpture demonstration, live music and food concessions.

Oct. 5: Heritage Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jefferson County Historical Village, 1411 N. 27th St. in Mt. Vernon. Food & Food Vendors, Demonstrations & Vendors including baskets, blacksmiths, old 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!

Oct. 19: Mount Vernon Autumn Flea Market featuring flea market items, thrift, crafts, small businesses, artists, farmer's market, baked goods, and much more. Hours: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Times Square Mall in Mt Vernon IL

Nov. 22 & 23: Mount Vernon Christmas at the Mall featuring a wide range of handmade wares, vintage goods, holiday gifts, rusty junk, crafts, jewelry, t-shirts, specialty foods, fudge, toys, soaps/body care products, retro gaming, food vendors and much more. Hours: Fri 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Times Square Mall, Broadway Street, Mount Vernon, IL 62864

Dec. 6-8: Christmas Market at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon, IL, held in conjunction with The Lights. Handcrafted Gifts for the Holidays. Dec. 6 from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 7 and 8 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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

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

JEFFERSON COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

The Aquatic Zoo

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

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

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

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

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

Aug. 30 & 31: Downtown Decatur Music Festival. Food Trucks, Beer, Soda, Lemon Shake-Ups, Events for the kids on Saturday, Yoga, Art Vendors and more! Free event and open to the public! All genres of music. All artistic styles of music.

Sept. 1: Resurrection – A Journey Tribute at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

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

Sept. 6 - 8: Hydroplane Boat Racing on Lake Decatur. Family friendly event with over 20 divisions of boats reaching close to 90 miles per hour! Food Vendors. Arts & Crafts Vendors.

Sept. 7 & 8: Decatur Flea Market featuring a variety of vintage items, antiques, handmade crafts, delicious food and much more! Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 515 N Brush College Road in Decatur IL 62521.

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

Sept. 19: Celebrating 3 Decades of Hip Hop at 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

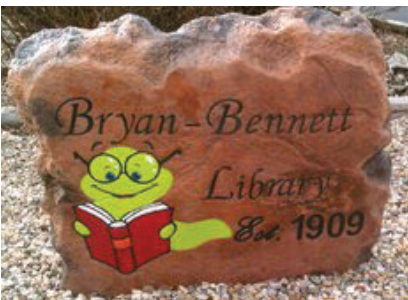
Sept. 20: Traveling Salvation – Tribute to Neil Diamond 7 p.m. at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL.

Oct. 5 & 6: Decatur Flea Market featuring a variety of vintage items, antiques, handmade crafts, delicious food and much more! Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 515 N Brush College Road in Decatur IL 62521.

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

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

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



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2024 TRAVEL TIME TOURS

Sep 25- 28 • Smokey Mountain Harvest Festival
Smokey Mt Tour, Dollywood, Stampede, Red Skelton Tribute, The Island... 3 Breakfast & 3 Dinners **\$749** or Single **\$919**

Oct 5-7 • Talladega Nascar Cup Race
Race Ticket, 2 Night Hotel **\$549** or Single **\$649**

October 28-30 • 3 Day Mystery
Includes All Meals **\$659** or Single **\$829**

November 2-14 • Italian Vistas • \$5,499 PP
Rome, Pompeii, Florence, Venice, Murano Island, Verona and Leaning Tower of Pisa and Tuscany. RT Air, Transfers, 17 Meals

November 19-22 • Branson Christmas • \$759 or Single \$929
"Miracle of Christmas", Haygoods, The Duttons, Smoke on the Mt & Hot Rods & High Heels. 7 Meals with Lambert's.

Transportation provided by Bales Unlimited departing from Farina & Effingham. All prices are per person based on double occupancy.

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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

Aug. 23-25: Smoke on the Water Fest at Castle Ridge Event Center. Experience the National Championship NBRA US Title Series 20th Anniversary with the NBRA long-course boat races each day. General Admission is FREE! Bring a Lawn Chair! Artisan Vendors, Yard Games, Live Music & More on Saturday August 24th from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Sept. 6: Extreme Bulls N' Broncs Buckle Series at 3-C Arena at Iron Saddle Ranch in Salem IL starting at 7 p.m. Bulls, Broncs, Team Roping, Breakaway Roping, Barrel Racing. Adult & Junior Division.

Sept. 13: Chris Cagle Live in Concert at Castle Ridge Event Center from 7-10 p.m. Outdoor Beer Garden! Chris Cagle is an American Country Music Artist who has recorded hit songs such as "I Breathe In, I Breathe Out", "My Love Goes On & On", "What A Beautiful Day", "Chicks Dig It", "Miss Me Baby", "What Kinda Gone", "Got My Country On", "Let There Be Cowgirls" and "Country By The Grace Of God". Nominated for New Male Vocalist by the Academy of Country Music and Voted CMT's Breakthrough Artist of the Year in 2002, it is the stage where Cagle has always shined the brightest. His passion for the performance of music is a rare find, and this artist isn't afraid of giving everything he has to his fans.

Sept. 14: AppleFest 2024 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Marion County Fairgrounds in Salem, IL. Local market vendors, food trucks, musicians and family fun including a petting zoo, axe throwing, bounce house, Ghostbusters vehicle, hay maze, free activities/giveaways and more!

Sept. 19: 7 Summers - A Morgan Wallen Tribute Band Live in Concert at Castle Ridge Event Center from 7-10 p.m. Outdoor Beer Garden! Join us on this musical journey as we pay tribute to the Morgan Wallen phenomena. 7 Summers is all about the music, the lyrics, and the incredible emotional connection that Morgan Wallen has with his audience. We invite you

to come and share in the celebration of this remarkable artist and his unforgettable songs. Let the music speak for itself and let 7 Summers be your gateway to the world of Morgan Wallen's heartfelt country tunes.

Sept. 21: The Big Baldrige & Bonfire Music Festival in downtown Patoka IL. Country music outdoor festival presented by Drew Baldrige in his hometown of Patoka IL!

Sept. 21 & 22: Fall Festival at Kinmundy Log Cabin Village in Kinmundy, IL Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walk through pre Civil War era cabins set up in time period with people dressed up doing traditions that early pioneers did during that time. Over 100 Vendors! Crafts, Food, Games, Live Demonstrations of early Pioneer life and Pony Rides.

Sept. 28 & 29: Fall Festival at Kinmundy Log Cabin Village in Kinmundy, IL Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Walk through pre Civil War era cabins set up in time period with people dressed up doing traditions that early pioneers did during that time. Over 100 Vendors! Crafts, Food, Games, Live Demonstrations of early Pioneer life. Pony Rides.

Oct. 11: Extreme Bulls N' Broncs Buckle Series at 3-C Arena at Iron Saddle Ranch in Salem IL starting at 7 p.m. Bulls, Broncs, Team Roping, Breakaway Roping, Barrel Racing. Adult & Junior Division.

MARION COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Centralia Carillon & Musical Fountain

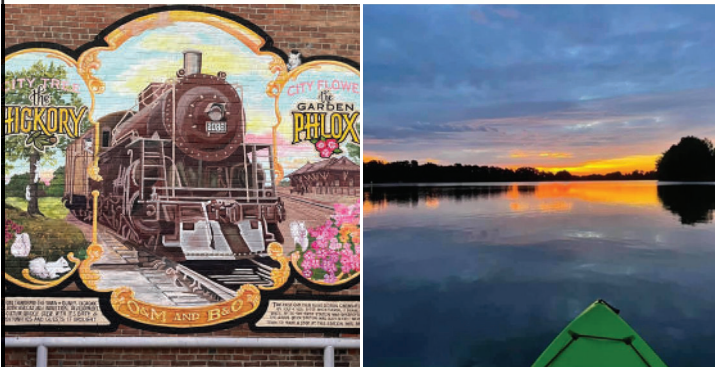
Come see and hear the distinctive sites and sounds of the Centralia Carillon towering 165 feet high above the city. The Centralia Carillon, the sixth largest bell tower in the world, is played by a professional carillonner who climbs 173 steps to play the bells in concert. The base of the tower contains 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.

VISIT OLNEY, ILLINOIS



Olney has a little bit of everything for you and your family. See some great art and learn more about our history with our Mural Walking Guide, or visit our parks which offer picnic areas, walking paths, fishing and boating, sports and playgrounds. We welcome you to come and spend a few days with us so you can enjoy this special place to the very fullest.

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WHAT'S NEW around the region

BY DISCOVER DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS

Our communities are always growing and evolving, and we love to hear about new businesses that have opened. We've compiled a list to showcase some of the great, new places to visit in our region. This influx represents an exciting chapter in our community's story. We hope you get the chance to experience what makes these places so great.

IRONS GOLF SIMULATOR | VANDALIA

The Irons in Vandalia is the new spot for family fun. They offer a golf simulator, axe throwing, and more. The best part is that it's all indoors, which makes for the perfect night during the winter months.

SHOEHORN BREWING | BELLEVILLE

Our region is home to many unique breweries, but did you know there is a



Shown is a burger from Two Farmers Burgers and Beignets in Mt. Carmel. Submitted photo.

new brewery on Belleville's Main Street? Shoehorn Brewing opened in late 2022 and has been crafting exceptional beer since its inception. They brew a wide array of different beers including stouts, pilsners, IPAs, and more!

THE ROASTERY BY LIVING MILLENNIALLY | MAEYSTOWN

Living Millennially is a coffee roaster that started out of a pop-up camper. Last year, they took over a former coffee shop in Maestown to open The Roastery. You may have guessed by the name that they roast their own coffee - and you'd be correct! They also serve oat milk lattes in an effort to be more environmentally friendly. This visually stunning coffee shop seamlessly blends their modern look with the historical charm of Maesytown.

THE FRECKLED PRESS | GREENVILLE

This bookshop is one of the first independent bookshops in our region! Located on the square in Greenville, the Freckled Press opened in August 2023. They have a wide range of books and sell home decor.

THE HANGAR WEDDING & EVENT VENUE | GREENVILLE

If you're hearing wedding bells, take a look at the new venue - the Hangar - in Greenville. This event space can fit 200 people and has a list of amenities that make your special day a breeze. To learn more, find them on Facebook.

TWO FARMERS | MT. CARMEL

Two Farmers Burgers and Beignets has been a local food truck favorite for years. Last year, they opened a brick and mortar, Two Farmers, in Mt. Carmel that has been a huge success. Their smash burgers are out of this world. Finish your meal with a scoop or two of ice cream - you won't regret it.



Shown is The Freckled Press in Greenville. Submitted photo.

C-TOWN PUTT-AROUND | CENTRALIA

If you love ice cream and mini golf, this is the place for you. Local ice cream favorite C-Town Twist recently opened their mini golf course - C-Town Putt-Around. Enjoy a scoop of ice cream while you challenge your competitors on the course.

THE BUNGALOW | BELLEVILLE

Looking to host an intimate event? The Bungalow - located next door and ran by Grimm & Gorly and Pour Coffeehouse - just opened their doors! This unique spot is the perfect place to host baby showers, bridal showers, parties, and more. Located on Belleville Main Street, everything you could need to host an event is within reach.

MIDAMERICA AIRPORT | MASCOUTAH

MidAmerica Airport recently celebrated the opening of a new terminal - adding 41,000 square feet to the existing 53,500. This \$34 million expansion features a new TSA screening area, new restrooms, and countless other amenities. If you're looking to plan a vacation, be sure to visit MidAmerica's website and learn all about their budget-friendly flights.

MUSEUMS and HISTORICAL SITES

around the state

BY DISCOVER DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS

Downstate Illinois is full of rich history. We have gathered 10 museums and historical sites that we invite you to visit and learn from!

Step back to the early 1930s and feel what it would have been like for the world-famous jazz musician Miles Davis to grow up in his childhood home in East St. Louis. The House of Miles has a lot of artifacts from Miles' life, including instruments, clothes, and artwork. It also embodies the spirit of his work. This museum is part of a non-profit that invests in giving back to the community and educating kids outside of school.

Get up close to the workhorses of the Air Mobility Command at the Scott Field Heritage Air Park just outside of the Scott Air Force Base in Shiloh. There are five aircraft currently on display that honor and commemorate significant events through the decades.

Not only is the World Shooting & Recreational Complex in Sparta home to the World's Longest trap line with over 120 trap fields, but it also boasts the Trap-

shooting Hall of Fame. With almost 200 inductees honored and artifacts that go back to the beginning of trapshooting, this hall of fame is truly unique and worth the visit!

Since 2002, the American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville has been collecting and preserving farm equipment from all generations to help promote and educate the heritage of rural life. The museum is now home to thousands of hand tools, tractors, plows, a railroad, and so much more that is on display during their multiple events throughout the year. Be sure to visit Hill's Fort, also on the property, and learn of its importance in opening the Northwest Territory.

In Greenville, take a look at some of the world's oddities created by the DeMoulin Bros. & Co. at the DeMoulin Museum. Take a crack at throwing knives, see how you fare with the electric branding iron, and look up at the guillotine! This rare collection of DeMoulin lodge initiation devices and marching band uniforms made by DeMoulin is worth a look.

With over 17,000 square feet of exhibit space, the Illinois Rural Heritage Museum in Pinckneyville has plenty to learn from. With antiques dating back

to 1850, you will get a glimpse of what life was like in early Illinois.

A newer museum to our region honors local veterans. The Standin' Proud Veterans Tribute in Bartelso showcases an F350 truck with airbrushed images from operations in the Middle East. This museum also includes items donated by local veterans and their families involved in conflicts from Iraq and Afghanistan to Vietnam.

One of the foundations of early Illinois was oil, and while you can still find oil pumpjacks across Downstate Illinois, this part of Illinois history is often forgotten. However, in Oblong, those that volunteer at the Illinois Oil Field Museum are eager to teach that history and help keep it alive and well! Since 1961, this museum has been showing off tools and artifacts that were used to propel Illinois to one of the biggest oil producers in the U.S. around the 1940s.

When we look back in history, we often think of how much harder life was and that is usually showcased in our museums, but at the Carnegie Museum in Olney, items show how life became easier. On display, you can find early versions of the washing machine, sewing machines, medical devices, and more that show the birth of the technology that we use today. Displays also include items linked to Richland County's military heritage and a lesson on why the Great Depression affected the county much differently than the rest of the country.

Visit one of the sites of the Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas debates in Charleston at the Lincoln Douglas Debate Museum. On your self-guided tour, learn about all seven senatorial debates between the two politicians in 1858. Included in the museum are life-size sculptures, multiple exhibits, and a children's hands-on area.

Counter-clockwise from left: Shown are statues at the Lincoln Douglas Museum in Charleston, an exhibit at the House of Miles in East St. Louis and an exhibit at the Standin' Proud Veterans Tribute in Bartelso. Submitted photos.



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

Kinmundy Log Cabin Village

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

Stephen A Forbes State Park

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

Moultrie County Events

Now thru Aug. 25: Nonsense at The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, IL

Aug. 31: Makers Market at Building 225 in Sullivan IL. 50+ vendors with handmade or home-grown items, cash bar, FREE indoor playground. Free Admission. Specialty Food. Discover handcrafted jewelry, spa items, clothing, and more unique treasures. For questions contact Jamie Crosier at jamie.crosier@tvc.us or 217-803-0227. For more information visit Building 1225 on Facebook.

Sept. 13 & 14: Backyard Bluegrass Festival at 790 Southern Rd in Sullivan, IL. Free admission. Donations welcomed. Friday bands include The Baker Family, Echo Valley, The Petersen's and The Kody Norris Show. Saturday bands include Rhonda Vincent & The Rage, Sylamore Special, The Waddington Brothers and Authentic Unlimited. Friday music begins at 5:30 p.m. Saturday music begins at 11 a.m. Concessions available. Campers welcome.

MOULTRIE COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

"Boats, Buggies & Broadway"

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

Sullivan Civic Center

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

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

Every Tuesday & Friday through Oct. 4: Farmers Market at Olney City Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information contact Bonnie Scherer at 618-869-2445.

Every Saturday through Oct. 26: Downtown Market at Bower Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In case of inclement weather, market may be moved to the VFW. For more information, contact olneyillinoisdowntownmarket@gmail.com

Aug. 24: Bicycle Classic & Family Fun Fest at Olney City Park. Kids Bike Races, Face Painting, Tattoos, Carnival Games, Free Shirts for race participants. Bike Registration 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Free activity booths open 10 a.m. to end of races. Free kid's races start (ages 2-12, starting with AmTryke riders) at 11 a.m. For more information, email info@olneychamber.com or call 618-392-2241.

Sept. 7: White Squirrel Bluegrass + Festival. Live Music starts at 11 a.m. on the Band Shell in the Olney City Park. Food Trucks, Beer Garden. Gates open 10 a.m.

Sept. 13: Cruise In - If It Runs, You're In. Classic Car Gathering with free participation at Olney City Park from 6 to 9 p.m. For more questions, email 5xhanna@gmail.com

Sept. 21: Gospel Concert in the Park from 3 to 9 p.m. in the Olney City Park at the Band Shell. Music provided by Folk Mountain Gospel. Merchandise available for sale. Hosted by the Noble Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Free event. For more information, call Larry at 217-377-4900.

Sept. 28: 50th Annual Fall Festival at Olney City Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arts & Crafts, Food Trucks and Vendors, Live Music, Art show and Children's Activities.

RICHLAND COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

White Squirrels

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

The Elliott Street Historic District

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

Sangamon County Events

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

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

Sept. 21 & 22: Springfield Fine Art Fair featuring an array of artist's booths, artist demonstrations, interactive art activities, used book sale, live music and DJ, food vendors and much more! Free admission. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Grounds of Edwards Place Historic Home, 700 North 4th Street, Springfield IL 62702-5232.

Sept. 27-29: International Route 66 Mother Road Festival features the cars, the music, the fun and nostalgia that Route 66 has brought to generations. Dennis Gage will be filming an episode of his popular show, My Classic Car, for Motor Trend Network on Friday & Saturday during the 2024 Festival! Chris Jacobs of the TV Show Overhauled and co-host of SEMA Live will be a special guest of the festival. Music acts on the Isringhausen Imports main stage include Wowie Zowie Band on Friday from 8-10 p.m., Reckless Whiskey on Saturday from 1-3 p.m., Pizzazz Dance Band on Saturday from 4-6 p.m. and Horizon on Saturday from 8-10 p.m.

Oct. 13: Springfield Fall Flea Market with over 200 vendor tables featuring a variety of vintage items, collectibles, antiques, treasures, new and used merchandise from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Illinois State Fairgrounds Illinois Building, 66 4H Rd, Springfield IL 62702.

Nov. 8 & 9: Hobnob Holiday Market featuring wonderful vintage finds, seasonal goods, handmade goods and home decor, boutique clothing, handmade jewelry, kid's accessories, food trucks, cash bar, and more. Hours: Fri 4-8 p.m., Sat 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. held at the Expo Building at Illinois State Fairgrounds, 2561 Main St, Springfield IL 62702.

Dec. 1: Springfield Christmas Bazaar featuring a rich assortment of top notch vendors selling a variety of items. You will find one-of-kind holiday finds, art, boutique, jewelry, lotions, coins, toys, home and garden decor, photography, soaps, sewn items, crochet, recycled, up-cycled, handmade items, vintage goods, antiques, collectibles, floral, wood, furniture, metal, produce, and many more. It will have delicious mimosas, live music, delicious dips, sausages and sweet treats. Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Illinois State Fairgrounds - The Orr Building, 66 4 H Rd, Springfield, IL 62702

Shelby County Events

Aug. 23 & 24: Pioneer Days of Cowden held at the park in Cowden, IL. Parade is Aug. 24 at 10 a.m. with lineup at Cowden Medical Clinic from 8:30 to 9 a.m. 2 Full Nights of Carnival, Rodeo, Cook Shack, Possum Lodge & Dinners, Kids Area, Pageants, Live Music, Binga and More! Friday from 5 p.m. to Midnight and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. For more information go to Facebook page Pioneer Days of Cowden.



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Sept. 7: Fall Village Wide Rummage Sales in Strasburg

Sept. 7: Testicle Festival Noon to Midnight at Rosie & Irl's Smokehouse/Saloon in Findlay IL. Turkey Fries, Mountain Oysters, Lamb Fries & More! Music by Gen. Lee & Rebels and Highway 615 Band.

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

Sept. 20-22: DirtWorx MTB Fest at Lone Point Campground in Shelbyville. Biking, Camping, Music & Fun! Friday's events: Registration at 5 p.m., Flat Tire Clinic at 6 p.m., Night Ride at the Dacey Trail in Forest Park in Shelbyville at 7 p.m. Saturdays events include Grab N Go Breakfast at 6:30 a.m., Clinics, Rides, Lunch, Bike Games, Scavenger Hunt, Catered Dinner, Bonfire & Live Music. Sunday Events include Bike Rides and Biscuit & Gravy Breakfast.

Oct. 11-13: Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest Friday Night enjoy Music, Soft Glow and more at Willow Ridge Winery. Saturday Events are at Shelby County Airport and then back at the winery that evening for the Glow, vendors, bounce houses and more! Sunday morning see the balloons fly over the beach area at Shelbyville Dam East or Dam West Recreation areas. Balloons will fly around sunrise (7 a.m.) on Saturday and Sunday morning.

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

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

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

Nov. 9: Decade of Decadence 80's Hair Night at The Foxmore in Shelbyville from 7 to 10 p.m. Doors open 6 p.m. Relive the glitz and glam of the 80's with big hair, iconic hits and nonstop fun! Don your best retro outfit and dance the night away!

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

Dec. 7: Olde Fashioned Downtown Christmas in Shelbyville

Dec. 7: Christmas In A One Cow Town in Stewardson IL includes a Lighted Parade, Food, & Many Fun Activities!

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

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

SHELBY COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Vahling Vineyards

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

Willow Ridge Vineyards and Winery

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

Tallman House

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

Shelby County Courthouse

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

Tree-filled Forest Park

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

Lincoln Public Square

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

Johnson's Goat Tower

Johnson's Goat Tower is located at 1968 N. 2500 East Road at Windsor, IL 61957. The tower is a structure consisting of 5000 handmade bricks from North Carolina, 276 concrete steps that are 40 inches long and cantilevered into the brick and a copper roof. The six compartments, three on each side, have a concrete floor. At 31 feet tall with a 7 1/2 foot diameter, it

is the world's largest goat tower. Saanen goats, Swiss dairy goats that love to climb, live in the tower. Phone (217)454-2337 and leave a message or text. goattowerfarm.com

Padding Lake Shelbyville

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

Moweaqua Coal Mine Museum

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

The Best Wedding Chapel

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

The Pam & Bob Boorman Chevy BelAir Museum

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

Lake Shelbyville

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

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

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

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





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217-923-3434

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Post #566
114 W. Cumberland St.
(217) 923-5308

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217-923-5100

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

Dairy Queen
At The Interstate Exit
217-923-5186

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

Chester's Chicken
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217-923-3220
chestersinternational.com

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

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217-923-3220
nafnafgrill.com

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

MUSEUMS

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

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

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October 26, 2024

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

Hootenanny
1st Saturday of the Month