A Day Away

Spring/Summer 2022 Guide

Special events, festivals, shopping, attractions and more for the whole family to enjoy — all within a day’s drive from home in Illinois!
THRU THE YEARS WITH PRIDE

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

The Marshall Farmers Market starts June 3rd from 4 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. every Friday night during the summer months around the courthouse square in downtown Marshall.

It’s a great opportunity to get locally grown produce, plants, flowers, honey, fresh baked goods, candles, dog treats, handmade crafts and so much more!
BIG THINGS
SMALL TOWN
CASEY, ILLINOIS
12 WORLD RECORDS
Stop for the Big Things
Stay for the Small Town Charm
BIGTHINGSSMALLTOWN.COM
The entry into the Stories of Survival exhibit at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Story and photos by Andrew Adams

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Please recycle when you’re done with it!

ON THE COVER:
You can pick your own peaches at Eckert’s Country Store and Farm in Belleville. Photo by @jaredtheandre
Springfield exhibit explores Holocaust and more

BY ANDREW ADAMS

Henry Stone was born in Poland in 1924. When war broke out, he was forced into slave labor at concentration camps throughout German-occupied territory. At the Flossenbürg concentration camp, he hid his Jewish identity by wearing a cloth patch with a capital “P” – a badge symbolizing prisoners of Polish descent. After Flossenbürg, Stone was moved to Dachau, a death camp where more than 32,000 prisoners were executed.

Stone was at the death camp in 1945 when American troops liberated its prisoners. When Stone left the camp, he saved the shirt he was issued in Flossenbürg, a tragic memento of the years he lost to Nazi cruelty. Stone died in 2021 in his adoptive home of Glenview, Illinois. Before he passed, he donated that shirt to the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie as part of an exhibit called “Stories of Survival.”

As part of the project, led by photographer Jim Lommasson, Stone took handwritten notes, reflecting on that shirt, why he kept it and what it meant to him.

The shirt and Stone’s reflections are now on display at the “Stories of Survival” exhibit, on loan to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. In addition to objects saved from the Holocaust, the show includes objects treasured and cherished by survivors of conflicts in Armenia, Bosnia, Cambodia, Iraq, Rwanda, South Sudan and Syria. They range from profound symbols of destruction, like Stone’s shirt, to fineries saved from destruction to symbols of innocence, held onto by children fleeing conflict.

“Expect stories about ordinary people going through horrible situations – and how they coped,” said Chris Wills, a spokesperson for the Abraham Lincoln Museum.

Ida Sefer was a child when the Bosnian War began in the early 1990s. The conflict brought about an ethnic cleansing of Bosnian Muslims. In 2007, the United Nations’ International Court of Justice found that the killing of this group of people constituted the first genocide in Europe since World War II.

Sefer was sent to Serbia with her sister and mother while her father, Ferid, was detained at a military concentration camp. When he was released, Ferid went back to the Sefer family home to gather a few photos and Ida’s childhood doll. The Sefer family fled to Canada as refugees before arriving in Chicago.

Like Stone’s shirt, Sefer’s
doll is now on display as part of the exhibit.

As an adult, Sefer went on to earn multiple graduate degrees and now serves as the president of the Bosnian-American Genocide Institute, where she works to share the story of the Balkans. She has taught university courses on the history of genocide.

Walking through the exhibit feels like walking through a trove of objects enchanted with a terrible magic. Each object is presented, most behind a glass case, next to photographs of the objects and their owners.

Each photo is surrounded by the handwritten notes of either the object’s owner or their survivors, the objects transforming from personal mementos to iconography encouraging reflection. For many of the objects, recorded interviews with survivors of conflict can be heard by scanning a barcode with any smartphone.

Seeing the stories and personal thoughts of survivors of some of the worst conflicts of the last hundred years feels voyeuristic. Being confronted with the human costs of war brings about both great shame for living in a world that let these things happen and great hope that despite all of the terror inflicted by conflict, people will survive and bring with them renewed hope.

Ida Shefer’s childhood doll, saved by her father in the wake of the Bosnian genocide. Photo by Andrew Adams

Just outside the exhibit, that hope is on full display. A wall full of Post-It notes, mostly written by students on school trips, displays reflections from visitors.

“So sad to think of the loss of my ancestors,” reads one.

“Love 4 Everyone,” reads another.

Ida Shefer’s childhood doll, saved by her father in the wake of the Bosnian genocide. Photo by Andrew Adams

“I just got into National Junior Honor Society and hopefully I will be able to solve some world problems soon,” reads a third.

The experience can be somber at times, with music written specifically for the exhibit by the staff of the Illinois Holocaust Museum playing throughout the space.

“They wanted something that fit the mood but couldn’t be identified with any one region of the world,” said Wills.

The soundscape, objects and narratives encourage reflection both on our shared history and personal values.

If life as you know it were to end tomorrow and you and your family were forced to flee your home, what would you take with you? What could you fit in a pocket that you couldn’t bear to live without?

Would it be a photograph of loved ones? Would it be a camera, a tool to document what you witness? Would it be precious objects passed down through generations?

After weeks of reflection, I still do not know what my answer would be.

In some sense, the exhibit’s collection—which includes objects used for prayer, family recipes, playing cards, an expensive purse, a typewriter and a cracked cell phone among others—shows the answer to that question.

You may never know the answer to that question until it’s asked of you.

The exhibit, which opened in March, will be on display until Jan. 22, 2023. In addition to the objects on display now, there will be a small theater installed in the spring of 2022 that will play a short film telling the story of a woman who survived the Holocaust.

There are also events planned featuring speakers and resources for...
teachers and educators related to the themes of the exhibit. More information about these events, as they are planned, will be posted on the Abraham Lincoln Museum’s Facebook page and the “Events” section of their website at presidentlincoln.illinois.gov.

The exhibit is part of a long-term plan to bring in stories of Illinois to the museum.

“We are not solely the Abraham Lincoln Museum,” said Wills.

The exhibit space alternates between shows on loan from other institutions and ones created at the museum. Although the next exhibit is still under wraps, Wills said it will center on the theme of “Home,” focusing on different ways that people have made homes throughout history.

Beyond the exhibit, the permanent collection at the Lincoln Museum includes objects from throughout the 16th president’s life and the Civil War. It also includes two theaters that play shows throughout the day. The “Ghosts of the Library” exhibit features holographic projections that morph and blend in front of the audience’s eyes.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day of the week. Museum admission is $15 with discounts for seniors, members of the military and students. Admission for children from ages 5 to 15 is $6 and children under 4 get in for free.
BOND COUNTY EVENTS

June 12 — Model Train Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., American Farm Heritage Museum

July 1 — Bond County Fourth Fest, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Downtown Greenville

July 2 — Bond County Fourth Fest, ALL DAY, Downtown Greenville

July 29-31 — Farm Heritage Days, ALL DAY, American Farm Heritage Museum

August 4-9 — Bond County Fair

Bond County Attractions

DeMoulin Museum
Located at 205 S. Prairie St. in Greenville. Check out spanking ma-

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 www.americanfarmheritagemuseum.com

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EVENTS

Every Saturday, Starting April 30 — Urbana’s Market at the Square, 8 a.m.-noon, Corner of Vine & Illinois Street, Urbana, 217-384-2319

April 29-May 1 — A Plant Sale Fundraiser at Allerton Park and Retreat Center, 515 Old Timber Rd., Monticello. Hours are 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. April 29 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 30-May 1. A food truck and music will be provided on April 29. Head to the main parking lot to purchase your annuals, herbs, veggies, perennials, natives, arranged hanging baskets, Allerton Bluebells and more. For more information, visit www.allerton.illinois.edu

May 7-8 — Mother’s Day Weekend, Saturday & Sunday train rides at Monticello Railway Museum. Mother’s ride FREE with paid child fare. Ticket includes 1 hour duration and seven miles in length. Guests may board train either at main Museum site or at the Museum’s Wabash Depot located in downtown Monticello. Children under 2 ride FREE with paying adult or senior. Visit mrym.org/events for departure times and ticket information.

Every Tuesday starting May 17 — Champaign Farmer’s Market, 3-6 p.m., Corner Neal and Market Street, Downtown Champaign

May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept.17, Oct. 15 — Third Saturday Garden Tour at Allerton Park and Retreat Center, 515 Old Timber Rd., Monticello. Attend one of the Third Saturday Garden Tours (April – October) to experience the beauty of Allerton’s formal gardens, while listening to the history behind their creation. Garden information, visit allerton.illinois.edu. Tours start at 10 a.m. and will meet on the Greenhouse Café patio. Tours typically last 45-60 minutes. Register at allerton.illinois.edu/events/third-saturday-garden-tours-2022/

May 28 — Outdoor Comedy Night, 7:30 p.m., Alto Vineyards, 4210 N. Duncan Rd., Champaign, 217-356-4784

May 30 - Aug. 14 — Prairie Farm, 2202 W. Kirby Ave., Champaign. This is a free, great family afternoon outing. Hours are 1-7 p.m. daily and petting zoo hours are 3-5 p.m.

June 3-4 — 18th Annual Festival of Quilts, Cunningham Children’s Home, 1301 N. Cunningham, Urbana. Hybrid, in-person and online. In person visitors will need to make a $5 donation. Contact Colleen Combes at cunninghamhome.org or visit cunninghamhome.org.

June 4 — Countryside 10K, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Witt Park, Sidney, IL

June 4 — Music at the Vines, family fun event, 7-10 p.m. outdoors at Alto Vineyards, 4210 N. Duncan Rd., Champaign, 217-356-4784

June 18-19 — Father’s Day Weekend, Saturday & Sunday train rides at Monticello Railway Museum. Father’s ride FREE with paid child fare. Ticket includes 1 hour duration and seven miles in length. Guests may board train either at main Museum site or at the Museum’s Wabash Depot located in downtown Monticello. Children under 2 ride FREE with paying adult or senior. Visit mrym.org/events for departure times and ticket information.

July 1 — The Allerton Park and Retreat Center Concert Series. 515 Old Timber Rd., Monticello, resumes with an outdoor concert on the Gatehouse Lawn at the park near Monticello. For more details, visit allerton.illinois.edu.

July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 — Freedom Fridays, 6-9 p.m. 120 E. Sangamon, Downtown Rantoul. Hosted by Rantoul Area Chamber of Commerce. Freedom Fridays is a family friendly event with music, outdoor dining, drinks, free yard games, 50/50 cash raffles, and varying kids activities for free and for purchase.
Champaign County Attractions

The Sousa Archives and Center for American Music
Located at 1103 S. 6th, Champaign, IL. 217-244-9309. How did John Philip Sousa become involved with the University of Illinois? Visit the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music in Champaign and you’ll find out. Located at 1103 South 6th Street, in the Harding Band Building, near the University of Illinois Armory, it documents American music through historical artifacts and archival records and the archives of John Philip Sousa, Albert Austin Harding (Illinois’ first band-master), internationally known trumpeter soloist Herbert L. Clarke and the University of Illinois bands. Opened in 1994, the museum acquired the personal papers from Sousa, the famed American composer and March King, who had a personal relationship with Harding. Since then, the museum has added many other collections, including over 50 record series documenting the history of American music, instruments, sound recordings, photographs, memorabilia, correspondence and the papers and music by and about many distinguished musicians and composers, including Harry Partch, Harry Reggan, Earl Alkire, Kenneth Gaburo, Paul Bierley, Virginia Root, Salvatore Martriano and Paul Martin Zonn.

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 8:00 a.m. to dusk. The Arboretum is located on Lincoln Avenue in Urbana. The Arboretum is open daily, sunrise until sunset. Admission is free. For more information call 217-333-7595 or visit the website at arboretum.illinois.edu.

Gordyville USA
Founded by legendary auctioneer Gordon and his wife, Jan Hangan. 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 July 20 thru December 20. Phone 217-359-5565 or visit info@curtisorchard.com.

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

CHRISTIAN COUNTY EVENTS

May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5 — First Friday of every month at 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Late Night Shopping in Taylorville, IL. Join local retailers for extended shopping hours on the First Friday of each month.

May 13-15 — ElderBeard MusicWerx presents Let It Grow Music Festival, a 2 day psychedelic music festival featuring 2 nights of the High Hawks, 2 nights of Mr. Blotto, Sunshine Daydream [Grateful Dead Tribute] and more! The Promised Land Campground is a 25 acre music park & campground in close proximity to Springfield, IL. at 11380 Darnell Road in Boliva IL. The venue features 20+ Acres of Primitive Camping space, 16 Cabins, and 40 RV passes with full electric & water hookups. Primitive camping is included in the price of admission. Buy your fix early and save money. Limited early bird tickets available.

July 16, July 15, August 13 — Glow Vibe Night Golf at Oak Terrace Golf Resort in Pana, IL. Play 9 holes of night golf with cart in the dark with 2 LED glow-in-the-dark balls. The course is lit up with flashing lights and glowing pins. Enjoy 10% off at Mulligan’s Bar & Grille before playing. Please register in advance by calling 1-800-577-7598.

July 19-23 — Christian County Agricultural Fair. Includes queen pageant, stock car races, truck pulls, demo derby, carnival and more. 1716 W. Spressor, Taylorville IL. (217)824-3100. christiancountyfair.com

July 28-30 — Tailgate N Tallboys Music Festival at South Fork Park in Taylorville, IL. www.tailgatentalboys.com

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.

Promised Land Kampground
Buy your tix early and save money. Limited early bird tickets available.

Tailgate N Tallboys Music Festival at South Fork Park in Taylorville, IL. www.tailgatentalboys.com
Preserving past farming practices and equipment

BY ALAN SHUMAKER

The first Thresherman’s Demonstration was held on July 24, 1982. It was started by neighbors Louis Milleville and Wayne Mueller, who thought it would be fun to thresh wheat and oats with a 1930s-era 2238 McCormick Deering threshing machine owned by Louis. The first event took place on what is known as “Mill Road,” which is just south of the Interstate-70 interchange in Altamont. A group of friends and neighbors gathered with their antique tractors, implements, hit-and-miss engines and cars. They threshed oats in the morning and after an old-fashioned lunch served by the Altamont Jaycees, wheat was threshed in the afternoon. The day was a big success with over 400 people registered in attendance.

It was decided to move the next show – July 16-17, 1983 – to the Effingham County Fairgrounds, where every show since has been held.

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

In order to help organize and operate the 1984 show, the group was incorporated as the Mill Road Thresherman Association, Inc. on May 1, 1984. After the show in July, 1984 – the first show held without sponsorship of the Jaycees – the charter and bylaws were approved and signed Oct. 5, 1984, by the three original directors. They were Marlin Milleville of Altamont, Ed Jansen of Sigel and Eldo Tate of Stewardson. Officers elected were President Louis Milleville, Vice President Ben Winter, Secretary Roy Cochran and Treasurer Art Trost.

Jumping ahead to the present, the club is active with the mission of preserving past farming practices and equipment, and educating the public on how they used to be done through field demos and our annual show. Thanks to the great support from the public and many local
businesses, we are able to not only put on our annual show but add other events – such as a tractor drive/farm tour and a parade for local nursing home residents.

We also support area FFA chapters with a scholarship program and our local food bank with the collection from our worship service at the show.

Our goals are to add more farm ground to give exhibitors a place to show off their equipment. We also want to add more activities. Last year we added potato digging, getting the kids involved in picking up potatoes. You would think those potatoes were candy the way the kids went at it.

This year we are planning on adding squeezing cane and cooking molasses.

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

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

We involve area FFA chapters in working at our show and have many activities for younger children as we are a family show.

Our goal is to get more younger folks to join the club. Our club won’t survive another 40 years if we do not get the younger generation involved. Otherwise, who is going to be around to preserve this part of our rural American history?

God bless America and God bless you.

This year’s show is Aug. 11, 12, 13 and 14, featuring Massey-Harris-Ferguson and Leader. This will be Massey’s State Show but all brands are welcome. For more information, visit millroadthresherman.org or call Jim Schroeder 217-821-1426.
Christian County Historical Society Museum
Walk through an 1820 log house, the 1839 Christian County courthouse where Lincoln argued cases, an 1854 farmhouse and an 1856 one-room school. Also military weapons from five wars. Christian County Historical Society Museum in Taylorville.

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

Anderson Prairie
Anderson Prairie is a 25-acre wildlife park that features remnants of the original Tall Grass Prairie of Illinois. The park was established in August of 1986 and is managed by Pana High School Biology teacher Dave Nance. It serves as an outdoor laboratory for students and the public. Located South of R1 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 www.facebook.com/panaandersonprairie

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

CLARK COUNTY EVENTS
Every Friday Night from June 3 thru September 2 — Marshall Farmers Market starting June 3, 2022 from 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in downtown Marshall around the courthouse square every Friday night during the summer. If you are interested in being a vendor, visit marshallchamber.com/marshall-farmers-market. If you have any questions, contact the Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce at 217-826-2034.

June 12-18 — Martinsville Agricultural Fair at the fairgrounds in Martinsville, IL. Horse racing, nightly entertainment, carnival, truck/tractor pulls, flat track drags, lawn mower demolition, demolition derby, fireworks. For more information go to martinsvilleagfair.com. Phone 217-382-5512.

August 8-15 — Clark County Fair at Clark County Fairgrounds in Marshall.

Sept. 2, 3, 4, and 5 — Casey’s Annual Popcorn Festival at Casey’s Fairview Park. Food, Carnival Games and Rides, and so much more!! Visit their Facebook page for updates.

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.

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- Business Hours -
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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 en route from Indiana to Illinois in 1831. Three Native American groups, the Miami, Kickapoo and Mascouten, occupied the site before it was ceded to the United States in the early 19th century. Today, visitors to the 1,023-acre park can enjoy the sights of an American Beech woods; wildflowers, including the unusual squaw-root and beech drops; and recreational activities such as boating, camping, fishing, hiking and winter sports.

CLAY COUNTY EVENTS

May 6 — Boots & Bling Foster Care Fundraiser. Join us for a gala like none other. Wear your best boots & bling for an evening of dinner, entertainment and live music! We are raising funds to send foster kids to a very special camp to make sure they know they are loved! We can’t wait to see you there! Venue 720. 6:30 p.m. Tickets on sale at venue720.com

Every Saturday June 4 through Oct. 29 — Farmers’ Markets. Home grown fruit, vegetables, homemade bakery items and some craft items are on sale from the first Saturday in June until the last Saturday in October. The market is held downtown on the lawn of the Flora Public Library each Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 618-662-8313.

July 2-4 — Fourth of July Carnival and Fireworks. A three-day celebration of our nation’s founding will be held this year in downtown Flora, IL. Carnival rides, live music, beer tent, games, food trucks, craft vendors and more! Fireworks to be held July 4 at dusk.

July 21-30 — Clay County Fair, Queen Pageant, talent contests, Rodeo, 4-H and much more. 104 Golf Course Rd, Flora, IL 62839

Clay County Attractions

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

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

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

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47 W Cumberland Street, Martinsville, IL 217-382-6672 darcies@fairpoint.net
Store Hours: M-F 9am-5pm Sat 9am-Noon

Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site
Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, 402 S. Lincoln Highway Road, Lerna, IL 62440

Come visit with your friends and enjoy a delicious meal in a fun restaurant!

The North Place
28 W. Cumberland St., Martinsville, IL 62442 217-810-1079 | thenorthplacemartinsville.com
**Coles County Events**

- **May 7** — May Merriment, 6-10 p.m., Mattoon Area Family YMCA, 221 N. 16th St., Mattoon.
- **May 14** — SBLCH Race for All Paces, O’Brien Stadium, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston
- **May 19-21** — IHSA Girls State Track & Field Meet – Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.
- **May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18** — C.A.R.E. Club meets from 4-6 p.m. every third Thursday of month at Douglas-Hart Nature Center, 2204 Dewitt Ave., Mattoon.
- **May 26** — “What will ‘Ewe’ Make Today” begins at 11 a.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, 402 S. Lincoln Highway Rd., Lerna. 217-345-1845
- **May 26-28** — IHSA Boys State Track & Field Meet – Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

**Every Saturday May 28 through Sept. 24** — 18th Street Farmer’s Market, parking lot of Coles County Department of Human Services (Health Department) at 825th 8th St., Charleston, every Saturday from 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Call 217-345-8018. www.charlestonchamber.com

- **June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 and July 7, 14** — Community Band Concert begins at 7:30 p.m., Charleston. 217-345-6897. Bring a lawn chair and meal.
- **June 11** — 2nd Annual Outdoor Quilt Show, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Lytle Park, 500 32nd St., Mattoon. Hosted by Mattoon Arts Council.
- **June 18-19** — Civil War Weekend at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, 402 S. Lincoln Highway Rd., Lerna. 217-345-1845
- **July 3-4** — Red, White & Blue Days, Morton Park, Charleston. 217-232-1485
- **July 4** — Red, White & Blue Days 4th of July parade begins at 1 p.m., Charleston.
- **July 4** — Mattoon - 4th of July parade 9 a.m. Begins at 21st Street and Western Ave., Mattoon.
- **July 4** — Fireworks at the Coles County Memorial Airport, Mattoon.
- **July 19-23** — Mattoon Bagelfest 2022, guest entertainment includes Jason Gray at 7:15 p.m., Thursday, July 21; LOCASH concert at 7:15 p.m. Friday, July 22; and Rocket Man - an Elton John Tribute- 7:15 p.m. Saturday, July 23 at Peterson Park, Mattoon. Food, parade, crafts, pageant, kids games and more.
- **July 19-23** — Mattoon Pride Softball Bagelfest Tourney
- **July 23** — Run for the Bagel begins at 6:30 a.m. at KC Summers in Mattoon. Hosted by Mattoon Area YMCA. For more information, contact Sarah Dowell at (217) 234-9494 or sdowell@mattoonymca.org
- **July 31-Aug. 7** — Coles County Fair, Charleston. colescountyfair.com
- **August 14** — Annual Bluegrass Jam, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, 402 S. Lincoln Highway Rd., Lerna. 217-345-1845
- **August 20** — Coles County Memorial Airport Air Show at Coles County Airport, Mattoon. Bring your family and friends to the Airport for a day of non-stop fun. Gates open at 11 a.m. and the show starts at noon. Witness breathtaking stunts performed by world class, professional pilots, static displays, food vendors and much more. No admission or parking fees! For more info and updates, follow them on Facebook.

**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, IL.

**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.

Musicians gathered at the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Lerna in 2015 for the 40th annual Bluegrass Jam.
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August 20th Airshow 2022

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Gail Casey oversees the preparation of two chickens roasting in a reflector oven in 2015 in the Five Mile House at 4810 Illinois Hwy 130, Charleston. Submitted file photo.

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- Located right off I-57 in Mattoon

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Douglas-Hart Nature Center & Foundation
2204 DeWitt Avenue East, Mattoon, IL | 217-235-4644
www.dhnature.org

Spring/Summer 2022 • A Day Away | 17
Make memories at a local farm

By ILLINOISouth Tourism

It has now been 20 years since the term “agritourism” was coined, and it has grown in popularity ever since. If you have ever been to a local petting zoo, farmers market or pick-your-own orchard, that is considered agritourism. The great news is that ILLINOISouth is FULL of farms and agritourism adventure.

Each year really starts out in April with “Baby Bonanza” at Rainbow Ranch Petting Zoo in Washington County. This is your shot to bottle feed baby cows, goats and sheep.

From children to adults, everyone has a blast with it.

“I have been to other petting zoos, and they don’t feel like this, this feels like home,” explains Megan Gibson, who visited in 2020. “You are visiting the animals in their home, lots of different animals. I had just as much fun as my 3-year-old.”

For a one-of-a-kind trip to a dairy farm, you will definitely want to visit Marcoot Jersey Creamery in Greenville. Marcoot is a seventh-generation family-owned dairy farm that offers self-guided tours. If you catch them at the right time, you can watch the process of how different cheeses are made, then head out to the barn and pet some calves and top it all off with a trip to...
their shop to buy a wide array of their amazing products.

Marcoot also does group tours for parties of 10 or more.

Once the calendar flips to May, many farms that specialize in produce really start to draw the crowds who want to pick their own fruits and vegetables.

Eckert’s Country Store and Farms in Belleville is one of

Right, the Vandalia Farmers Market operates on the first Saturday of each month. Submitted photo.

Below, you can pick your own peaches at Bigard’s Strawberry Patch and Peach Orchard in Newton. Submitted photo.
the first to get busy in May, as folks come out to roam the strawberry fields, the first of the fruits in season for the year. From that point on, Eckert’s stays busy throughout the year offering everything from a sunflower trail in the summer to apple and pumpkin picking in the fall, and cut-your-own Christmas trees around the holidays.

There are several other farms that pride themselves on produce as well. Bigard’s Strawberry Patch and Peach Orchard in Jasper County is home to another great pick-your-own strawberry patch (and some of their peaches are as big as your head). Stoecklin’s Orchard in Bond County specializes in blueberries, and they also have become EXTREMELY popular for their Hummingbird Festival. Dozens of folks flock to this event each year to witness the banding of hummingbirds – something you don’t see every day.

If prepared baked goods and apple cider is more your speed, then Schwartz Orchard in Centralia is the spot to check out. Their apple cider donuts and different fruit cobblers are worth the drive alone but add in their state and national award-winning cider, and you’ll understand why this place is so popular.

There is another farm in Belleville that allows folks to pick everything from peaches and apples to pumpkins. Braeutigam Orchards has been a family-run farm since 1831, and it has become a tradition for many folks to visit each year.

“If Braeutigam Orchards is a family tradition for us,” says Michelle Clark. “We look forward to coming to the farm and seeing the animals and the kids love playing in the playground area. They never disappoint with quality and selection along with great prices per pound compared to other orchards.

“Thank you to the entire Braeutigam family and employees for bringing us a wonderful place to make fall memories,” Clark adds.

Farmers markets are another popular form of agritourism, and Illinois has the THIRD most farmers markets of any state in the country. There are nearly 20 markets in our region alone, all of which offer their own unique offerings.

There are several markets that normally operate the length of the summer, from the Wabash County Farmers Market in Mt. Carmel to the Sainte Marie Farmers Market in Jasper County. Other markets such as the Vandalia Farmers Market operate on the first Saturday of each month (the Old State Capitol provides an awesome backdrop for the Vandalia market as well).

Many of these events, like Cross Street Market in Robinson and Vine Street Market in O’Fallon, have boomed in popularity because they offer more than just food. There are pottery vendors and wineries that participate as well.

For more information on agritourism opportunities in our region, visit ILLINOISouth.org

You can pick your own peaches at Eckert’s Country Store and Farm in Belleville. Photo by @jaredtheandre
The Effingham Farmers Market on the old courthouse square opens May 28 and runs through October. It operates Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. We are very excited to see everyone!

The application process is just beginning for our 2022 season, but we have approximately 70 vendors give or take on any Saturday. We offer family entertainment such as music, magic shows, ag in the classroom and reading with the library in the gazebo and encourage the community to reach out about booking their own Saturday to share their talent with the market.

We also offer local businesses the opportunity to book a date to showcase their businesses at a vendor table for a small fee. Some items you can find at the market are fresh meat and produce, baked goods, gluten-free items, plants of many varieties, succulents, fresh blooming flowers, jewelry, wood-crafted items, dog and cat treats and many locally made arts and crafts.

If you are interested in joining us at the local Effingham Farmers Market, please message us on our Facebook page, Instagram or email us at EffinghamFarmersMarket@gmail.com

Shop local, support small businesses.

Dianna Miller is president of the Effingham Farmers Market.

Community members and visitors explore the stalls at the Effingham Farmers Market in 2021. Effingham Daily News file photo.
CRAWFORD COUNTY EVENTS
May 28 — Memorial Day Weekend. Palestine Lions Club Fish Fry, Car Club Cruise-In & Flea Market at Leaverton Park, 8:00 a.m. ‘til the fish runs out. Fish/sides/hotdogs/desserts served to help the Lions with their many projects. Crawford County Collectibles Car Club will provide the opportunity to enjoy automobiles from the past and present. Browse the selection of treasures from various vendors. Contact: Lion Otis Tuttle 618-562-3881
June - September (Every Saturday) Cross Street Market. Local vendors come to South Cross Street in Robinson to sell their goods. Food stands are also available.
June 11 — Flat Rock Pancake Day. Visit the Village of Flat Rock for delicious pancakes and sausage!
June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23 — Summer Concerts at Cross Street Station. Bring your lawn chair and listen to local musicians entertain you for the evening! Several food trucks will also be there each weekend. Visit www.cityofrobinson.com for a list of entertainment.
June 25 — Summer Hootenanny. Visit the Village of Oblong for an old fashioned “Hootenanny”!

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

July 23-30 — Crawford County Fair. Located at the Oblong Fair Grounds. 4-H exhibits, Crawford County Queen pageant, carnival rides, food booths, truck and tractor pull, and a demolition derby highlight the week-long event ending with a large 4-H auction. Contact: www.crawfordfair.com for more info.

August 5-6 — Robinson City Wide Garage Sales. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 618-546-1557 for a list of those participating in these town wide annual event.

August 5-6 — Hutsonville River Fest. Car Show, entertainment, vendors, parade and food, in downtown Hutsonville. Visit facebook.com/groups/Hutsonville.River.Fest/

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

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

May 28 — Memorial Day Weekend
Palestine Lions Club Fish Fry, Car Club Cruise-In & Flea Market
Leaverton Park — 8:00 a.m. ‘til the fish runs out
Fish/sides/hotdogs/desserts served to help the Lions with their many projects. Crawford County Collectibles Car Club will provide the opportunity to enjoy automobiles from the past and present. Browse the selection of treasures from various vendors. Contact: Lion Otis Tuttle 618-562-3881

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

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

June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23
Summer Concerts at Cross Street Station
Bring your lawn chair and listen to local musicians entertain you for the evening! Several food trucks will also be there each weekend. Visit www.cityofrobinson.com for a list of entertainment.

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

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

August 12-14 — Oblong Antique Tractor & Engine Show. This annual event draws visitors from all over to view actual working antique tractors and engines. Located at the fairgrounds in Oblong.

August 13 — Flat Rock Homecoming. Visit the Village of Flat Rock for a weekend full of activities including food, vendors, and a parade.

Crawford County Attractions

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 historic events throughout the year.

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
CUMBERLAND COUNTY EVENTS

April 30 — Neoga Spring City Wide Rummage Sales.

June 4, July 2 and August 6 — Hootenanny, 7-10 p.m., the first Saturday of every month, Greenup Municipal Building. A night of free dancing and great Country & Western and Bluegrass music. Open to the public. For more information call 217-923-3016

Fourth Thursday Every Month — Sew Happy Hearts Quilting Club, 6 p.m., Neoga Municipal Building.

May 19-22 — Toledo Spring Festival in downtown Toledo. Theme is “Fun & Fitness Through the Years.” Features parade, Pronto Pup Stand, craft vendors, pageants & music during festival. X-Krush performs from 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday, May 21, no cover. Carnival rides by Luehrs’ Ideal Rides Portable Amusement Park for kids of all ages and concessions. Trivia Night Friday, May 20; Auto, Tractor & Motorcycle Show Sunday, May 22 and more. For more information call 217-849-2000

May 26-28 — Neoga Days, “Where Dreams Come True” at Jennings Park, Neoga. Includes pageant, parade, live entertainment, kiddie tractor pull, tractor drive, carnival, Bingo and other competitions, Jennings Park, Neoga. For more information, visit neoga.org

May 28 — Spring Demolition Derby, Cumberland County Fairgrounds, Greenup. Inspections begin at 1 p.m.; Bomber Race starts at 5:30 p.m. and Derby at 6 p.m. To participate visit: thecumberlandcounty-fair.com

May 30 — Friends of Lake Mattoon Wreath Drop at Lake Mattoon.

June 24 & 25 — Quilt Show at the Neoga Community Center at 641 W. 6th Street in Neoga, IL.

June 25 — Toledo Freedom Days. This fantastic event will include: Baseball & Softball Tournament, Toledo Volunteer Famous Pronto Pups, City Wide Yard Sales and Cumberland County Veterans Monument

August 13-20 — Cumberland County Fair, Cumberland County Fairgrounds. Activities include a Junior & Miss Queen Pageant, thoroughbred races, music and live entertainment, tractor pull and demolition derby; horse races and more. For more information contact Stacey Holsapple at 217-923-1507

August 27 — Fall City Wide Rummage Sales, Neoga.

Sept. 23-24 — Greenup Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival, downtown Greenup. Parade, arts & crafts, kids games, food vendors, car show.

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 www.villageof-greenup.com for more information.

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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. to 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 cracking fireplace. Perched on a bluff overlooking panoramic views of the hillside vineyard and the Embarras River Valley, the boutique winery was built using the family’s grandfather’s circa 1900 pin-beamed barn.

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

Cumberland County Courthouse
Visit the completely restored Cumberland County Courthouse located on the square in Toledo, IL. Built in 1887-88, the building is Cumberland County’s second courthouse. The first courthouse, located at the same site as the current one, was built in 1856 and burned in 1885. The second courthouse was designed by architects S. S. Goehring and L.L. Pierson. The building’s design features a central clock tower, arched entrances on the east and west sides, column-supported balustrade 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.
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**DeWitt County Events**

**May 19-22** — May Days in Clinton, IL. May 19, 20 and 21 from 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. and May 22 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. featuring Conner Family Amusements, Inc.

**DeWitt County Attractions**

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

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

**Clinton Lake State Recreation Area**

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

**Ultimate Play Space**

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

**Weldon Springs State Park**

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

**Douglas County Events**

**April 29-30** — Arthur Quilt Show at the Otto Center in Arthur IL

**May 7** — Cinco De Mayo Celebration under the Downtown Pavilion in Arcola, IL starting at Noon

**May 14** — Sheep to Clothing to Quilts from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Illinois Amish Heritage Center. Features activities showing how cloth was hand-made in the 19th century and then turned into clothing and quilts. Sheep shearing demonstrations, cleaning and dyeing the wool, and then spinning and weaving it into cloth along with quilting demonstrations. Visitors will be invited to try their hand at many of the activities being demonstrated. Early Amish clothing, quilts, coverlets, and other hand-woven fabrics will be on display in the Schrock House during the event including a blue and white coverlet that was woven by the Diener family before they came to America. Also on display will be the 1870s-style suit worn by Daniel Schrock at the time of his death in 1892, and the 1840’s era Campbell family quilt, hand-made entirely from locally produced fabric, dyed from plants grown in the area, and then spun, woven, and assembled into a quilt. Other activities will include chair caning and period crafts, rope-making, activities, and games for the kids, pony rides, and the ever popular petting zoo. A pancake and liverwurst breakfast will be served, and food concessions will be available throughout the day.

**May 21** — Third Saturday Market Bazaar at the Otto Center in Arthur, IL. Antiques, crafts, furniture and so much more! 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**June 10-11** — Raggedy Ann and Andy Rally in Arcola, IL

**June 18** — Third Saturday Market Bazaar at the Otto Center in Arthur, IL. Antiques, crafts, furniture and so much more! 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**June 25** — Arthur IL Freedom Celebration & Fireworks. One of central Illinois largest fireworks displays! Parade in the afternoon, and then food, live music in the afternoon and huge fireworks displays about 9 p.m. Be sure to keep an eye on the official Facebook page at facebook.com/ArthurFireworks for updates and weather related news.
An adventure for kids and adults alike

BY ILLINOISOOUTH TOURISM

Here are some ideas for a fun family field trip – a 2-day adventure across southern Illinois.

DAY 1

Start off the trip with a HUGE experience. Located right off of Interstate 70 lies Casey, also known as “Big Things in a Small Town.”

Here you can park the car and go on a scavenger hunt for over two-dozen BIG things scattered throughout town. Eleven of these items are Guinness World Record holders, including the World’s Largest Teeter-Totter and the World’s Largest Mailbox.

From Casey, head south to Robinson and make sure to bring a swimsuit. Robinson’s City Park has an AWESOME pool and splash pad area, complete with a pirate ship for the kiddos to play on.

Once you are dried off, head to the square in Robinson for a sweet treat and some history. Robinson is the birthplace of the Heath Bar, and the Heath Museum and Confectionery is the best place to learn about this chocolate-covered toffee bar – while munching on a fresh piece.

Once nightfall is near, head west to Jasper County – home to one of the few remaining drive-in movie theaters left in the southern portion of Illinois. Folks drive from counties around to watch a flick at the iconic Drive N’ Theatre, located not far outside of Newton.

Once the movie has finished, head south to Olney for a great night’s sleep.

DAY 2

Begin the day with a great cup of coffee and some breakfast from an Olney staple, Ophelia’s Cup. Take your food out to Miller Grove Park to dine al fresco, while watching the beloved White Squirrels of Olney scamper around.

Hit the road for a short drive west to Flora, where you will find the Little Toot Railroad, located at Charley Brown Park. If there are any train lovers in your family, they are definitely going to have fun riding this 1/4 scale railroad around the park.

After the locomotive has come to a stop, head southeast to Wabash County. Just south of Mt.

FAMILY FUN ROAD TRIP

A visitor to Casey points to a giant pitchfork, one of two dozen BIG things scattered throughout town. Photo by Riley Madison @adventuresofrileymadison

A White Squirrel at Miller Grove in Olney. Photo by @llmarshallart
Carmel you will find Beall Woods State Park, a great place for families to take a hike. Beall Woods features a handful of easy and moderate trails, and this park has one of the last remaining tracts of virgin timber east of the Mississippi River. Trees at Beall Woods State Park can be as tall as 12 stories, and 3 feet in diameter.

Wrap up the day with a quick drive south to Westwood Recreation in Grayville. They have plenty of camping opportunities, including cabins to rent.

This western-themed venue features SO many things the family will love. Westwood has plenty of playground equipment, 27 holes of mini-golf and an electronic shooting range. Not to mention, they have great food at the Saloon on site.

Visit ILLINOISouth.org/Road-Trip-Itineraries for more travel ideas.

Customers enjoy a treat at the Heath Museum and Confectionery in Robinson, the birthplace of the Heath Bar. Photo by Heath Museum and Confectionery.

Visitors enjoy the Pelican Cove Splash Pad in Robinson’s City Park. Submitted photo.

Westwood Recreation in Grayville has a 27-hole mini-golf course. Photo by Leah DiMaggio @ljdimaggio

A woman looks out upon Casey from inside a giant mailbox. Photo by Staci Landis @stacilandis
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will be ground into livestock feed powered by horses. A grist mill will be in operation making corn meal and brooms will be made using broom corn grown on the show grounds. Wood and lumber demonstrations are a big attraction. This year, you will see sawmilling and buzz sawing powered by gas and steam power. Field demonstrations will feature horse plowing, mowing, raking, and loading of loose straw featuring a mechanical hay loader pulled by horses. There will be displays of antique farm machinery, tractors, early “hit and miss” gasoline engines, and miniature steam powered displays. Visitors will see blacksmithing demonstrations, horse shoeing, equipment powered by horse treadmills, broom and rope making. There will be buggy rides and a “train” will transport show goers around the grounds. Children’s activities will include a petting zoo, pony rides, and games. Also, returning this year is the popular “quarters in the strawstack.” Tours of the 1865 Moses Yoder home; 1882 Daniel Schrock home; Yoder Workshop and German School will feature demonstrations and displays of the Amish way of life. A highlight each day will be the Parade of Power featuring horses and mechanical powered equipment with commentary provided to describe the items as they pass by. Delicious food will be served in our beautiful pavilion. We will have full meals and sandwiches, plus a pancake, sausage, and liverwurst breakfast served on Saturday. You can also enjoy homemade ice cream, kettle corn, lemonade shake ups, crafts, and much more. All funds are used for the continued growth of the Illinois Amish Heritage Center Campus. Porta potties on site. Handicapped accessible. Golf carts are welcome.

August 13 — Annual Our Town Arcola under the Downtown Pavilion in Arcola, IL starting at 5 p.m.


September 9-11 — 51st Arcola Broomcorn Festival in Arcola, IL

Douglas County Attractions

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

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

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 2010, the Center was moved to Rockome Gardens and renamed the Illinois Amish Heritage Center. 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 donation is required for entry to the museum.

EDGAR COUNTY EVENTS

April 30 — Murder Mystery Dinner with theme “The Beverly Kill-Billies” at Castle Finn Winery at 1288 N. 1200th Street in rural Marshall, IL. Cost is $45 per person and includes the three-course meal and show. Alcohol is separate price. Call Sonya at 217-712-0253.

Every Saturday starting June 11 — Outlaw Saloon and Grill will be open at Southfork Homestead Farms at 3000 N. 1200th Street in rural Paris, IL. Only the General store and Grill will be open. We will have our own farm raised beef smash burgers. Homemade ice cream. Old fashioned root beer floats. Homemade Buttermilk donuts all in a unique outdoor eating experience with an old west theme and soooo much more. The fall farm activities will remain closed until September.

July 9 — Kansas City BBQ Society Competition (5th Annual Harvest on Fire at the Winery BBQ Competition) & People’s Choice (you pay extra to sample BBQ pork from a few of the competitors) all in conjunction with Sonya’s 40th birthday at Castle Finn Winery!!! Cost is $10 in advance and $15 at the gate the day of. For more information call Sonya at 217-712-0253. Castle Finn Winery is located at 1288 N. 1200th Street in rural Marshall, IL.

July 23-30 — Edgar County Fair featuring Walker Hayes with Cooper Alan on Friday, July 29 with doors opening at 6 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m. Get more information on the event and the fair at www.edgarcountyfair.com

Edgar County Attractions

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.

Southfork Homestead
Located at 3000 N. 1200th St., Paris. Features general store, food, educational interaction, a pumpkin patch, a bouncy pillow, a corn maze, hay rides and much more.
Twin Lakes Park
The city’s oldest and principal recreation center is Twin Lakes Park, the development of which began back in 1895, when the dam impounding Paris’ first reservoir was completed. The facilities of Twin Lakes Park include: a bathing beach, bathhouse and shelter, large shelter house, miniature golf course, picnic areas with plenty of picnic tables and benches, boating rentals and tour boats, commercial amusement rides, professional league baseball diamond, lighted horseshoe courts and the West Lake Boys and Girls Scout Camp.

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

EFFINGHAM COUNTY EVENTS
April 29 — 7 p.m., Trace Adkins at the Effingham Performance Center. A Nashville icon for more than two decades, Trace Adkins has made his mark on the country music industry with 11 million albums sold, time-honored hits, numerous awards, and memorable live performances. His hit songs include “You’re Gonna Miss This,” “Honky Tonk Badonkadonk,” “Every Light in the House is On,” and “Ladies Love Country Boys.” The EPC’s lobby opens at 6 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m.

April 30 — Hit the Pavement 4 Paws 5k TREC trail route, Outer Belt West, Exit 160, Effingham IL.

May 14 — 7 p.m., Scott Wattles & The Blue Suede Crew at the Effingham Performance Center. Scott Wattles and the Blue Suede Crew will perform Elvis hits and Gospel music at their annual spring show. The Blue Suede Crew is embraced by audiences young and old, who sing along with every word. The EPC’s lobby opens at 6 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m.

May 15 — 7 p.m., George Thorogood & The Destroyers at the Effingham Performance Center. Since 1976, George Thorogood & The Destroyers have sold over 15 million albums, played more than 8,000
ferocious live shows, and built a catalog of classic hits that includes “Get A Haircut,” “I Drink Alone,” “One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer,” “Move It On Over”. Their Definitive badass anthem “Bad To The Bone” deemed the most popular song for bikers by Spotify, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Now one of the most iconic bands in rock & roll history (Rapid City Journal) celebrates it all with their Good To Be Bad Tour: 45 Years Of Rock. The EPC’s lobby opens at 6 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m.

Fridays June through September — Food Trucks on the square in downtown Effingham.

June 11 — Brush Pull Tractor Pull at Beecher City Community Park in Beecher City, IL.

June 16-19 — Moccasin Creek Festival at Larson’s Landing at 8724 E. Marine Rd., Effingham. Moccasin Creek Festival is back and an official lineup has been announced! From headliners to small-stage acts, talent abound... For more details, including a full lineup and a link to purchase your weekend pass go to www.moccasinckefestival.com

June 17-18 — VW Funfest at Mid America Motorworks at 2900 North 3rd, Effingham IL. VW Funfest: Fully Loaded will celebrate the Volkswagen hobby with two fun-filled days featuring expert seminars, special VW displays, awards, giveaways and more! This year is not to be missed as we celebrate Herbie’s 53rd Birthday! Don’t miss out on an unforgettable weekend surrounded by Volkswagen enthusiasts from across the country and around the globe! The event includes a Friday Night Road Tour, Exhaust Wars & Audio Sound Off, Entertainment, Beer Stein Hold Competition, Food Court, Kids Village featuring Bounce Houses, Car Painting, Tie Dye Making, Hot Wheels and tons more!

July 3-4 — 4th of July Celebration at the park in Dieterich IL. Live music by Feudin’ Hillbillies on July 3 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. with beer garden and food trucks opening at 5 p.m. Parade at 11 a.m. on July 4 with food trucks, porkburger stand, beer garden, kids games and bounce houses at the park and concluding with fireworks at 9:15 p.m.

July 15-16 — Effingham Artisan Fair at Tuscan Hills Winery in Effingham. This event will be on Friday July 15 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday, July 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy shopping many artist booths featuring Marine Rd., Effingham. Moccasin Creek Festival is back and an official Zoo on August 13. Worship Service – Farm Toy Show – Craft Show & Flea Market – Baling & Corn Shredding – Tractor Games – Braggin’ Rights Tractor Pull & Flea Market – Parts Vendors – Car Show and Antique Tractor Pull on August 14. effinghamburgelaye.com for more information.

July 30-August 6 — Effingham County Fair at the Fairgrounds in Altamont, IL. Featuring Scotty McCreery on August 5th with Austin Edwards – Gate opens 6 p.m. with Show at 7 p.m. Visit effinghamcountysquare.com for more information and to buy tickets. Daily Events include Lucas Oil Pro Pulling League Tractor Pull on July 30 at 6:30 p.m. and August 3 at 7:00 p.m., Harness Racing July 31 through August 4 at 1 p.m., LTPA Tractor – Trucker – Garden Tractor – Local Semi Pull on August 1 at 7:00 p.m., Harness Racing followed by Running Races on August 5 starting at Noon, Whippoonwool Rodeo Company Rodeo August 4 at 7:30 p.m., Demolition Derby August 6 evening.

August 11-14 — 41st Annual Mill Road Thresherman Show at the Effingham County Fairgrounds in Altamont, IL. Featuring Scotty McCreery on August 5th with Austin Edwards – Gate opens 6 p.m. with Show at 7 p.m. Visit effinghamcountysquare.com for more information and to buy tickets. Daily Events include Lucas Oil Pro Pulling League Tractor Pull on July 30 at 6:30 p.m. and August 3 at 7:00 p.m., Harness Racing July 31 through August 4 at 1 p.m., LTPA Tractor – Trucker – Garden Tractor – Local Semi Pull on August 1 at 7:00 p.m., Harness Racing followed by Running Races on August 5 starting at Noon, Whippoonwool Rodeo Company Rodeo August 4 at 7:30 p.m., Demolition Derby August 6 evening.

August 11 — Cruise Night in downtown Effingham. Food and lots of vintage vehicles cruising downtown.

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

September 23 — 8 p.m., Clay Walker at the Effingham Performance Center. Clay Walker is a true fan favorite with a devoted legion of followers from across the country. Clay has sold over 11 million albums, has had 11 hit singles, four RIAA Platinum and two Gold certified albums under his belt. Clay has just released his 12th studio album called “Live The Cowboy.”

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. Trains open to foot traffic only from dawn to dusk daily. The visitor center is open Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and from noon to 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 www.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 www.effingham-countymuseum.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 www.theepc.org or call the theatre at 217-540-2788.

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

MY Garage Museum & Retail Store
Located on the northeast side of Effingham, this is a one-of-a-kind museum that houses vintage Corvettes and thousands of pieces of Corvette history and memorabilia. The museum is owned by Mid-America Motorworks and is headed by Corvette enthusiast Mike Yager, owner of Mid-America. The museum is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. For more information, visit www.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 artifacts, 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 through November. Hours are 12:30-4 p.m. Special tours can be arranged by calling 217-857-6404 ext 236. Stop by to enjoy the renovations to the entrance, lobby, first floor and elevator access, as well as the new acquisitions on display.

Wright Mansion
Located at the corner of West Jackson Ave. at North Main St. in Altamont. Dr. C. M. Wright built this stately Renaissance revival home in 1889. It was subsequently owned by his son, also a doctor, and his grandson, an attorney. The lineage ended with the third Mr. Wright, who donated his home as a museum. Many of the original furnishings, including carpets, remain in the 18 rooms on the tour. The doctor’s surgery, the nursery and the library are particularly memorable. Open
Poss Music Works NFP will present the eighth annual Moccasin Creek Festival June 16-19, 2022 at the Stage at Lake Sara. The festival will feature 30 musical acts over 4 days and nights plus craft vendors, food vendors and a full bar. Tickets and information about the festival can be found at www.moccasincreekfestival.com.

This year’s Moccasin Creek Festival festival celebrates the return of some past favorites like the John Fullbright Band, the Robbie Fulks Band, The Accidentals, The Burney Sisters and the Mighty Pines, fresh faces like Carsie Blanton, Trout Fishing in America, One Way Traffic and Michael Fracasso, and perennial standouts Chicago Farmer, Taylor Steele and the Love Preachers, Charlie Roth, Greg Klyma and Bill Poss.

Bill Poss, executor director of Poss Music Works NFP, says they are looking forward to working with the new owners of the property. “The new owners have been very accommodating and we are looking forward to continuing the festivals and seeing the improvements the new owners have talked about.” He also says the festival space is better than ever. “Some of the things that people love about the festivals we present are things we never boast about, but they make the Moccasin Creek Festival and Summer Sundown Music Festival the warmest and most laid back festivals in the Midwest. Free parking a hundred yards from the festival, clean flush toilets, great food vendors, fair pricing at the bar, a sweet little free beach, a campground 200 yards away. When people come to the festival, they can’t believe the ease and comfort they experience. Now they have built playgrounds and a disc golf course by the beach. It’s amazing.”

John Fullbright Band headlines on Saturday night and has become a top favorite. John Fullbright was a founding member of the Turnpike Troubadours and has been making records and touring since he was 19. He’s currently making his first solo record since 2014 which is expected out in October.

Trout Fishing in America has been touring festivals in the US and Europe since the Eighties. They became one of the biggest children’s music acts in the Nineties and will be performing both a headlining set on Friday night and a kids show on Saturday at noon.

Carsie Blanton is a young rising star from New Orleans who brings great songs and music as well as a truckload of sass. Her song “Fishing With John Prine” went viral on YouTube after his death from CV19 in 2020.

The youngest members of the 2022 lineup are a sensational trio of siblings from Columbia, MO called the Burney Sisters. They are also playing two shows this year, on the main stage Friday and again on the Shady Stage Sunday afternoon.

Learn more about the lineup, at the website: www.moccasincreekfestival.com.

For sponsorship inquiries, please contact Bill Poss at possmusicworks@gmail.com.
Riley Museum in Greenfield, Indiana, historic Uniontown in Pennsylvania, and the National Road Interpretive Center in Vandalia, Illinois, are some of the many attractions on the “Road that Built The Nation,” such as the St. Louis and Vandalia Statehouse. The yard sale provides travelers with the opportunity to explore the first federally funded road in U.S. history, which stretches from Baltimore to Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. The National Road, in many places known as Route US 40, was built between 1811 and 1834 to reach the western settlements. It was also the first federally funded highway. It began in Cumberland, Maryland, 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 survive, as the first, second, and third capital 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 Attractions

Vandalia State House

The Vandalia State House, built in 1836, is the fourth capital building of the U.S. state of Illinois. It is also the oldest capital building in Illinois to survive, as the first, second, and third capital 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 am to 4:00 pm.

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

Jasper County Events

May 6 — Opening Day at Drive N Theatre. Drive N Theatre is open every Friday and Saturday. 16045 E, IL-33, Newton, IL 62448. See our Facebook page for movie listings.
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Explore dozens of historical gems

By ILLINOISOUTH Tourism

There is so much rich history throughout ILLINOISOUTH it’s kind of insane. We have ties to famous politicians as well as actors and musicians. There are forts, depots and museums galore ready to tell you the tales of each community and their storied past.

One of the most popular historical draws is of course the 16th President of our great nation. There are several indicators of Honest Abe scattered throughout ILLINOISOUTH.

One such community is Vandalia, where Abe is ever-present. The Vandalia State House is where Lincoln got his start in politics, serving in the House of Representatives in the 1830s. Visitors are offered guided tours of the State House, or can view the historically furnished rooms on their own.

Right across the street from the State House there is an amazing life-sized statue of Abe at Lincoln Park, so visitors can sit next to him on the bench and snap a few photos.

Charleston is another place where folks go looking for Lincoln, and for good reason. The Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site isn’t far south of Charleston and features an indoor Visitors Center as well as pieces of history located outdoors.

Lincoln visited this area several times during the 1840s when his father, Thomas, and Sarah Bush Lincoln lived on this property. An accurate reproduction of the Lincolns’ two-room cabin is on the site, and a working, living history farm has been developed around the cabin as well.

Visitor Kathy Hertz stopped to check out the Lincoln Log Cabin on her way back home to Indiana, and she admits it was better than she expected.

“Walking the grounds in the cool air with no crowds was heavenly,” Hertz said. “At the gift shop, I bought a little sheep made from the wool of the sheep on the grounds. So cute, and a very nice and inexpensive souvenir.”

Charleston is also home to the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum, which is also a great stop for Lincoln history.

History buffs can find trac-es of Abe in White County, too. The Ratcliff Inn in Carmi is a stagecoach inn built in 1828, which has a room dedicated to Honest Abe, who stayed at the inn in 1840.

Another influential past politician has deep roots in Marion County. Salem native William Jennings Bryan was a dominant force in the Democratic party in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He was a Presidential candidate three
times and was eventually named Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson.

There is a large Bryan statue in Salem with a park that is beautifully maintained, and the newly opened Salem Historical Museum has a collection based solely around Bryan. A stop in Salem will certainly pique the interest of political historians.

From famous politicians to famous actors and musicians, ILLINOISouth is home to several different talented folks, including Burl Ives. Many of you may remember Ives as an actor in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," but the Jasper County native was also a musician and an author. If you make a trip to Newton, you can find a whole collection on Ives at the Jasper County Museum inside the library.

Another famous person from our area is well-known for the popular phrase ‘Hi-Yo Silver Away!’ We are talking about The Lone Ranger of course, and Mt. Carmel native Brace Beemer was the radio voice of the Lone Ranger for 13 years, spanning from 1941-1954.

The Wabash County Museum in Mt. Carmel has a Lone Ranger exhibit featuring over 1,500 artifacts that are rotated out so more of the collection can be shown.

For those who have an interest in early 1800s history, there is a cluster of cabins in rural Crawford County that predate the Civil War era. The Hutson Cabins can be found in Hutsonville, and feature a church, barn, home, museum, inn and weaver’s cabin.

The Hutson Memorial Village honors the area’s first settlers and is open to visitors every Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., every June through October. An equally impressive piece of history can be found in Clinton County, and the story behind it is phenomenal.

Across the street from the State House in Vandalia is a life-sized statue of Abe at Lincoln Park. Submitted photo.

Eversgerd’s Civil War Fort outside of Germantown is an exact replica of a Civil War fort built by Bob Eversgerd, who started the project in 1984 and constructed everything with his own hands. That fact alone makes the Fort a must visit. It features a jail, a one-room home, a livery, log cabins, and an impressive 10-foot wall around the perimeter of the property.

There is undoubtedly quite a bit of railroad history throughout ILLINOISouth, and there are a couple of awesome depots turned into museums that tell some great railway stories of the past.

In Clay County, the Flora Depot was built by the B&O Railroad in 1917.
and was a travel hub for years. It’s now used as a museum, housing different artifacts from Flora’s past, and it’s also home to a phenomenal 23-foot-long model train display that depicts the community of Flora.

An hour northeast of Flora is another awesome depot museum in Cumberland County. The Historic Greenup Depot served four different railroad lines in its heyday and currently features the original waiting room and ticket counter.

There is also an amazing model railroad running throughout the building. This depot is also one of very few that were constructed with second-story living quarters, which are on display as well.

“This is a hidden gem if you are in the Greenup area,” admits traveler Robyn Ebert. “If you love trains, history, covered bridges, Americana and really cool railroad memorabilia, stop in and support this gem.”

There are a few communities that have a cluster of museums that you can take a day to enjoy.

Okawville is home to the Heritage House Museum, a collection of three museums wrapped into one experience. Here you can experience Dr. Poos Home & Medical Museum, and the Frank Schlosser home, which is a turn-of-the-century house with a barn, harness shop and commercial laundry. The Joseph Schlosser home is also part of the experience.

Greenville boasts several awesome museums, including the DeMoulin Museum, which is one of the quirkiest museums you have ever seen, filled with a ton of FUN lodge-initiation devices used in the early 1900s. We’re talking everything from bucking goats to spanking machines!

The American Farm Heritage Museum is full of agriculture-themed history as well as a large fort to explore. This museum is also home to the American Heritage Railroad – a scaled down version of a train that families love to ride around the property.

Arguably one of the largest museums in ILLINOISouth can be found in Pinckneyville. The Illinois Rural Heritage Museum is laid out on four acres with over 17,000 square feet of exhibit space. This museum does a fantastic job of educating younger generations of how life used to be on farms and in smaller towns. From antique dental equipment to tractors and more, the Illinois Rural Heritage Museum has a TON of items to keep your interest for most of the day.

For a history-based road trip through several counties, the Kaskasia-Cahokia Trail is just the thing for you. The Cahokia Courthouse in St. Clair County was built in 1740 and is known as the oldest courthouse in Illinois, and is the only one remaining from the state’s territorial period.

In Waterloo, the History Museum of Monroe County is home to several different amazing artifacts, including one of the most unique exhibits in the state – the Allscheid Rock Shelter Exhibit. This exhibit showcases things that have been found during digs at a nearby location that date back to hunter-gathers 8,000 years ago.

Maeystown is another intriguing stop along the KC Trail due to its amazing architecture and historical feel. As soon as you cross the one-lane brick bridge into town, it’s like you have been transported back in time. The whole village in its entirety has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For many more ideas on museums and historical places in our territory, visit ILLINOISouth.org/Play/History-and-Culture.
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June 19-25 — The Jasper County Fair is the oldest continuous county fair in the state of Illinois. Along with the traditional carnival, midway, exhibits, animal judging, and great food, the Jasper County Fair in Newton features four days of harness racing and one thoroughbred date. For more information, call 618-783-3901.

June 22 — 7 p.m. Micro wrestling at the MVP Happy Hollar. Visit www.microwrestling.com

July 9 — Cork & Pork Festival at Picquet Park, Ste. Marie; wine tastings, beer garden, pork and live music; for more information, call 618-783-3772.

Jasper County Attractions

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

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

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

Jefferson County Events

May 14 — Family Art Fun-Fairy Garden Accessories 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Have fun creating a variety of accessories for your very own fairy garden! This make-and-take art program is geared toward families of all ages and does not require registration. Admission is FREE and open to the public. Shrode Art Center at Cedarhurst, 2600 Richview Rd, Mount Vernon, IL 62864

May 21 — The Strawberry Festival and Plant Sale will take place 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Jefferson County Historical Village, 1411 N. 27th St., Mt. Vernon

May 28 — Murder Mystery Dinner, “Offing Ferris Bueller.” Bueller gets away with murder! And so does his killer. Upstage productions will be presenting “Offing Ferris Bueller” from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Tickets are $50 plus tax, which includes catered dinner, a free drink, and a great show! Reserve your seats today at 618-629-2302! Last day to purchase is May 23 at noon. Pheasant Hollow Winery, 14931 IL-37, Whittington, IL

May 28 — King City Saddle Club will be having their Memorial Day Weekend Show which will begin at 6 p.m. Located at 13883 Idlewood Rd., Mt. Vernon.

June 3-4 — The Cajun Festival will be held at the Pheasant Willow Winery, 14931 IL St. Rt. 37, and will take place June 3, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. and June 4, 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.

June 4 — Mount Vernon Brewers Festival, noon - 5 p.m. The Mt. Vernon Homebrewers Festival showcases the art of homebrewed beer, produced by local homebrewers! For one great price, you get access to the festival, a commemorative tasting glass and a huge variety of beer samples. Music by Shannon Arview, Kaylene Vineyard and Matt Basler! The festival will also feature great local food available for purchase. Admission tickets will be available in advance for $15 and will be available at the gate for $20. Tickets include a souvenir glass. Designated driver tickets are $5. A limited number of tickets will be sold for this event!

June 24-26 — The King Saddle Club will be having their 9th Annual Danny Griffith Memorial Race and Speed Show. Begins at 6 p.m. and will take place at the King City Saddle Club, Mt. Vernon.
July 4 — Salute to Freedom is always held on July 4 at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Food vendors, entertainment, kid zone, fireworks and more. Free to attend. 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Jefferson County Attractions

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

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

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

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

Macon County Events


May 7 — A Jam to Remember at Sliderz Bar & Grill, 5995 East, U.S. 36 in Decatur IL. A day of music and fun to benefit Alzheimer’s research and patient care. Five bands, food, drinks, silent auction & raffle. 6 p.m.- Midnight. Tickets available at the door or at www.silverlake-band.com

May 27 — The Edwards Twins at the Decatur Civic Center, 1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza in Decatur, IL. Tribute show by The Edwards Twins, Anthony and Eddie, who are premiere celebrity illusionists and impersonators, presenting Cher, Elton, Streisand and Vegas, 7 p.m., 217-422-7300.

May 28 — Canoe Big Creek. Meet at Cannon Park, S. Baltimore Ave in Decatur, IL. All equipment provided, must have at least one adult per canoe, bring a drink, wear clothes that could get wet, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Reservations required by May 27 by calling 217-423-7708.

June 2-5 — Macon County Fair in Decatur, IL. ITPA Truck & Tractor Pull on June 3 at 7 p.m.; Latting Rodeo Productions, Inc Rodeo on June 4 at 7 p.m.; Demolition Derby on June 5 at 6 p.m.

June 4 — Thunderstruck: America’s AC/DC Tribute at Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

June 17 — The Purple Experience: A Tribute to Prince at Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

July 15 — Earth to Mars: A Tribute to Bruno Mars at Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

July 17 — Cheap Trick at Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

August 13 — Pop 2000 Tour at Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL from 7 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

August 20 — Silver Bullet at Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater in Decatur, IL from 7 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

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Marion 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.

Macon County Attractions

Scovill Farm
Located at 800 Tower Square Plaza in Marion IL, this center serves Southern Illinois as an outlet for cultural and artistic opportunities of all types. Marion Cultural and Civic Center is a 1094 seat performing arts pavilion. As a pet friendly environment, we offer a pet walking area. Colonial Golf Course. 2449 Rt. 51 South, Sandoval, IL 62882. For more information call Tony, Liz, or Linda 618-548-4884

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 www.sullivanil.us.

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

Okaw Valley Orchards
U-pick and retail: gift items, pasteurized fresh cider, cider slush, peach preserves, jellies. Playground, picnic area and group tours. For more information, call 217-728-8269.

Moultrie County Events

May 7-8 — Mother’s Day Weekend train rides at the Monticello Railway Museum. Treat mom to a relaxing ride with her family on a vintage train. Mothers ride free with a paid fare. Monticello Railway Museum, 992 Iron Horse Place, Monticello. For more information, call 217-762-9011 or visit mrym.org.

May 18-19; June 22-23; July 20-21; Aug. 17-18 — 401 In Steam. Ride behind our restored 1907-vintage steam locomotive! Monticello Railway Museum, 992 Iron Horse Place, Monticello. For more information, call 217-762-9011 or visit mrym.org.

Majestic Theatre on the Square.

PIATT COUNTY EVENTS

May 10-11 — Sullivan Town Wide Garage sale and outdoor flea market. For more information call 217-762-9011 or visit mrym.org.

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Moultrie County Events

June 2-19 — Mamma Mia, Little Theatre on the Square. Get your tickets now! thelittletheatre.org or call the Box Office 217-728-7375

June 3-4 — Sullivan Town Wide Garage sale and outdoor flea market. For more information email information@sullivanchamber.com

June 23-July 3 — Divas through the Decades, Little Theatre on the Square. Get your tickets now! thelittletheatre.org or call the Box Office 217-728-7375

July 7-17 — Clue on Stage, Little Theatre on the Square. Get your tickets now! thelittletheatre.org or call the Box Office 217-728-7375

July 21-31 — 9 to 5 The Musical, Little Theatre on the Square. Get your tickets now! thelittletheatre.org or call the Box Office 217-728-7375

August 18-28 — Always Patsy Cline, Little Theatre on the Square. Get your tickets now! thelittletheatre.org or call the Box Office 217-728-7375

Majestic Theatre on the Square.

PIATT COUNTY EVENTS

May 7-8 — Mother’s Day Weekend train rides at the Monticello Railway Museum. Treat mom to a relaxing ride with her family on a vintage train. Mothers ride free with a paid fare. Monticello Railway Museum, 992 Iron Horse Place, Monticello. For more information, call 217-762-9011 or visit mrym.org.

May 18-19; June 22-23; July 20-21; Aug. 17-18 — 401 In Steam. Ride behind our restored 1907-vintage steam locomotive! Monticello Railway Museum, 992 Iron Horse Place, Monticello. For more information, call 217-762-9011 or visit mrym.org.

in partnership with Industrial Donut on board one of our restored Illinois Central dining cars. Monticello Railway Museum. Buy tickets online mrm.org

June 18-19 — Father’s Day Weekend, Dads ride free with a paid fare, Monticello Railway Museum, 992 Iron Horse Place, Monticello. For more information, call 217-762-9011 or visit mrm.org.

June 23-26 — Nightly at 7 p.m., 66th Annual Piatt County Annual Trailblazers Rodeo, get ready for family fun at the rodeo; Located at 1903 N. Old Route 47, Monticello. For more information, call 217-493-3633 or visit pctrailblazers.org.

June-August Thursdays — The Monticello Farmers’ Market 3 p.m. - 6 p.m., allowing for more visitors to stop by after work. Please note, while some of our vendors do arrive and set up early, they are not permitted to sell any goods prior to 3 p.m. Enjoy healthy, delicious, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, a variety of meat and pork products, fresh flowers from the garden, yummy baked goods, and more.

**RICHLAND COUNTY EVENTS**

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

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

**July 22-30** — Richland County Fair, Olney City Park. For more information, call 618-392-0766 or visit richlandcountyfair.org

**August 6** — RCRC Triathlon at Musgrove Aquatic Center, Olney, IL.

**Richland County Attractions**

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

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

**SHELBY COUNTY EVENTS**

**April 30 & May 1** — Spring Fest at Vahling Vineyards. Enjoy food, wine, brandy, whiskey and music. Food & craft vendors Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tastings from Castle Finn Winery, Irene’s Vineyard, Niemerg Family Winery, Fox Creek Winery, Lasota Winery and Bennyville Vineyard. Music Saturday from Noon-3 p.m. by Battle Creek Band and from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. from Wes & Megan Hogan. Music Sunday from noon-2 p.m., by Jake Schumacher and 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. from Midnight Express.

**April 30** — The Lemmon Brothers at Willow Ridge Winery. Brick’s Exquisite Eats will be selling food on site. Enjoy a strawberry lemonade sangria slushie! Their cover list includes many of the great vocal duos and bands such as Paul Simon, Zac Brown Band, Eagles, Beatles, America, Van Morrison, James Taylor, Jackson Brown and other artists whose music lends itself to their acoustic rock style.

**May 1** — Float Your Boat Kayak Run at Sullivan Marina. Lake Shelbyville Water Trail – Kaskaskia Branch. Transportation, drinks & snacks included in the price. Win prizes at each stop. For more information visit Lake Shelbyville Kayak Trail Facebook Page.

**May 7** — Kentucky Derby Day at Willow Ridge Winery. The Mighty Plushtones will be performing from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. and then they will air the derby on their large screen TV. Enjoy a pineapple mint julep sangria. Come on out and show them your hat! They will have prize categories this year. Food will be available for purchase from Five Bugle BBQ.

**May 14** — Little Market on Main event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Junction at the Old Country Church located at 108 N. Main St., Findlay IL 62534. Food & craft vendors and more!

**May 21** — Sound City band at Willow Ridge Winery. Classic Rock and Country tribute band featuring songs of Aerosmith, Rolling Stones, Peter Frampton, Grand Funk, REO, Eagles, Bad Company, Eric Church, Dwight Yocum, Midland, David Allen Coe and much more

**May 21** — O.M.R.O. Mud Drag at Cowden. Race starts 5:00 p.m.

**May 28** — Village Wide Rummage Sales in Strasburg IL.

**May 28 & 29** — Blues Fest at Willow Ridge Winery. Music on May 28 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. by Mary Jo Curry and 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. by Joe Mass Band. Notorious Pig will be available for food purchases. Music on May 29 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. by Kilborn Alley and 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. by Cash Box Kings. Pauly’s BBQ will be available for food purchases. Bring lawn chairs as the event will be held outdoors.

**June 2 — Berries & Burgers. Fill up on porkburger or hot dog meal and fresh strawberry shortcake at the Community Center in Strasburg, IL. 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**June 2-4** — Moweaqua Pow Wow Days at Moweaqua City Park in Moweaqua, IL.

**June 4** — Lions Club Chicken Fry at the Village Park in Strasburg, IL. Annual event with fried chicken and all the sides for a perfect outdoor picnic at the park.

**June 4** — Kids Fishing Tournament at Opossum Creek Recreation Pond near Shelbyville, IL (Lake Shelbyville)

**June 11** — Loop Lake Shelbyville. Tour beautiful Lake Shelbyville from a bicycle seat! Four routes: 22, 34, 48 & 65 miles. Register online at bikereg.com/loop-lake-shelbyville

**June 18** — Stewardson Lions Club Tractor Pull at the Lions Club Recreation Facility in Stewardson, IL

**June 19** — O.M.R.O. Mud Drag at Cowden. Race starts 5:00 p.m.

**June 26** — Stewardson Independence Day Fireworks at the Lions Club Recreation Facility in Stewardson, IL

**July 2** — O.M.R.O. Mud Drag at Cowden. Race starts 5:00 p.m.

**July 2-4** — Herrick Celebration at Tom Davis Park in Herrick, IL

**July 4** — Fireworks over Lake Shelbyville. Main Basin.

**July 9** — Mischievous Happenings at the Winery Craft & Vendor Show from Noon to 5 p.m. at Willow Ridge Winery, 1796 N. 1475 East Rd, Shelbyville, IL. Shop, eat & drink. Musical duo “Mid-October” on stage from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Pauly’s BBQ available for purchase.

**July 15-17** — Lions Club Homecoming at Strasburg IL. Tractor Pull, Parade, Food. Live music by Captain Rat & The Blind Rivets band.

**July 17-18** — Shelby County 4H and Junior Fair at the Shelby County Fairgrounds in Shelbyville, IL

**July 29-30** — Walleye Fish Fry & Festival in downtown Findlay IL. Entertainment, food and fun. Ice cream social, fireworks, games, farmer’s market, tractor pull, car, truck and motorcycle show and plenty more and of course, walleye fish! Large parade at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

**July 30** — Bike the Prairie sponsored by the Stewardson Lions Club. Bicycle ride and activities for families. Start time 8:00 a.m. at the Stewardson Community Center in Stewardson, IL

**July 30 & 31** — Stu’s Good Ol’ Boys Tractor Show at Stu’s Equipment Repair on Rt. 32 in Stewardson, IL.

**August 18-20** — Windsor Harvest Picnic at the City Park in Windsor, IL. Come and enjoy the parade, food, country music and entertainment, along with many other activities.

**August 27** — Tractor Pull at the Lions Club Recreation Facility in Stewardson, IL

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

**September 9-11** — DirtWox MTB Festival at Lake Shelbyville. A weekend of all things mountain biking. Take a self-guided tour of trails Lake Shelbyville has to offer! Live music, bikes, camping & more!

**Shelby County Attractions**

**Vahling Vineyards**
Vahling Vineyards is a winery located at 2683 Co. Hwy 6, Stewardson IL. (217)682-5409. www.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
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Office Hours: M-F 7:00am-4:00pm

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 hay baler. Flags are placed around the square during Memorial Day and Labor Day. On July 3, 2002, an eternal flame was dedicated to the men and women who have served in the past wars. The black granite base of the flame contains etchings, such as General Douglas McArthur wading ashore in the Philippines in 1945, Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima in World War II and Shelbyville resident August West.

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

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

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

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

The Pam & Bob 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. Ground-breaking on the dam occurred May 4, 1963. Filling of the reservoir began August 1, 1970. The lake was officially dedicated September 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 Recreation 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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