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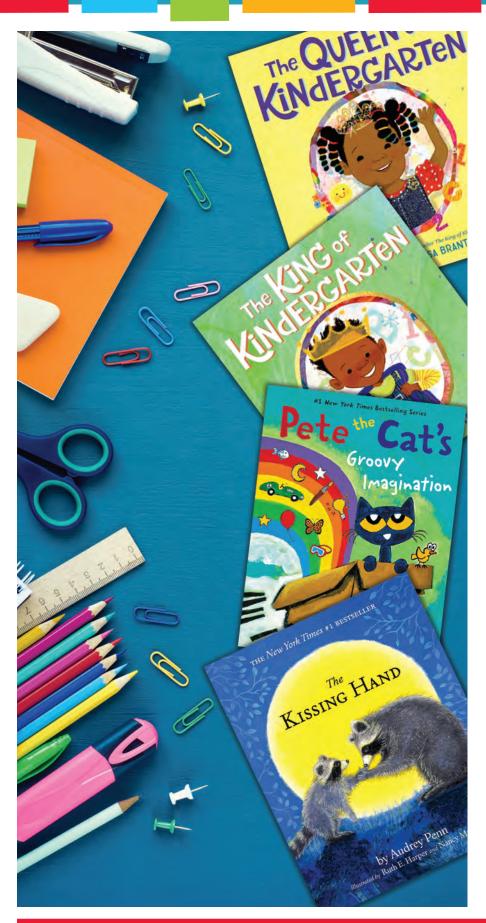
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Back-toschool books

CC PARENT | Deana Metke

With another school year on its way, a great way to get kids back into the swing of things is through books. There are a lot of tried-and-true classics, like *The Kissing Hand* and *Pete the Cat* and his shoes, but there are also some newer releases that can get your kids ready for school. Here are a couple of my suggestions of engaging books that can get your child into the school groove.

Back in 2019, author Derrick Barnes and illustrator Vanessa Brantley-Newton worked together to bring us The King of Kindergarten, a great book to start the year for some of our youngest learners. Luckily for young readers everywhere, this year Barnes and Brantley-Newton joined forces again to bring us *The Queen* of Kindergarten. In this book, MJ is super excited about her first day of kindergarten, and has a tiara as part of her first-day outfit. Since she's wearing a crown, her mother gives her three pieces of advice to remember as she goes throughout her day.

I won't share all the advice, but my favorite was, "Second, us queens are caring and kind." MJ does have a pretty awesome memory, so she is able to implement her mother's queen rules throughout her day. Not only does Brantley-Newton do a wonderful job with the illustrations, as an educator I enjoyed the fact that the activities that Barnes has MJ experience are realistic school activities that your child may participate in. *The Queen of Kindergarten* is a great book for the start of the school year, but would be a good read anytime your child needs a reminder to straighten their crown.

For the child that has already been in school for a few years, and may be a fan of graphic novels (who isn't?), they may enjoy Twins by Varian Johnson and illustrated by Shannon Wright. In this novel, Maureen and Francine Carter are starting sixth grade, and unsurpris-

ingly, they have had similar interests for forever...except this year. Francine has some new friends and new interests, including running for class president, and actually doesn't want Maureen to participate in the same activities. This results in some hurt feelings, yelling, arguing and even some tears, and I'm sure most kids can identify with at least one of those emotions.

Thankfully, Johnson gives us a happy ending for Maureen and Francine as they learn how to create individual identities and keep their sisterhood intact. Even if you don't have twins, this story is a great one for kiddos who may be experiencing difficult times with close friends they've had for years. I would recommend this book for kids beginning in at least fourth grade.

For many kids, the beginning of the school year also means new shoes. Award-winning poet and now author Van G. Garrett knows exactly what it feels like to have a new pair of shoes, specifically sneakers, and wrote a whole picture book about it, titled Kicks. Since he is a poet, Kicks has a beautiful rhythm to it when read, and along with Reggie Brown's illustrations, the book can get any child excited about not only opening the box of a new pair of shoes, but also the joy of wearing them to school. Kicks, released earlier this year, is a book that would be a great read for a sneakerhead of any age.

Reading any (or all) of these books to or with your kids can be a great way to start the school year off on a positive note.



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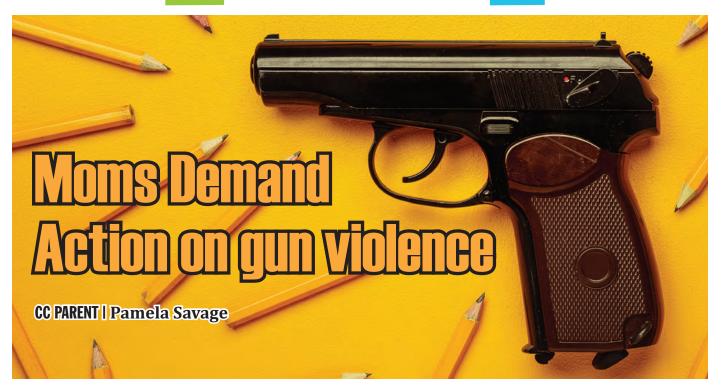
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As a new school year begins yet again, parents have a lot on their minds. Typical concerns about how a child might adjust to a new teacher or classroom have been overshadowed by more pressing worries, namely, the staggering number of mass shootings that have occurred in the United States this year, over 300 at the time of this writing.

It feels completely overwhelming to consider a mass shooting at your children's schools, and yet it is something that parents navigate morning after morning at bus stops and in drop-off lines. No matter your opinion on politics or legislation, all parents want to keep their children safe, and the rise of mass shootings in this country threatens that feeling of security. With this in mind, I spoke with the local leadership of the Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America chapter in Springfield about how parents can turn their feelings of outrage, helplessness and hopelessness into action.

Moms Demand Action (MDA) was founded by Sandy Watts in the days following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December 2012, and is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. In the more than 10 years that MDA has been operating, millions of supporters have been amassed and a volunteer chapter has been established in every state

and in Washington D.C..Here in Springfield, the group was founded by Tara McAndrew, who continues to lead the local chapter. Dan Barham is the group's communications lead.

Both McAndrew and Barham rightfully assert that gun violence in America is not just a school issue. Moms Demand Action aims to decrease all gun violence, includ-



According to the *New England Journal of Medicine* and based on data acquired by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, firearms have overtaken car accidents to become the leading cause of death for people 1 to 19 years old. These child and teenage deaths include gun accidents, homicides and suicides.

Protecting suicidal adults and teenagers is a major concern when it comes to gun safety. In 2020, gun suicide among children ages 17 and younger reached its highest rate. Per a Stanford University study encompassing over 12 years of data, men who own handguns are eight times more likely to die of gun suicides than men who don't own handguns, and women who own handguns are 35 times more likely.

However, Moms Demand Action supports the second amendment and welcomes gun owners into the organization. The MDA Springfield chapter includes gun owners who advocate for and believe in responsible gun ownership.

Says Barham, "A common misconception would be that you have to be a member of the Democratic party to belong at MDA, but this is false. We have no goal of confiscation of firearms. We just want people to be responsible and for politicians to take the issue seriously so that fewer people die."

One initiative that Moms Demand Action has created in order to reduce the number of gun killings in communities is the BeSMART program. BeSMART argues that secure firearm storage is an essential part of home safety and asks gun owners to secure their firearms in locked safes that children cannot reach, to leave their firearms unloaded and to keep their ammunition separate from

firearms.

For families that do not own guns, BeSMART strongly recommends that parents ask about the presence of unsecured guns in other families' homes before they send their child over for something like a sleepover or a playdate. This inquiry can feel somewhat uncomfortable, but it is important that it become normalized.

Says McAndrew, "We are trying to get parents and caregivers to think about asking about firearms as normal, in the same way that you might make another parent aware of your child's allergy. After all, it is your child's life at stake".

When I asked McAndrew and Barham what kept them from being overwhelmed by their volunteer work, they agreed that Moms Demand Action makes a difference. "It may be a small difference on some days, but it is nice to be able to say that I am doing what I can," said McAndrew.

They also agree that parents and citizens should feel empowered to call their lawmakers and share their concerns. "And tell them that you vote. And then do go vote," said Barham.





One-pot meals

CC PARENT | Ashley Meyer

Cooking at home is good for your wallet and your health. It's also a chore, even for those who love the activity, because preparing food inevitably results in dirty dishes and a messy kitchen. These mostly hands-off recipes are designed to help you steer past the drive-thru and get an affordable, veggie-packed dinner on the table with minimal fuss and clean up.

Instant Pot garden bolognese

Serves 4-6 with leftovers

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 pound ground beef or pork

3/4 teaspoon salt, divided

3-5 cloves garlic, grated or minced

1 large onion, finely diced

2 stalks celery, finely diced

1 medium zucchini, finely diced

1 medium eggplant, finely diced

1 bell pepper, finely diced

8 ounces sliced mushrooms

1 25-ounce jar of your favorite marinara

1 teaspoon each garlic powder and dried Italian herb seasoning

1 cup dry red wine

2 cups unsalted broth or water One pound penne, rigatoni, or shell pasta

Parmesan cheese and fresh basil to serve

Preheat the multi-cooker using the saute setting on the highest heat. When hot add the olive oil and the meat, breaking up the meat with a wooden spoon. Sprinkle ½ teaspoon of the salt over the meat and continue to cook until the meat is nicely browned. Add the sliced and diced vegetables (a food processor makes fast work of chopping all the veggies) and another ¼ teaspoon salt and mix well.



Continue to cook until most of the liquid has evaporated from the vegetables and they begin to brown slightly. Stir in the jar of marinara sauce, garlic powder and herbs, wine and broth, making sure to scrape up all the delicious caramelized

bits up from the bottom of the pan. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and simmer for five minutes.

Press cancel, then add the pasta, pressing it down with the back of the spoon to submerge it, but don't stir

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(this can cause the pasta to stick to the bottom of the pot while pressure cooking). Set the pressure cooker for six minutes on high pressure.

When the time is up, allow it to naturally release pressure for one minute before quick-releasing the remaining pressure. Remove the lid and gently stir the contents of the pot.

Season to taste with additional salt as needed. Let rest for 10 minutes before serving with parmesan cheese and fresh basil.

Note: you can also make this in a regular heavy-bottomed pot on the stove top. Increase the amount of broth by one cup and do stir the pasta when you add it to the pot. Bring the pasta and saucy water to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer and stir continuously until the pasta is cooked through and the sauce is thick, about 15 minutes.

Sheet pan chicken dinner Serves 4-6

6 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs 3 carrots, peeled and cut into 2-inch pieces

1 ½ pounds baby new potatoes 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided 1 ¼ teaspoon salt, divided ½ teaspoon each garlic powder, onion powder, sweet paprika and dried thyme

1 large head broccoli

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil. Drizzle one tablespoon of the olive oil over the pan, then arrange the potatoes, chicken and carrots on the pan. Sprinkle with one teaspoon of the salt and the spices, then use your clean hands to rub the oil and seasonings evenly onto the chicken and vegetables. Transfer the pan to the oven and bake for 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, cut the broccoli into one-inch florets and toss them with the remaining olive oil and salt. After 25 minutes, remove the pan from the

oven and scatter the seasoned broccoli around the chicken in the pan. Return to the oven and bake for an additional 10 minutes, until the broccoli is crisp and the chicken is cooked through and golden. The internal temperature of the chicken should register 160 degrees on a meat thermometer and the juices should run clear when pierced with a knife. Let the chicken rest for 10 minutes before serving.

Oven-baked chilaquiles

Serves four

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 onion, diced

1 bell pepper, diced

1 zucchini, diced

 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cooked sweet corn kernels (if frozen no need to thaw)

1 16-once jar of your favorite salsa

1 can black beans, drained and rinsed

4 cups tortilla chips

4 eggs

¼ cup chopped cilantro 2 green onions, sliced Sliced avocado and shredded cheese, to serve

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Heat the olive oil in a heavy bottomed skillet over high heat. Add the diced onion, bell pepper and zucchini and cook, stirring continuously until the vegetables have begun to soften and begin to brown slightly. Add the sweetcorn and salsa and ½ cup water. Mix well and bring to a boil, stirring continuously. Reduce the heat to medium-low and add the beans and the chips. Mix gently to coat the chips, breaking them up slightly as you stir.

Turn off the heat under the pan. Use the back of a spoon to make four wells in the chip mixture. Crack an egg into each well, then transfer the skillet to the preheated oven and bake until the whites are set and the yolks are still runny. Top with shredded cheese and chopped herbs. Serve immediately with sliced avocado and additional cheese.



Get to Know Our BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meet at **5:30pm** on the third Wednesday of each month, traditionally at **Bunn Administration offices**.

Due to COVID-19, social distancing and safety measures, we may have to move our meetings around to other facilities. Please plan to check the Park District Website, under Park Board/Board Meetings for the most up to date times and facility locations. The public is invited to attend our regular meetings. Minutes and agendas are available online as well.



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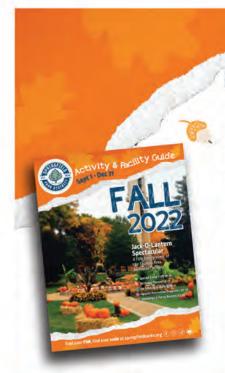
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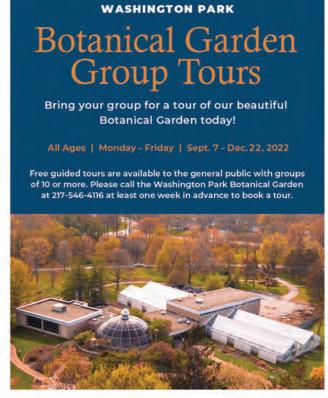
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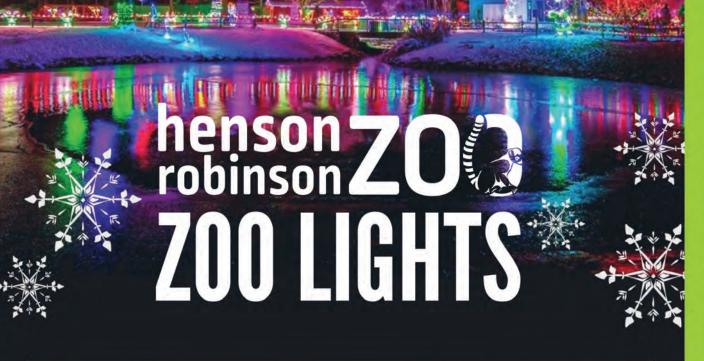
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For more information call the Zoo at 217-585-1821 or visit www.springfieldparks.org



December 22nd - January 4th 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

at Erin's Pavilion.

Our Winter Camp is all inclusive with safe and fun activities for a wide range of individuals.

Each patron will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities; Arts-N-Crafts, Bingo, Card Games, Movies, Sports and much more!

Each child should bring a sack lunch and snacks in a disposable container. Please no peanuts/nut products.

There will be no camp on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

Fee: 12/22-12/23.....\$52/\$62 12/26-12/30....\$130/\$160 1/02-1/04.....\$78/\$98

For more information: 217-753-2800 x2003 mstrieker@springfieldparks.org

Register online with **Activity #370240**

at bit.ly/SPD_Wint-Camp



Please call Debbie at 217-546-3970 for more information

The Springfield Park District invites you to enroll your child in our Preschool in the Park program for the 2022-2023 year!

3, 4, & 5 year old mixed age class – You have three options to choose from in the morning and afternoon classes.

Two Day... Three Day... & Five Day Options!

Registration for classes:

Washington Park Preschool

\$55 registration and application due at registration.





Nelson Center Ice Rinks

The Nelson Center contains two indoor ice rinks, nine locker rooms and concession areas that are open to the public year-round. Housing the only two indoor ice rinks within a 60-Mile radius, it serves as the home for many programs, events and activities in the area. As well as offers a variety of instructional classes and leagues designed to teach children and adults how to figure skate or play hockey. The Nelson Center is also home to the NAHL Springfield Jr. Blues, Lincoln Land High School Hockey Association, Springfield Youth Hockey Association, and the Springfield Figure Skating Club.

Public Skate

Public Skate is open to the public and all ages. Patrons enjoy music being played while skating on the ice. Patrons must abide by all Nelson Center skating rules. Children 10 years of age and under must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult, age 16 or older. Please call ahead to confirm public skate times as it may be canceled due to tournaments, games, and/or special events: **217-753-2800**. You can also check the Skate Schedule at **http://bit.ly/SPDTickets.**

Discount Public Skate simply means that skate rentals are included in the Resident/Non-resident Fee; as well, it lasts for one hour and thirty minutes compared to Regular Public Skate that lasts for two hours at a time. During Regular Public Skate hours, skate rentals are \$3.00.

Public Skate Sessions

Please check our website at http://bit.ly/SPDTickets to see our Public Skate Schedule!

Discount Public Skate - Skates Included Regular Public Skate - Skate Not Included

Activity #	R/NR Fee	Activity #	Fee
360418-01	\$8/\$9	360419-04	\$6
360418-02	\$8/\$9	360419-05	\$6
		360419-06	\$6
		360419-07	\$6



Purchase your Freestyle Punch Pass TODAY and Save Money!

Passes can be purchased online or at the Nelson Center.







The gift of experience is so much more valuable than "stuff!" Why not pay for a loved one's season pass, hockey, zoo class or swimming lessons...?

Eurchase a gift certificate Online today!

It will be a great surprise for any special occasion or the upcoming holiday season!

To buy a gift certificate, purchase online, call, or stop by your nearest Park District Facility.

www.springfieldparks.org



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www.SpringfieldClinic.com



A COMMUNITY OF CARING

Annual Miniature Butter Cow Contest

Visit the Dairy Building at the Illinois State Fair from Aug. 11-21 to view the entries in this year's Butter Cow Contest.

There are two entry divisions: up to age 17 and age 18 years and older. Public voting was used to determine the winners. Three winners in each age division received cash prizes: \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third.





1 - "Rhonda" by Heidi Clark

I used Prairie Farms salted butter to mold my butter cow. I molded my butter cow to replicate my cow, Rhonda. She was the sweetest cow ever. She used to enjoy it when I would visit her and feed her apples.

2 - "Milking a Butter Cow" by Heather Morris

First, I designed it on a piece of paper. Then I started carving the main part of my design. After that I worked on the details. I would work on it, then put it in the freezer, then take it out and continue working on it.

3 - "Hula Cow" by Maggie Zimmerman.

Hula Cow is enjoying a day at Bovine Beach, just outside her Tiki Hut. Hay is roasting on the campfire and will soon be cud. She is modeling a grass skirt and lei of flowers, as is the local custom.

4 - "Hi, I'm Cream!" by Jennifer Stob.

Hi, my name is Cream! I am applying for the role of State Fair poultry superintendent. Previously I have worked at Chickfil-a as the social media manager, however, I needed a change and thought this would be something closer to home. I truly hope you will consider me for this role. Thank you for your time.

5 - "Christmas Butter Cow" by Madeleine Hoffman.

Butter cow in the form of a partially eaten gingerbread man. Using semi-soft butter and imagination, this holiday cow was handcrafted by 6-year-old girl.

6-"Frosty the Butter Cow" by Madeleine Hoffman

This holiday cow is sure to be the perfect lawn display after freshly fallen butter. Handcrafted using semi-soft butter and the creativity of an 8-year-old boy.

7 - "Bessie" by Isabelle Robinson

Bessie, just doing her normal business and licking the butter off her face. Made by Isabelle, age 10, from a one-pound solid block of butter. She used a knife and small screwdrivers to carve and a toothpick for details. She created this butter cow with its tongue sticking out!"

8 - "Matilda" by Maggie Zimmerman

Matilda loves to run around in the grass and eat hay! I started making Matilda out of a ball of chilled butter. First, I sculpted her head, body and tail. Next, I used toothpicks to support her legs and I built her legs around the toothpicks. I added the hay bale last. I had to work quickly and keep chilling the butter in between work times so that it wouldn't get too melty while I was creating Matilda.

9 - "Elmer" by Rhynn Hanners.

I bought a round piece of wood and put some nails through the back of it. I formed Styrofoam in the rough shape of a cow's head and covered it with 10 sticks of butter. I shaped the butter into the shape of a mounted cow head.

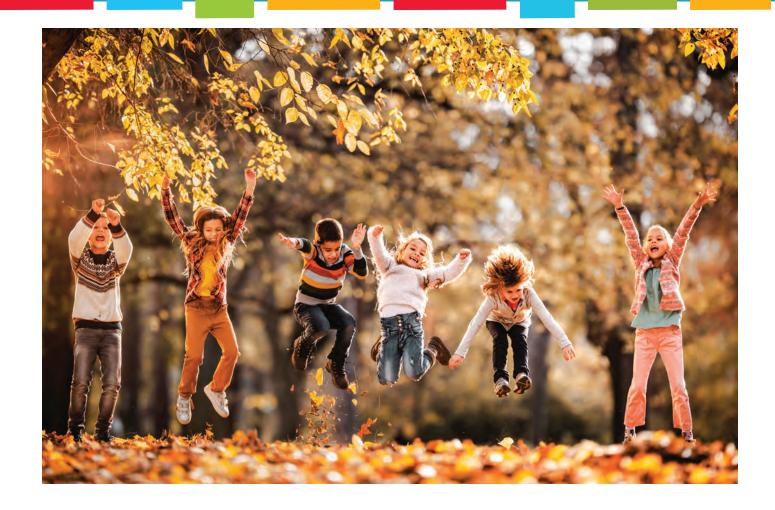
10 - "The Last Swim" by Cabot Magnuson.

Baby Lee Lee is so excited to have grown enough this year to go swimming! She was hand-sculpted with nearly a pound of butter and sculpting tools. Her creator is 6-year-old Cabot.

Sponsored by







Family event calendar

CC PARENT | Stacie Lewis

Illinois State Fair

Aug. 11-21. Deep-fried-everything on a stick, top-notch entertainment, white-knuckle carnival rides, high-energy street performers, agricultural shows and more. All the sights, sounds, smells and bells that you've come to expect from our state fair. Admission. Visit the Facebook page for event updates. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Perseid Meteor Shower Star Party Aug. 12, 8:30-10pm. From the

Cawley Meadow, John Martin, UIS professor of astronomy-physics, takes you on a stellar tour of the sky and you can also catch some views through a telescope provided by the Sangamon Astronomical Society. Weather permitting. Call for more info. Free. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-206-8342.

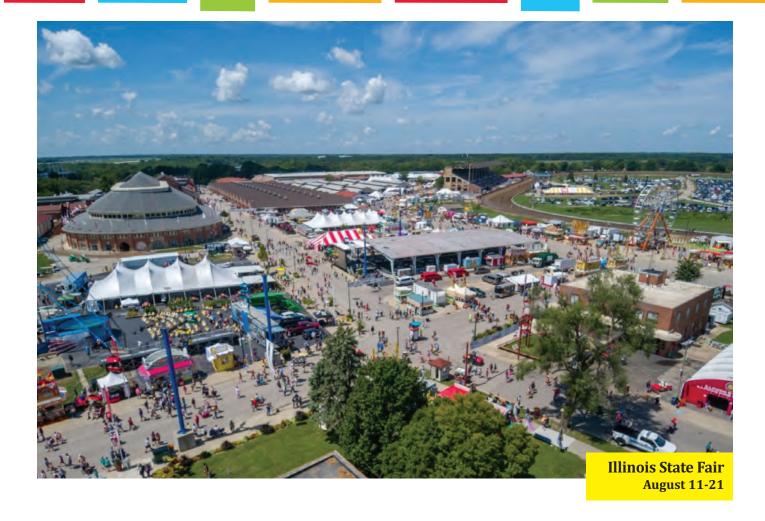
Aladdin

Aug. 13, 1, 3, 5pm. Presented by the Springfield Dance theatre. Be sure to join the fun in the Cave of Wonders in

the Legacy Lounge 30 minutes prior to each performance. \$20; \$25 day of the show. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence, 800-838-3006.

Springfield Comic Book Convention

Aug. 14, 10am-4pm. Comics, trade paperbacks, comic-related toys and sports cards. A place where you can embrace nerd culture along with everyone else. Buy and sale. Cash only. Free. Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, 625 E. Saint Joseph St., 217-529-6626.



Cinema Under the Stars

Aug. 19, 8-10pm. Watch *Clifford the Big Red Dog*, an adventure-comedy film, and learn the importance of love, despite differences. Bring lawn chairs or blankets, snacks and beverages (no glass). Free. Chatham Area Public Library, Chatham, 600 E. Spruce, 217-483-2713.

Rockballet

Aug. 20, 8pm. Presented by the Copper Coin Ballet Company performing to the music of Queen as played by local band Downstate. \$10-\$20. The Muni, 815 E. Lake Dr., 217-793-MUNI.

USAC Bettenhausen 100

Aug. 20, 2pm. If you've never experienced the excitement of a day at the racetrack, this is your chance. \$25 in advance, \$30 day of day. Children 11 and under \$10. Illinois State Fair

Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Yart Sale

Aug. 20, 9am-3pm. The SAA has everything you need to make your art bloom. Check it out. Supplies and equipment in metals, ceramics, painting, photography and more. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Abe's Amble 10K/5K

Aug. 21. On the last day of the Illinois State Fair, hundreds of runners from Illinois and surrounding states take to the streets through the fairgrounds, Lincoln Park, Oak Ridge Cemetery and back. This challenging 10K course is USATF certified and a lot of fun. Certified 5K course option available. srrc.net. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

ARCA 100 + Sportsman Nationals

Aug. 21, 1:30pm. Motorsports are some of the most popular sports today. Check out this race and find out why. \$25 in advance, \$30 day of day. Children 11 and under \$10. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Powerlight Christian Music Festival

Aug. 21, 12:30-9pm. Featuring Jordan Feliz, 7eventh time down and many more at the Lincoln Stage. Free with paid fair admission. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-553-5271.

217 Burger Week

Aug. 22-31. Celebrating our local cuisine one burger at a time. Visit the website to see participating restaurants. Various locations, Springfield. 217foodweek.com.



Protect your Home, Family & Valuables for only \$395. Call 217-744-9000 for more information.







Balloons Over 66 Weekend

Aug. 26-27. Forty balloons will be launched from four locations. The weekend includes the annual Lincoln Art Fair, a BBQ competition, dock dogs, live music, car show, craft and vendor fair and more in the downtown area. Untethered balloon rides can be purchased. destinationlogancountyil. com. Downtown Lincoln.

Jumanji

Aug. 26. When two kids find and play a magical board game, they release a man trapped in it for decades and a host of dangers that can only be stopped by finishing the game. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Part of the Movies in the Park series. Begins at sunset. Free. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

Old Capitol Blues and BBQ

Aug. 26-27. The best and bluesiest summer music and food. Featuring top blues bands, unbeatable and awardwinning BBQ, cold drinks and first-rate fun. Old State Capitol Plaza, between Sixth and Fifth streets at Adams, 217-523-1455.

Bridging the Gap BBQ

Aug. 27, 11am-2pm. Tons of children's activities, free food, emergency services vehicles to explore and more. Meet the police, first responders, community service organizations, local education institutions and religious organizations. A place to develop more familiar and trusting relationships with everyone. Hosted by The Outlet. Free. Jaycee Park Pavilion, 2400 E. Monroe St.

Hoop Skirt and Haber-DASH 5K fun

Aug. 27, 8am. Race back to the 19th century. The course is mostly flat. Fun costuming is encouraged. Dress like you just stepped out of a haberdashery or into the hoopiest hoopskirt you can



find. A prize will be awarded for the best dressed of the bunch. springfieldart. org. \$30. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Kitten Circus

Aug. 27, 12-5pm. Kittens of all ages and sizes perform daring acts of love and cuteness. Fun for the whole family. Adoption fee is just \$25. Adoptions by appointment. Animal Protective League, 1001 Taintor Rd., 217-544-7387.

Wild & Free book signing

Aug. 27, 8am-12:30pm. Young author Annaliese Hofner will be on hand at the Old Capital Farmer's Market to sign copies of her debut book, Wild & Free. Come out to meet this up-and-coming author. Old Capitol Farmers Market, Fourth and Adams streets, 217-544-1723.

Ice Cream Social

Aug. 28, 5-6pm. Enjoy a frosty treat while listening to the harmonies of the Land of Lincoln Chorus. Coolers are allowed. Limited seating available and lawn chairs are suggested. Free. Sherman Village Park Amphitheater, Sherman, 1200 Rail Fence Dr., 217-496-2621.

Mustang and All Ford Show

Aug. 28, 8am-4pm. Twenty-six classes, with three awards per class. Door prizes and silent auction at show. Judging starts at 12pm. Free. Landmark Ford, 2401 Prairie Crossing, 866-807-5399.

Jubilee Regional Championship Morgan Horse Show

Aug. 31-Sep. 3, 9am-10pm. The stamina and spirit of the Morgan, combined with its build and way of traveling, contributed greatly to the formation

of other American breeds including the Standardbred, Quarter Horse, Tennessee Walking Horse and American Saddle Horse. Coliseum, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave.

Prairieland Chautauqua

Fri., Sep. 2, 5-8pm. "Celebrating Our Chautaugua, 1912 - 1930." Traditional events from the early years, plus storytellers, poetry recitations, science lectures, music, history and a children's show. morgancountyillinoishistory.com. Free. Nichols Park, Jacksonville, Holken Brink Dr., 217-271-7824.

Sangamon Valley Woodcarvers Show

Sep. 3, 10am-4pm. Exhibits by woodcarvers, pyrographers, intarsia carvers and wood turners. Carvings, wood and tools for sale. Sign up for beginners' classes. Door prizes and a carving competition. Williamsville



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ISM for everyone

The Illinois State Museum now offers sensory kits to help all museum-goers feel safe and comfortable. Guests may check out sensory kits at the Museum's front desk during their visit.

Made possible with generous support from the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, sensory kits include noise-canceling headphones, weighted vests (and sloths!), flashlights, and fidgets.

access ISM

access art · access history · access natural science



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502 South Spring Street • Springfield • illinoisstatemuseum.org

Community Center, Williamsville, 141 W. Main St., 217-306-6080.

Springfield Mile 1 and 2

Sep. 3-4. The world's premier flat track motorcycle racing series will celebrate its annual Labor Day weekend doubleheader. Ticket prices will increase the week of the event, so get them while they're hot. \$20-\$150. Children 12 and under \$5-\$25. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Springfield Oyster and Beer Festival

Sep. 3,12-5pm. This event has raised over \$87,000 for area charities. Features over 130 different types of craft beers, 5000+gourmet oysters, live music and local food trucks. Having a good time is much easier when it's for a great cause. sobfestival.com. The Inn at 835, 835 S. Second St., 217-522-3123.

First Sunday Midwest Bazaar Sep. 4, 8am-4pm. Everything you could ever need all in one place. Illinois State Fairgrounds

place. Illinois State Fairgrounds
Exposition Building, 801 Sangamon
Ave., 217-782-6661.

Bluegrass Concerts and Traditional Music Festival

Sep. 9-10. Bluegrass performers from all over the Midwest will be playing in the Kelso Hollow outdoor theater. At the Traditional Music Festival on Saturday, traditional, folk and bluegrass musicians are invited to participate in impromptu jam sessions throughout the park from 10am-4pm. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Spinning

Sep. 9-10. For both new and experienced spinners. Numerous wheels will be available for practice or lessons. Visit the website for



more information. jubileefarm.info. Fee TBD. Jubilee Farm, 6760 Old Jacksonville Rd., 217-787-6927.

Art Spectacular

Sep. 10-11. A popular juried fine art and craft fair, ranked by Sunshine Artist Magazine as one of The Best 200 Art Fairs in the United States for over five years. Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-306-1838.

Comedy for a Cause

Sep. 10, 7:30pm. Presented by RXComedy and featuring some of the funniest comics in Springfield. Proceeds to benefit The Boys and Girls Club. \$25. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217206-6160.

Comedy hypnotist Jeff Harpring

Sep. 10, 7:30pm. An evening of comedy, magic and hypnotic entertainment. hcfta.org. \$18. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Marbold Heritage Festival

Sep. 10-11, 9am-3pm. Travel to the prairieland of central Illinois to see Civil War presentations, steam and gas engines, demonstrations, guided tours, live music, antiques, children's activities, food and drinks. historicmarbold-farmstead.org. Ages 14 and older \$5, ages 6-13 \$3. Historic Marbold Farmstead, Greenview, 21722 State Hwy 29.

Meet Me at the Movies

Sep. 10. Hollywood actor Bishop Stevens and special guests, actor Wyatt Weed and NWA world champion Trevor Murdoch, will lead a red-carpet premier experience, including photo ops, raffles, silent auctions and more. The event will benefit the Garvey-Tubman Cultural Arts & Research Center. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-816-0820.

Opa Greek Fest

Sep. 10, 11am. Gyros, Greek chicken, lamb, moussaka, Greek fries, saganaki, spinach pies and Greek salad. Desserts include baklava, cookies and loukoumades. All items individually priced. Live music all day.



No admission fee. Opa! St. Anthony's Hellenic Orthodox Church, 1600 S. Glenwood Ave., 217-522-7010.

Vehicle Show and Swap Meet Sep. 10, 7am-3:30pm. An event hosted by the Illinois Secretary of State every year since 1950. See some of the finest antique and classic vehicles, sports cars, motorcycles, trucks and tractors. Held rain or shine. Spectators are free. Contestants \$10. Downtown Springfield, Second and Monroe streets.

Ride to Remember

Sep. 11. Line up of all vehicles begins at 9am, at Hall's Harley-Davidson. The police-escorted procession will leave at 10am and proceed to the Illinois State Capitol grounds to the 9/11 Memorial site where a ceremony will take place around 10:30am. Free. Hall's Harley Davidson, 2301 N. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-528-8356.

Car Show and Fall Cruise Night
Sep. 17, 9am. One of the largest
cruise events in Illinois. Come to the
car show during the day and stay for
the cruise that evening along Morton
Avenue. This event brings in classic
and antique autos for a day of fun
for the whole family. Jacksonville
Community Park, Jacksonville, 1201
S. Main. 217-473-1122.

Edwards Place Fine Art Fair Sep. 17-18. Shop over 70 different art vendors, take tours of Edwards Place Historic Home and join in other fun family activities. springfieldart.org. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Fall Festival

Sep. 17-18. A local favorite with music, food, crafts, children's activities and historic buildings to tour. clayville.org. Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains, Route 125, 217-481-4430.

Kids Good Grief Camp

Sun., Sep. 18, 12-4pm. A supportive and fun camp for children ages 6-12 who have experienced the death of a loved one. Here they can share their experiences with other children, break down the isolation barrier and head towards an individual healing journey. Cost is \$10 and scholarships are available. Sponsored and provided by the Staab Family. Register by Sep. 12. Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-247-4421.

International Route 66 Mother Road Festival

Sep. 23-25. Hundreds of cool street machines, muscle cars and thousands of hot rod enthusiasts will roll into the heart of Springfield's historic downtown for a weekend of family fun, live music and entertainment. Don't miss the burnout contest. Downtown Springfield, between Washington and Capitol streets and Fourth and Seventh streets. 217-553-5271.

Route 66 5K Foot Race

Sep. 25, 7:30am. Get revved up to race during the Route 66 Mother Road Festival. Get cool swag and have an iconic experience running on the streets with the classic cars in the show. See the Facebook page for sign-up information. Old State Capitol Plaza, Washington Street between Fifth and Sixth streets. 217-553-7695.

Steam Show and Fall Festival

Sep. 23-25. Horse-powered equipment, antique tractors, gas and steam engines, bailing demonstrations, blacksmithing and more. Prairie Land Heritage Museum, Jacksonville, 1005 W. Michigan Ave., 217-243-7262.

Chatham Jaycees Oktoberfest Sep. 30-Oct. 1. Traditional (kind of) celebration with food, beer, games and live music. Chatham Community Park, Chatham, 731 S. Main St.

Candlelight Walk

Oct. 7. Peek inside the log cabins lit only by candlelight and a fire in the fireplace. Period-clothed interpreters will be inside many of the homes and shops to talk about life in 19th century Illinois. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Youth Charity Horse Show

Oct. 7-9. Class sessions are 8am-10pm Friday and Saturday and 8am-6pm Sunday. The organization donates its annual proceeds to area charities. Free. Coliseum, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-494-1215.

Carve for the Carillon

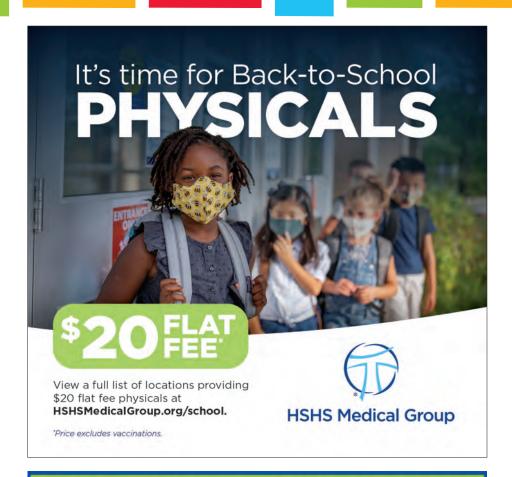
Oct. 8-9, 11am-3pm. Scooped pumpkins will be ready for your creative carving. Bring your carving tools, family and friends. The carved pumpkins will be displayed at the following week's Jack-O-Spectacular. Rain or shine and while supplies last. Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular

Oct. 14-15. Featuring carillon music, lighting, sound effects, a unique Tree of Lights and food vendors. Proceeds benefit the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon. Adults \$7, children age 4-11 \$5 and ages under 4 are free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

Prairieland Classic Cluster of Dog Shows

Oct. 20-23. AKC Conformation dog shows. Hundreds of dogs in four shows by central Illinois kennel clubs. Dog supply vendors. Canine pals that are not entered in the show need to stay home. Sorry, Fido. Free. Illinois State Fairgrounds Exposition Building, 801 Sangamon



Host an Exchange Student Today! (for 3, 5 or 10 months)



Hanna from Germany, 17 yrs. Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Hanna plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.

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children, may host. Contact us ASAP for more information or to select your student.



Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs. Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

Kerry at 636-358-6598
Amy at 1-800-736-1760 (Toll Free)
host.asse.com or email info@asse.com



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Expo XLIII: Lagerstatte

Oct. 21-22, 8am-5pm. World's largest fossil-only show. The. World's. Largest. Buy, sell, swap and display. Children's activities, silent auctions, programs and workshops. Sponsored by the Mid-America Paleontology Society. Free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 815-228-5083.

Fall Festival

Oct. 22. Hear the sounds and catch the scents of daily work in a 19th century village. Candle dipping, soapmaking, blacksmithing, spinning wool, gardening and natural dyeing by period-clothed interpreters. lincolnsnewsalem.com, Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Monster Mash Halloween Dance

Fri., Oct. 28, 7-9pm. Wear your costume and dance with music by a DJ. Enjoy refreshments and treat bags. Hosted by the Springfield Park District. Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-585-2941.

Zoolie Ghoulie

Fri., Oct. 28, 1-8pm. Grab your little ghouls and goblins and have a wild time wandering through the zoo's spectacularly spooky Halloween scenes for some safe trick or treating. \$5. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.



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