

CAPITAL CITY

An Illinois Times Publication

FREE Take One

# parent

Fall 2025

Start a new school year with more independence **p4**

Springfield teen publishes first book **p6**

STEAM learning for kids **p8**

'Born leader' will represent students on the D186 School Board **p10**



**SUPPLEMENT INSIDE**  
p13-28

This issue available at  
[www.capitalcityparent.com](http://www.capitalcityparent.com)





f  [advancinghope](#)

NON-PROFIT.  
MISSION FOCUSED.  
SINCE 1957.

[hope.us](#)



Scan to learn more  
about our services.

## INSIDE

**Start a new school year with more independence..... p4**

**Springfield teen publishes first book ..... p6**

**STEAM learning opportunities for kids ..... p8**

**'Born leader' will represent students on the D186 School Board ..... p10**

**Springfield Park District Guide ..... 13**

**Calendar ..... p31**



## Food Fantasies

Real food for real people.

1512 Wabash Ave. • Springfield, IL • 217.793.8009

[WWW.FOODFANTASIES.COM](http://WWW.FOODFANTASIES.COM)

Springfield's trusted source for whole foods to feed your whole family

Every child can have a free piece of fruit while you shop!

**BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2024 WINNER**

Best Health Food Grocery Store

Best Natural Food or Supplement Store



Join Us for Girls on the Run this Fall

## NEW ENHANCED CURRICULUM

Girls on the Run is an after-school **girl-empowerment** program for 3rd-8th grade participants. It specifically meets the **physical, mental, emotional and social needs** of today's girls. Over the course of 10 weeks, girls will **build confidence, develop life skills, foster healthy relationships and impact their community...** all while being physically active!

GIRLS WILL LEARN HOW TO...



Build confidence to boldly share their thoughts, ideas and feelings



Discover their Heart: Power to speak up – even when they feel nervous



Listen deeply, show empathy and invite others to speak up, too

**REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 11**

For more information and to register, visit [www.GOTRcentralillinois.org](http://www.GOTRcentralillinois.org)



## CAPITAL CITY parent

Fall 2025

### EDITOR / CEO

Fletcher Farrar

### PUBLISHER

Michelle Ownbey

### ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

James Bengfort

### CONTRIBUTORS

Ashley Meyer, Pamela Savage, Carey Smith, Deana Metzke, Daron Walker

### PRODUCTION DESIGN

Joseph Copley, Devin Larson, Ron Rollet

### ADVERTISING

Beth Parkes-Irwin, Yolanda Bell, Ron Young

### BUSINESS/CIRCULATION

Brenda Matheis

Published quarterly. Copyright 2025 by Central Illinois Communications LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without permission is prohibited.

[www.capitalcityparent.com](http://www.capitalcityparent.com)  
1240 S. 6th, Springfield, IL 62703  
Office phone • 217.753.2226  
[www.illinoistimes.com](http://www.illinoistimes.com)

## Rent The Amazing Pole Barn Chic For An Epic Experience!



*Pole Barn Chic*

We Offer

- ♦ Event Design
- ♦ Photographer
- ♦ DJ Services
- ♦ Balloon Services
- ♦ And So Much More!



Your Epic Experience Is Just a Phone Call Away!  
217-685-7389 ♦ 4491 Old Chatham Rd. ♦ Springfield

[polebarnchic.com](http://polebarnchic.com)





# Start a new school year with more independence

CC PARENT | Pamela Savage

As parents, one of our most important goals is to teach our children to be independent, but teaching those skills can sometimes be difficult and fraught. It's not always easy for kids to walk into their new roles and responsibilities with good cheer, and it's definitely not easy for parents to let go.

Our well-meaning desire to help our kids have easy, happy days (and, let's face it, sometimes just get out the door) often holds our kids back in terms of learning little life skills like tying a shoe or packing a lunch. Unfortunately, those little life skills add up to big life skills as children reach for the independence and confidence that they'll need to grow into

happy adults.

Luckily, every day is a new day to practice independence with kids, and the back-to-school season is a perfect time to think about these things. Here are some easy mindset shifts that you can consider in order to help your children foster independence during this upcoming school year:

## Let them be

Kids need space to learn and grow, and well-meaning parents sometimes hover. We've all been there. Allow your kids to play in a different room without intervening, resist the urge to oversee sibling fussiness so they can work it out

on their own, let your kids ride their bikes or scooters or walk ahead of you. All of this can be done safely and to your kids' developmental level, and allows them the space they need to work things out on their own.

## Offer choices

You've likely heard this advice, which is to allow children to make their own choices whenever possible. The back-to-school season is full of opportunities to make choices. For younger students, this could be as simple as allowing kids to choose their own clothing, or letting them pick what the family will do with part of the weekend. For older

children, merge the ideas of choices and independence and go ahead and ask them directly: What would you like the freedom to be able to do this school year?

### Rethink routines and chores

Involving your kids in the day-to-day maintenance of their things and their home not only splits the load for the whole family, it teaches independence and life skills. Since back to school likely has us all reexamining our routines, why not do so with an aim toward independence? If your family has a list of things that need to be done before school (put your pajamas in the laundry, wipe that blue toothpaste out of the sink, walk the dog around the block) or after school (empty your lunchbox, help manage the pile of papers in your backpack, walk the dog around the block again), involve your kids to the extent they are able.

### Try not to nag

OK, so here's the kicker. As parents, we can only accomplish the above if we don't stand in the way of how it gets done. Let's say you'd like your kid to make their bed. Great, but, you might have to rethink your goal of military corners right away. Overcorrecting our kids doesn't allow them to build their life skills on their own, so whenever possible, try not to nag. If your kids are attempting to make their own choices and manage their own items or spaces, let them be.

### Let mistakes happen

Mistakes and natural consequences are part of life. Of course, we love our kids and would never purposefully put them in harm's way, but this doesn't mean we have to clear the road for them, either. Our kids will come up against obstacles and make mistakes, and that's alright. We learn from our mistakes and are better for them. Our hearts are in the right place, and it can be hard not to want to intervene, but just remind yourself that we parents are playing the long game here.

*Pamela Savage is a freelance writer living in Springfield. She thinks parenting is a lot. She is trying.*

Contemporary • Ballet • Pointe • Jazz • Tap • Hip Hop • Adult Classes • Lyrical



**FALL/SPRING ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN  
CALL AND SCHEDULE  
FOR A FREE TRIAL CLASS**

**217-414-4808**  
**324 Sattley St.**  
**Rochester**  
aboveandbeyonddancecompany@gmail.com

**Please visit <https://dancestudio-pro.com/online/abdc> to register.**

JOHN GEYSTON'S  
**EMPOWERED**  
MARTIAL ARTS



**WE TEACH GREATNESS  
REGARDLESS OF YOUR AGE**

**Call Today For A Free Class  
217-546-6762**

**1929 W. Iles • Springfield  
Jgmaa.com**

**BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2024 WINNER**

**Music Classes for Children from Birth through High School**

**Fall Music Classes**

**Musikgarten  
music and movement  
classes:  
Ages 0-12**

- Parent & Child • Group Classes
- Group Piano

**Private Lessons**  
Piano, Harp, Voice, Ukulele,  
Band Instruments

**Register at  
[www.SpringfieldMusicFactory.com](http://www.SpringfieldMusicFactory.com)**





**MUSIK GARTEN**  
Come for the fun, stay for the education

**Art Class  
Ages 3.5-9 years**

**1139 N. MacArthur Spfld., IL | [www.springfieldmusicfactory.com](http://www.springfieldmusicfactory.com)**



# Springfield teen publishes first book

CC PARENT | DiAnne Crown



PHOTO COURTESY OF POPPY VINCENT

“My consciousness blended into my unconsciousness” begins the new young adult fiction page-turner, *Amoeba*, by Rayna Vincent, published on Amazon in May. It’s the first novel for the Springfield 14-year-old, but it probably won’t be her last.

“A lot of people have asked me if there is going to be a sequel,” Vincent says of the believable, emotional, tense account of Nevaeh as she fights for her life in a sinister hospital. “I can say (now) I have started to plan out a sequel.” Great news – the end will leave many readers wanting more.

Although the voice of the story is unmistakably a young teen’s, the insights, imagery and relatability easily cross age groups. There’s a missing father and mother-daughter stress, a crush and a water-borne disease all detailed with vivid physical sensations; thought narration that moves in and out of rage, fear, betrayal, heartache, courage and determination; and a surprise reveal. Where did all of this come from? And where did this busy teenager find time to write a book?

*Amoeba* is the product of an online writing class in homeschool, Vincent says. “We each wrote a novel by the end of the year. The inspiration for *Amoeba* probably came from something I saw on YouTube and research that really scared me.” She also mentions having her own experiences in hospitals that give authenticity to Nevaeh’s experience. “Then it developed in my head and unfolded as I was writing.”

This isn’t Vincent’s first writing success. Before leaving public school after sixth grade to pursue her own interests in her own time, she participated in a fifth-grade Junior

*Amoeba* is available at Prairie Archives, 522 E. Adams St. in downtown Springfield, and Amazon.

Rayna Vincent will hold book signings from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Old Capitol Farmers Market in downtown Springfield; 4:30-6:30pm Tuesday, Aug. 26, at the Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St.; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Artisans and Antique Market, The Brinkerhoff Home, 1500 N. Fifth St.

Beta Club creative writing competition and won a plaque for the best submission in Illinois. The win sent her to Nashville where she placed eighth among the national finalists.

"Writing is one of my favorite subjects. I can express my creativity and my own ideas," she said.

Vincent is skilled. She employs exactly the right level of detail to transport readers into her world. It's not just a book bag on the floor of the hospital, it's a book bag with all the zippers open. Not just a TV, a large, flat-screen television. Her verbs are active and her feelings are genuine, if not easy.

Neveah thinks expressively, as in, "I'll probably wind up being myself and doing something embarrassing." "I didn't like sad or risky topics, having to be careful with everything I said." "Who would believe the words of a child?" "He probably assumed his head was messing with him." "Mom, can't you put yourself in my position? Can't you imagine how I'm feeling?"

Vincent comes from a family of creative, independent thinkers and artists. "I've grown up with grandparents and parents that are pretty creative in multiple ways, and they've always encouraged me to express myself in creative ways as well."

Her grandmother, local gold and silver jewelry artist, teacher and singer Poppy Vincent, is very proud of her. "She's always astounded me. Everything she puts her hand to she accomplishes. She's never been one to sit idle. She was the kind of kid who would get up in the morning and be playing two different games at the same time, or drawing, painting, playing some kind of instrument,"

including piano, guitar, bass and violin.

"She's incredibly creative. She's always been writing a book, even before that class she took. Or drawing pictures. Or designing houses she was going to live in," said her grandmother. "It always seemed very unusual for her age. I've always encouraged her to go after her dream. She can do anything she puts her mind to."

Vincent's mother, Beth, says she has watched her daughter grow through long hours typing alone in her room, wrestling with insecurities that no one would like the book, the stress of deadlines and the physical letdown once the final submission was in.

"She got really sick with an upper respiratory infection when she submitted it. But her teacher said that was completely normal. 'You're a real author!'"

When she isn't writing, Vincent likes to play with her dog and two brothers, play piano, go shopping and spend time with her friends from homeschool and church.

As for advice to any other aspiring teen authors, Vincent says, "Follow through. Don't give up. And plan it through in advance or else you can get lost in your own thoughts. I will do that next time."

Also, she might add, get used to success. "It's very weird knowing that people have read it. Friends come up to me and say, 'I love your book.'"

In the meantime, 10<sup>th</sup> grade begins this fall, including dual credit courses for college. And, who knows – maybe that sequel.

*DiAnne Crown is a longtime contributor to Illinois Times and former editor of Springfield Parent Magazine.*



Join Scouting  
Today

[alincolnscouting.org/join](http://alincolnscouting.org/join)





Londyn (left) and Terran build a tool box during the Kidzeum's after-school program. PHOTO COURTESY OF KIDZEUM

# STEAM learning opportunities for kids

CC PARENT | Karen Ackerman Witter

## Scouting America and Illinois State Museum team up for STEAM workshops

The Abraham Lincoln Council of Scouting America is partnering with the Illinois State Museum to present a monthly series of STEM workshops with engaging hands-on experiences for boys and girls ages 5–11. Programs will be offered one Saturday each month in September, October and November. After a holiday break, they will resume in February, March

and April. All sessions will be held at the Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring St. The series will kick off Saturday, Sept. 6.

All workshops are from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Activities will be structured based on age, and students will be grouped accordingly. There will be STEM activities in a classroom setting organized by Scouting America as well as activities throughout the museum and opportunities to engage with the museum's exhibits.

"The workshops are designed to ignite curiosity, encourage hands-on learning and foster a deeper understanding of STEAM principles in a creative and engaging way," said Ashley Beasley, STEM director for the Abraham Lincoln Council of Scouting America.

Dates and themes are:

**Sept. 6 – Coding Unplugged** Activities will teach coding concepts through interactive games, puzzles and team challenges. No screens are needed for this fun,



hands-on session.

**Oct. 4 – Robotics** Kids will explore programming and problem-solving using Spheros and Ozobots – fun, interactive robots they can code and control.

**Nov. 8 – Mad Scientists** This is a high-energy STEM event where kids become junior scientists, mixing, bubbling and blasting their way through fun, hands-on science activities. Curiosity, creativity and a little “madness” are all part of the fun.

**Feb. 14 – Forensics** Kids will step into the shoes of a young detective to explore the world of forensic science through hands-on activities such as fingerprinting, mystery solving and simple experiments. Perfect for curious kids who love puzzles, clues and a little bit of science magic.

**March 14 – Simple Machines** Participants will discover how things move by exploring simple machines such as levers, pulleys and wheels through fun experiments and creative building challenges. Ideal for young inventors who love to tinker, build and explore how everyday objects work.

**April 11 – Digging in the Past** Kids will become junior paleontologists and travel back in time to explore the world of dinosaurs and fossils. Digging for “fossils,” examining prehistoric clues, and learning amazing facts about dinosaurs are all part of the fun for curious kids who like getting their hands a little dirty.

For more information and to register for one or all of the programs, go to <https://scoutingevent.com/144-96557>. The cost is \$30 per program or \$150 for all six sessions. There is a discount for scouts from the Abraham Lincoln Council (\$25 per program or \$130 for all six sessions).

### **Kidzeum offers STEAM after-school program**

Beginning Monday, Aug. 18, and extending throughout the 2025-26 school year, the Kidzeum, 412 E. Adams St., will offer a STEAM after-school program that encourages curiosity, creativity and confidence in a supportive, engaging environment. The program is targeted at children in first through fourth grades. It is offered Monday through Friday from 3:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., immediately after school dismissal, and will follow the District 186 school calendar.

Each day of the week is dedicated to a different area of STEAM – science, technology, engineering, art and math. The program is all about giving students ongoing opportunities to explore new skills, think critically and engage in hands-on learning all year long.

Families can register for the full program or choose one or more specific days of the week based on their child's interests. This is ideal for a consistent and enriching experience throughout the school year. Children are grouped by age to ensure developmentally appropriate engagement.

Each day includes a structured schedule with time for snack, free time that may be used for homework and hands-on STEAM activities. There is no program on days when District 186 schools are closed. On early dismissal days, the program will begin at the adjusted school dismissal time.

Each day of the week has a specific theme:

#### **Monday – Science Day**

Dive into the world of experiments, discoveries and curious questions. From simple chemical reactions to exploring the human body, Mondays are all about exploring how the world works.

**Tuesday – Technology Day** Learn about the tech that powers our world. Students will get hands-on with beginner coding, digital challenges and explore exciting tools such as 3D printing.

**Wednesday – Engineering Day** Build it, test it, tweak it. Students will design and construct using everyday materials – bridges, towers, marble runs and more – while developing their problem-solving and teamwork skills.

**Thursday – Art Day** Unleash creativity with drawing, painting, sculpting and mixed-media projects. Thursdays focus on imagination and expression while highlighting the “A” in STEAM.

**Friday – Math Day** Make math meaningful with puzzles, games, patterns and challenges. Students will strengthen their number skills through activities and math-based board games that make learning fun and collaborative.

For more information, including cost, and to register, visit <https://kidzeum.org/education/after-school-programs>.



Dayna's  
DANCE REVOLUTION

Where EVERY dancer's a STAR

### **We Offer:**

- Creative Movement • Jazz
- Ballet • Hip Hop • Acro
- Tumbling • Adult Classes
- Tap Classes

Call  
Today!

217-241-3020

3315 S. Veterans Parkway • Spfld  
[ddrspringfield.com](http://ddrspringfield.com)

**SOCCER** Plus

See Luers for all of your  
beginning Soccer player needs!

We carry:

- Size 3 Soccer balls
- Youth shorts, socks and shoes  
(shoes down to toddler Size 7 - shorts to XS)
- Shin guards down to XXS
- Goalkeepers gloves and Jerseys

**LUERS**



1520 South Macarthur • Spfld.  
217-528-1012 • M-F 10-7, Sat. 10-5

# 'Born leader' will represent students on the D186 School Board

CC PARENT | Lynn Whalen



Jordan Robinson, who is starting her senior year at Springfield High School, is the student representative on the District 186 School Board. PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

Are leaders born or made?

For 17-year-old Jordan Robinson, the new student representative on the Springfield District 186 school board, leadership appears to be a combination of innate qualities and acquired skills.

"Is Jordan a born leader? Yes," said her mom, Jessica Pope-Robinson, with a smile. "We say she was like this from the get-go. Very motivated and determined for whatever she had in her sights. Independent and resilient. And funny!"

Jordan, the youngest of five children, is a senior this fall at Springfield High School. She applied to be the Student Board representative last April after participating in the Superintendent's Student Roundtable for two years. The roundtables are held after school twice a month at the district office.

"A group of kids come together and talk to Superintendent (Jennifer) Gill about things that they see issues with, that need to be improved and things they like," said Jordan. "It's an opportunity to share our views and vantage points."

In her new position, Jordan will lead those roundtables. "I'll direct the meetings, and we'll plan some community events including Unity Day. The purpose of Unity Day is to bring all the high schools together and raise money for charities."

She'll also attend District 186 board meetings twice a month.

"Basically, during board meetings, I'll give student input. Any students who have questions or things they think should be brought up, or concerns, they can come to me about it or to the superintendent roundtables," she said.

Jordan's application included an essay and recommendations from teachers. She was then interviewed by elected board members and announced as the new student representative in May.

What does she hope to accomplish?



"I want more people to attend the roundtables. It has really great potential at the beginning of the year but by the end of the year it kind of breaks off," she noted. "I'd like to start an Instagram page for it, remind people when meetings are and clear up any confusion."

Issues she'd like the school board to address include the district's phone, absence and dress policies, and she'll be voicing student concerns on those. "A lot of students think those policies are too strict," she said.

Jordan knows that conflict can arise during discussions and has her ways of dealing with that. "I like to wait it out, see where the tides turn, and share the students' perspectives on things pertaining to us." She also uses humor, saying, "It gets people to listen more."

"Humor has been her mainstay in life," added Jessica. "It's gotten her out of a lot of stuff with her parents because she's funny, and then we laugh."

Jordan doesn't have to look far to find her role models. As she gave her mom a hug, Jordan said, "Mom is my role model. She's a rock. She kind of blazes through life. I mean, it's hard to handle five kids!"

Jessica, who is employed at the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Museum in Springfield, said Jordan did the heavy lifting to get the position on her own. "When Jordan said she wanted to do this I said, 'Good luck!' I may have looked over her essay, but she never really asked for assistance. She has everything under control. She did it herself and called me and told me she got it. It was pretty awesome, and I'm very proud of her."

Jordan also looks to her father, Jamie Robinson, for inspiration. A supervisor at County Market, Jamie suffered a stroke several years ago and is still recovering. "If I ever need motivation, I mean this guy, he's walking again," said Jordan. "If he can do that, I can do this."

Jessica talked about the stress that affected the entire family. "Their dad almost died. He's made a lot of progress. When he came home, he was in a wheelchair and now he walks without a cane."

She said all the kids have had to be resilient. "Jordan was a freshman when

that happened, so a lot of attention was taken away from her and all of them because so much attention had to go to him. They had to be a little more grown up than they would have."

Among Jordan's many accomplishments and activities are membership in the National Honor Society and Model U.N. and helping to produce the fall school play. She takes mainly advanced placement and honors classes. She volunteered this summer at College for Kids at Lincoln Land Community College and works weekends at Pizza Ranch, saving money for college.

"My savings account is looking pretty good," she said. She hopes to attend University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and major in political science or public health, then possibly attend graduate school in Washington, D.C. Running for elected office is not out of the question, Jordan said.

Through volunteering, school leadership activities and working at a restaurant, she has honed skills in organizing and motivating people.

"For our student roundtable projects, I make sure everyone has a small task, so they don't have to take on a load of work. I supervise people at work, too. I've learned skills like efficiency, figuring out the quickest way to do things, along with technical skills and obviously customer service. Sometimes my manager says, 'Alright Jordan, you got this.'"

What parent wouldn't be proud of a high-achieving student who takes on a leadership role working with elected officials for the betterment of local education? When asked what advice she might have for other parents with a child showing leadership qualities, Jessica replied, "I just love them and support them." Then she added with a laugh, "And I feed them a lot."

Jordan agreed. "Food is a great motivator. Mom is a great cook. When someone asks me, 'What is your favorite restaurant?' I say, 'My house!'"

*Lynn Whalen has a background in broadcast journalism and higher education public relations, most recently as chief communications officer at Lincoln Land Community College.*



**ALPACA FARM DAYS**  
**FREE FAMILY EVENT**

**Saturday, September 27th**  
11 am to 4 pm

**Sunday, September 28th**  
11 am to 3 pm

Kids Activities • Shop ALPACA Products  
Feel ALPACA Fleece  
Demonstrations • LEARN About Alpacas

**Bart and Rhonda Leinberger**  
17229 VanEman Street • Petersburg  
217-414-0266 or 217-632-2590



**FAMILY FUNFEST**  
FUNDRAISER FOR PREVENT CHILD ABUSE ILLINOIS

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2025**  
11:00AM - 3:30PM  
ON THE Y BLOCK 4TH & JACKSON  
DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD

Bounce houses,  
toddler area,  
stage acts,  
games, foam  
party...

& MUCH  
MORE!

[www.springfieldfunfest.org](http://www.springfieldfunfest.org)

**meridian**

# Partners for your child's health.



**Memorial Care pediatricians  
are accepting new patients.**

Mackenzie A. Heywood, MD

Kara Shafer, DO

Ashish K. John, MD

Teena E. John, MD

Korine G. Vlahos, MD



3132 Old Jacksonville Road  
Springfield, IL 62704

 [memorial.health/find-a-doctor](https://www.memorial.health/find-a-doctor)

 217-862-0800



The Springfield Park District Turns **125!**

Discover exciting events, activities, and special moments inside!



SEPT - DEC

— 2025 —

**FALL**

**Activity & Facility Guide**



### Carve For The Carillon

**Carve for the Carillon**—a free community event, hosted by the Rees Carillon Society, where everyone is invited to help carve pumpkins for display at the Jack-O-Lantern event the following weekend!

**Scan the QR Code  
to view our FULL  
Activity Guide!**



**More FUN inside!**

Find your **FUN**, find your *smile* at [springfieldparks.org](https://springfieldparks.org)





Discover the Springfield Park District's

FALL

## Activity & Facility Guide

Your go-to for exciting family **FUN** this season!

Scan the QR Code  
to view our **FULL**  
Activity Guide!



Find out about our:

Special Event **FUN**  
Rentals and Weddings  
Ice Skating and Hockey

Special Recreation  
And more!

## Our Online Activity and Facility Guide has INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES!

Click on **ANY** of our activities in the electronic version of the Activity and Facility Guide and be taken straight to the registration page!

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Camp LEAP is a weekly program. Registration deadlines are set as the Friday prior to the week the participant is attending.

Location: Nelson Center  
MENU: 10/24

Activity & Age	Day	Time	Date	8/NO Fee
270102-01 13-25	M-F	7:30A-5:30P	6/07-6/11	\$90/\$10
270102-02 13-25	M-F	7:30A-5:30P	6/14-6/18	\$90/\$10
270102-03 13-25	M-F	7:30A-5:30P	6/21-6/25	\$90/\$10
270102-04 13-25	M-F	7:30A-5:30P	6/28-7/02	\$90/\$10
270102-05 13-25	M-F	7:30A-5:30P	7/05-7/09	\$90/\$10



Find your **FUN**, find your *smile* at [springfieldparks.org](http://springfieldparks.org)



# NOW BOOKING



**SPRINGFIELD**  
PARK DISTRICT

## PARK SHELTER RENTALS!

Park shelter rental season is from **April 1st - October 31st!**

**Picnic Rentals** can be booked up to **one year in advance** during the rental season!

*\*All rentals require a non-refundable deposit.*

**BARKER PARK:** Basic Shelter *(Power)*

**CENTENNIAL PARK:** Basic Shelter

**COMER COX PARK:** Basic Shelter, Amenity Shelter

**DUNCAN PARK:** Amenity Shelter

**DREAMLAND PARK:** Amenity Shelter

**ENOS PARK:** Amenity Shelter

**ILES PARK:** Amenity Shelter

**INDIAN HILLS:** Basic Shelter

**JAYCEE PARK:** Amenity Shelter

**KIWANIS PARK:** Amenity Shelter

**LINCOLN PARK:** Amenity Shelter

**ROTARY PARK:** Basic Shelter

**SOUTHWIND PARK:** Hope Pavilion *(Amenity)*, Basic Shelter

**STUART PARK:** Basic Shelter *(Power)*

**WASHINGTON PARK:** Amenity Shelter

*\*Basic Shelter – Shelter only*

*\*Amenity Shelter – Shelter with Power, Restrooms, and Water*

Book here at: [bit.ly/SPD\\_Shelter-Rentals](https://bit.ly/SPD_Shelter-Rentals)  
Or scan the QR code!



For more information, please call the Springfield Park District at **217-544-1751**





# CELEBRATING 125 YEARS of enriching lives!

Join us in honoring **125 years** of community, recreation, and connection! Since 1900, the Springfield Park District has been committed to enriching lives through our beautiful parks, diverse programs, and cherished attractions.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS!

- 🕒 **September 18, 2025: Night Glow Festival**  
Southwind Park will light up the night with this glow-in-the-dark festival, featuring entertainment, food, and family-friendly fun.
- 🕒 **October 4, 2025: Happy Harvest Hoedown**  
Enjoy a morning of country fun at Southwind Park with music, games, and seasonal activities for the whole family.
- 🕒 **December 2025: Zoo Lights**  
Take a stroll through the zoo and enjoy thousands of lights and themed lighted displays!
- 🕒 **September 13, 2025: The Ultimate Distance Duel: Longest Drive, Putt & Chip Contest!**
- 🕒 **October 18, 2025: Cyclocross**
- 🕒 **December 6 - December 21, 2025: Winter Holiday Floral Show at Washington Park Botanical Garden**
- 🕒 **Sports Time Machine:**  
Celebrate Springfield's rich history with these nostalgic events:
  - **August 16, 2025: Intro to Horseshoes**
  - **September 13, 2025: The Ultimate Distance Duel: Longest Drive, Putt & Chip Contest!**
  - **October 18, 2025: Cyclocross**

**125 Years of Enriching Lives Through  
Parks, People, and Possibilities**



For more information please call 217-544-1751 or visit our website at [bit.ly/SPD\\_125-Anniversary](https://bit.ly/SPD_125-Anniversary)





# Celebrating 125 YEARS

of Parks, People, and Possibilities

**For 125 years**, the Springfield Park District has been an integral part of the Springfield community. Since its establishment on February 8, 1900, we've grown from a simple idea to an essential network of 36 parks and nearly 2,500 acres, creating green spaces where people can connect, play, and thrive.

From scenic trails and lush gardens to golf courses, sports fields, and historic sites, **our parks provide countless opportunities for relaxation, recreation, and exploration!**



## A COMMUNITY OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

We're proud to manage beloved facilities, including:

- Henson Robinson Zoo
- Washington Park Botanical Garden
- Four Golf Courses (Bergen, Pasfield, Bunn, Lincoln Greens)
- Erin's Pavilion
- Eisenhower Pool
- Nelson Center Ice Rink and Pool
- Velasco Tennis Center
- Funshop & Washington Park Preschool
- Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon
- Special Recreation

## LOOKING AHEAD

**As we celebrate this milestone**, we reflect on our past achievements while looking to the future. Committed to inclusivity, sustainability, and innovation, we aim to make the next 125 years even more impactful.

We thank you for your support in making this journey possible.

**Together, let's continue to enrich lives through parks, people, and possibilities!**

Here's to 125 years of making Springfield a better place to live, work, and play!





# Art Spectacular



Join us for the **20th Annual Art Spectacular**, ranked among the **top 100 fine art fairs** in the USA by Sunshine Artist Magazine!

*Takes Place:*

**Saturday, September 13**, 10a - 5p  
**Sunday, September 14**, 10a - 4p



Located at **Washington Park Botanical Garden**, 1740 W Fayette | For more information visit [www.carillon-rees.org](http://www.carillon-rees.org)

## Night & Glow FESTIVAL

**Thursday, September 18th | 6-9p**  
 Located at **Southwind Park**, 4965 S 2nd St.

Experience the Magic! As the sun sets, watch the sky come alive with a breathtaking hot air balloon glow at dusk! Bring your family and friends for an unforgettable evening of glowing balloons, great food, and beautiful park views!

**\*\$10 parking admission**

*For All Ages!*

WASHINGTON PARK BOTANICAL GARDEN

## Leaf Identification Hikes

**SEPTEMBER 20TH | 10a-12p and 1-3p**

ALL AGES \$7R / \$10NR  
 PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
[bit.ly/Leaf\\_ID-Trails](http://bit.ly/Leaf_ID-Trails)





Springfield Park District  
125  
Years

# HAPPY HARVEST *Hoedown*

SPECIAL EVENTS

**Join us for a festive fall celebration!** A special event marking the Springfield Park District's 125th anniversary! Experience the beauty of autumn at Southwind Park with a morning full of **family-friendly fun, seasonal activities, and lively entertainment.**

*Saturday, October 4th*  
**9 am - 12 pm**

## SCARECROW CORRAL

See creative scarecrow displays created by the community!

## ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy a morning filled with food and live music!



## FALL ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Located at **Southwind Park**, 4965 S 2nd St. | For more information please call **217-585-2941**





**FREE EVENT**  
Rain or shine!

# Carve For the Carillon!

**October 11 & 12**

**11:00am - 4:00pm\***

*\*Or while supplies last*

Help us carve pumpkins at the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon & Washington Park Botanical Garden grounds for the **Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular!**

***Takes Place Both Days - While Supplies Last!***

For more info: [carillon-rees.org](http://carillon-rees.org)

Questions? Call the Botanical Garden: **217-546-4116**

**Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W Fayette Ave, Springfield, IL 62704**



The Springfield Park District and Rees Carillon Society Present

# Jack~O~Lantern Spectacular

**October 17 & 18**

**6:30pm - 9:30pm**

*Both Nights - Rain or Shine*

Come enjoy the sparkling splendor of Illuminated **Jack-O-Lanterns** surrounding the Carillon & Botanical Garden at Washington Park. Food Vendors will be on site during the event!



**Advanced Admission:** Adults \$7

*\*Pre-tickets: available at Carve for the Carillon & Ashley's Furniture.*

Children age 4-11 \$5

Children 3 & under FREE

**Evening of Admission:** Adults \$10, Children age 4-11 \$7





SPRINGFIELD PARC<sup>X</sup>2025

# CYCLOCROSS

Helmets are required  
AT ALL TIMES!

OCTOBER 18

Event will go on  
RAIN OR SHINE!

**EVERYONE IS INVITED** to participate or come out and watch this exciting CYCLOCROSS event!

Cyclocross is a unique form of cycling that is a cross between road cycling, mountain biking and steeplechase.

**Note:** Men & Women ALL Categories; staggered start times as dictated by attendance; mountain bikes welcome!

10:00am Masters 40+ 45 min

11:00am Juniors 9-17, CAT 4/5, First-Timers 40 min

12:00pm CAT 3 45 min

1:00pm CAT 1/2 60 min

SPECIAL EVENTS



Online Registration is:

**\$35 +Bike Registration Fee**

Register at:

[BikeReg.com/springfield-cyclocross](https://www.bikereg.com/springfield-cyclocross)



Located at Centennial Park 5529 Bunker Hill, Springfield, IL  
For more information, please contact Scott Marlow 217-753-2800 ext. 1012





henson robinson **ZOO**  
SPRINGFIELD  
PARK DISTRICT

CAPITOL  
MEDIA GROUP

SPRINGFIELD ZOOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

**\$5 ENTRY**

# ZOOLIE Ghoulie

**Friday, OCT 24**  
**Saturday, OCT 25**



SPRINGFIELD  
PARK DISTRICT

SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT SPECIAL RECREATION

**MONSTER MASH**

**HALLOWEEN DANCE**

**ALL AGES FREE!**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 7-9 P.M.**

**ERIN'S PAVILION**  
4965 S 2ND ST SPRINGFIELD, IL

COME IN YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME FOR THRILLS & FUN!  
ENJOY REFRESHMENTS, TREAT BAGS, FACE PAINTING AND A COSTUME CONTEST!

Activity #370250  
Go to [bit.ly/SPD\\_Oct\\_Dance](https://bit.ly/SPD_Oct_Dance)  
or Scan the QR Code for more information!

**ANDRE HAWKINS**  
SPECIAL RECREATION SUPERVISOR  
217-585-2941





# Annual FRESH EVERGREEN WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

## WASHINGTON PARK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Bring your friends, have  
some refreshments,  
and make your own  
fresh, **evergreen**  
wreath to take home!



9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
OR 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

AGES 18 +

\$50/R & \$55/NR

**6**  
DEC



REGISTER ONLINE WITH  
ACTIVITY #361111  
[bit.ly/SPD\\_Wreath\\_Workshop](https://bit.ly/SPD_Wreath_Workshop)

SPECIAL EVENTS



# WINTER HOLIDAY FLORAL SHOW

For more information, please call 217-546-4116

## Takes place December 6-21

Enjoy 500+ poinsettias nestled among the  
decorated fresh evergreens and lush tropical foliage.

**The event is free and for all ages!**

Monday-Friday: 12pm-4pm

Saturday-Sunday: 12:pm-5pm





# Santa House

A local tradition for over 40 years!

Plan to make a visit this holiday season to the **Santa House!**  
**Bring your own phone or camera for pictures with Santa!**

*Free Admission!*

**Santa House is back and coming to a park near you this holiday season!**

Check out our website at [springfieldparks.org](http://springfieldparks.org) for future dates and times!

For more info please contact 217-544-1751.

Rees Carillon Society, The Carillon Belles  
& the Springfield Park District invite you to

# Caroling at the Carillon

Sunday, December 14th | 3:00pm - 5:00pm

*FREE Admission, Refreshments, and Kid's Activities!*

Join us as we celebrate the season around a roaring bonfire singing holiday carols to the bells of the **Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon!**



For more information please go to [carillon-rees.org/](http://carillon-rees.org/) or call 217-546-3853.





# ZOO LIGHTS

At the Henson Robinson Zoo

Take a stroll through the zoo and enjoy thousands of lights and themed lighted displays! Enjoy the hot chocolate bar or roast a marshmallow over the fire pit for a delicious smore.

For Special Events be sure to watch our Zoo Facebook page [@HensonRobinsonZoo](#)

Adults: \$7.50 | Kids Ages 3-12: \$5.50 | Ages 2 & Under: Free

## SCHEDULE

5:00-9:00pm \*last admission is at 8:00pm

11/28-11/30  
12/05-12/07  
12/12-12/14

**WEEK BEFORE  
CHRISTMAS!**  
12/19-12/23



henson  
robinson **ZOO**  
**SPRINGFIELD**  
PARK DISTRICT

For more information, please call the Zoo  
at 217-585-1821 or visit [www.springfieldparks.org](http://www.springfieldparks.org)





# SPORTS Time Machine

Celebrate Springfield's rich history with these nostalgic events!  
**THESE ARE FREE AND FOR ALL AGES!**



## *Intro to Horseshoes* August 16, 8-10am

Step back in time and try your hand at a classic sport with Sports Time Machine: Intro to Horseshoes on August 16, 2025, at Lincoln Park! Whether you're a seasoned player or a first-timer, this event offers a fun introduction to the game of horseshoes and a chance to experience this traditional outdoor sport.

Located at **Lincoln Park**, 1601 North 5th Street.  
For more information please call Scott Marlow at **217-546-4103 ext. 1012**

## *The Ultimate Distance Duel: Longest Drive, Putt, and Chip Contest* September 13, 8-11am

Get ready for a showdown of skill and distance at Lincoln Greens Golf Course! This exciting event will feature three challenging contests where participants will compete to see who has the best skills across multiple aspects of the game.

Located at **Lincoln Greens Golf Course**, 700 E Lake Shore Drive.  
For more information please call Lance Flury at **217-786-4111 ext. 1901**



For more information the Springfield Park District's 125 Anniversary,  
go to **bit.ly/SPD\_125-Anniversary** | Or scan the QR Code!







# Winter Camp

**DEC 22nd - JAN 2nd**

**7:30 am - 5:30 pm**

\*There will be no camp on Dec 25, Dec 26, Dec 27, & Dec 28.

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

**Each child 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.



**Fees:**

**December 22nd to the 24th: \$84R/\$104NR**

**December 29th to January 2nd: \$112R/\$142NR**



Register at [bit.ly/SPD\\_Wint-Camp](https://bit.ly/SPD_Wint-Camp)  
Activity #370240

For more information please contact Andre Hawkins at 217-585-2941 ext. 2303 | Located at Erin's Pavilion, 4965 S 2nd St.



# DISCOVER THE SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT!



**SPRINGFIELD**  
PARK DISTRICT

With **36 parks** and **17 unique facilities**, there's something for everyone!

## PARKS

Bergen Park	Jefferson Park
Bunn Park	Kiwanis Park
Carpenter Park	Lake Victoria Park
Centennial Park	Lanphier Park
Comer Cox Park	Lawless Park
Duncan Park	Lincoln Park
Dreamland Park	Lindbergh Park
Eisenhower Park	Cadigan Park
Enos Park	Barker Park
Fairview Park	Riverside Park
Gehrmann Park	Rotary Park
Gietl Park	Schlitt Park
Gurgens Park	Southwind Park
Hobbs Park	Stuart Park
Iles Park	Timberbrooke Park
Indian Hills Park	Vredenburg Park
Jaycee Park	Washington Park
Kennedy Park	Westchester Park

## FACILITIES

Henson Robinson Zoo  
Washington Park Botanical Garden  
Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon  
Washington Park Pavilion  
Eisenhower Aquatic Center  
Riverside Campground  
Lincoln Greens Golf Course  
Bunn Golf Course  
Bergen Golf Course  
Pasfield Golf Course  
Velasco Tennis Center  
Robin Roberts Stadium  
Nelson Center Ice Rink  
Lincoln Park Pavilion  
Nelson Center Pool  
Erin's Pavilion  
Funshop



Find your next adventure at [springfieldparks.org](https://springfieldparks.org)  
Or scan the QR Code!



**WE DON'T JUST TREAT  
YOUR KIDS.**



**WE TREAT THEM LIKE KIDS.**

True healing extends far beyond prescriptions and procedures. So, at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital, our commitment goes beyond our clinical roles to provide support centered on the whole person, recognizing each child who comes through our doors not just as a patient but as the unique individual they are.



**Children's Hospital**

**HSHS St. John's**

415 N 9TH ST, SPRINGFIELD, IL | [HSHS.ORG/ST-JOHNS-CHILDRENS](https://www.hshs.org/st-johns-childrens)



# Kidzeum

## Now enrolling! After-School STEAM Program

- STEAM Daily After-School Program
- School year full of fun, discovery, and creativity
- Each day of the week is dedicated to a different area of STEAM—Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math

## The Road to Adventure! EXPLORING ROUTE 66

### Exhibit Now Open!

- Fix a flat at the repair shop
- Flip some flapjacks in our vintage diner
- Watch a movie at the drive-in theater
- Race cars down the Rt 66 Speedway



## Cruise on in!

[Kidzeum.org](http://Kidzeum.org)

412 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL • 217-679-2123

# FALL SOCCER

STARTS SEPT 5



Ages 3-13

NEW: U-14 DIVISION

SIGN-UP ENDS AUG 17



[springfieldymca.org](http://springfieldymca.org)



# Family event calendar

PARENT | Daron Walker

## AUGUST

### Illinois State Fair

Aug. 7-17. Massive annual fair features every kind of food imaginable, the sounds of music and concertgoers' cheers at the Grandstand shows, a midway, harness-racing events and tons of agricultural shows and more. The fun begins Aug. 7 with the Twilight Parade. See the fair's website for complete schedule. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave.

### Camp Sunshine

Fri., Aug. 8, 7:30-9:30pm and Sat., Aug. 9, 7:30-9:30pm. Written by Ken Bradbury and Roger Wainwright, Camp Sunshine is a musical telling the story of some young people who attend a camp that's not so typical ... or maybe it is. Sure to be charming show for old, young, and most significantly, the young at heart. [theatreinthepark.net](http://theatreinthepark.net). Theatre in the Park, Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-725-0239.

### Shrek: The Musical

Fri., Aug. 8, 8:30pm and Sat., Aug. 9, 8:30pm. This musical features Shrek, the Ogre, who is on a life-changing journey with a donkey and a princess. Shrek starts off just wanting to be left alone, but finds that love is much more rewarding. LaDonna Wilson will direct the show. The Muni, 815 East Lake Shore Drive, 217-793-6864.

### A Harvest of Buttons on the Illinois Prairie

Fri., Aug. 8, 10am and Sat., Aug. 9, 10am. Collectors and dealers from the U.S., Canada, Europe and Japan will descend on Springfield to immerse themselves - and the public - in all things buttons. Celebrate the history, beauty and infinite variety of antique and vintage buttons. Will feature more than 30 antique and vintage button dealers. \$5. Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-529-7777.

### Illinois Product Artisan Market

Aug. 8-10. This three-day event features Illinois artisans and producers. Taste the flavors of Illinois, connect with the artisans behind the products and discover one-of-a-kind finds. Don't miss the Fire Department Coffee fire truck on display. Sip and shop Illinois wines available on-site. [illinoisproductsfarmersmarket.com](http://illinoisproductsfarmersmarket.com). Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-558-0788.

### Thematic Concert Series - Classical to Modern featuring Caleb Melamed

Fri., Aug. 8, 6:30pm. Each week, the Carillon comes to life with a unique musical theme. This week it ranges from classical to modern music featuring Caleb Melamed. Bring a blanket, pack a picnic and enjoy the sounds of summer under the stars. [carillon-rees.org](http://carillon-rees.org). Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

### Rapunzel

Fri., Aug. 8, 7-8pm and Sat., Aug. 9, 3-4, 5-6pm. In this enchanting children's ballet retelling of this tale, young dancers bring the beloved fairy tale to life. Set in a magical forest, the ballet follows Rapunzel, a girl with long, golden hair locked away in a tower by a jealous sorceress. With whimsical choreography and charming costumes, the performance captures her longing for freedom, her secret friendship with a dashing outlaw, and her daring escape. *Rapunzel* celebrates courage, love and the power of hope. Crafts and games before the show. Presented by the Springfield Dance Theatre. \$30 in advance, \$35 day of show, \$28 for seniors. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-528-9760.

### Dual Piano in Concert

Fri., Aug. 8, 7pm, Sat., Aug. 9, 7pm and Sun., Aug. 10, 2pm. Damien Kaplan and Mark Gifford will work their magic on the music as only they can do! A couple of guys, a couple of grand pianos and a couple of hours of delight - that's Dual Piano! [hcfta.org](http://hcfta.org). \$20-\$22. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

### Statewide: Illinois Artist Showcase

Mondays-Fridays, 9am-5pm and Saturdays, 10am-3pm. Through Aug. 30. This exhibit highlights the work of talented professional artists, ages 21 and above, who are living and working in Illinois. [springfieldart.org](http://springfieldart.org). Free. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

### Junior Historians: Getting Hands On Through Art

Sat., Aug. 9, 9am-12pm. A guided activity based on the tactile elements of the "Lincoln: Sight, Sound, and Touch" exhibit. Participants will have an opportunity for hands-on expression after touring the interactive gallery exhibit. For first- through fifth-graders, but older students welcome to join. Advance registration required. [presidentlincoln.illinois.gov](http://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov). Free. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

### Back 2 School Community Day and Health Fair

Sat., Aug. 9, 10am-1pm. Welcome the new school year by attending their community day and health fair. Expect a school supply giveaway, music, food and more. Presented by Northside Church of Christ and Made Wright. Free. Northside Church of Christ, 2400 N. Grand Ave E., 217-361-4661.

### EAA Young Eagles Rally

Second Saturday of every month, 10am-2pm. Through Sep. 19. Free airplane rides for children 8-17 years old. Preregistration for flights required. [yeDay.org](http://yeDay.org). Free. LLC's Levi, Ray & Shoup Aviation Center, Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport, 815 South Airport Drive, 217-483-3238.

### 1st Annual Route 66 Sneaker Convention

Sat., Aug. 9, 12-5pm. The ultimate sneaker

extravaganza celebrating all things kicks along the iconic Route 66. Find back to school deals on sneakers, clothes, crafts and more. Tickets on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). \$5; children younger than 12 free. Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, 625 E. St. Joseph St., 217-553-5529.

### Pack the Buzz: A School Supply Drive

Sat., Aug. 9, 12-3pm. Fill Floyd Imports' all-electric VW ID Buzz with donations. Items will be distributed to students through Boys & Girls Club of Central Illinois. Items sought include backpacks, notebooks, No. 2 pencils, pens, crayons, highlighters, washable markers and dry erase markers, folders, binders, paper, glue sticks, Kleenex and Clorox. Includes pictures with Buzz, music and free refreshments. See Facebook page for more info. Free. Floyd Imports, 2320 Prairie Crossing, 217-585-1214.

### Mansion Tours

Saturdays, Sundays, 1:45-2:45, 3-4pm. Illinois Department of Natural Resources trained staff and volunteers lead this tour of the official residence of Gov. JB and first lady MK Pritzker. Tour focuses on the history of the mansion. No self-guided tours are permitted. Reserve a spot on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Free. Illinois Governor's Mansion, 410 E. Jackson St., 217-782-6450.

### ArtVenture Awaits ~ Red, White and You Week

Mondays-Thursdays, 9am-12pm. This summer camp features small classes, big imagination and a "yes you can" spirit. Camp helps children from kindergarten through 12th grade build confidence through creativity, community and fun. After the first class, enjoy easy drop-off and pick-up while your child explores art in a safe, supportive space. See the Facebook page for more info. \$35 single class, \$120 four sessions. Studio on 6th, 215 S. Sixth St., 217-220-5334.

### Springfield International Folk Dancers

Mondays, 7-9pm. Experience the joy of folk dancing from many cultures. All skill levels welcome and no partners necessary. Free. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-793-8035.

### Back to School Bash

Tue., Aug. 12, 4-8pm. Music, entertainment, games, giveaways, free haircuts and more. Free. Comer Cox Park, Capitol Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, 544-1751.

### Mini Explorer's Club

Tuesdays, 9:30-10:15am. Through Aug. 26. Mini Explorer's club is the Illinois State Museum's newest engaging, musical, and hands-on 45-minute class for young children aged 18 months to 5 years. Mini Explorer's Club aims to creatively introduce all the wonders of Illinois to the state's youngest citizens. Each Explorer's Club class will teach a new aspect of Illinois history, science or art. Explorers will sing, move and create as they learn all about Illinois' cultural and





**Where Adventure Grows**

Adventure is always  
in season with Girl Scouts.

**Join Girl Scouts and get ready to:**

- ✓ Sing silly songs as new friendships blossom
- ✓ Discover new skills as your crew cheers you on
- ✓ Plant seeds of kindness by helping out in your community



Scan the QR code to learn more

girlscouts  
of central illinois

GetYourGirlPower.org | 888-623-1237



**Next Issue  
November 14**

Space & ad copy deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 22  
Final art deadline: Monday, Nov. 1

**capitalcityparent.com**

**Call today to schedule your ad!**  
**217/ 753-2226**

Beth Irwin 217-679-7803  
Yolanda Bell 217-679-7802  
Ron Young 217-679-7807

natural resources. Free. Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring St., 217-782-6623.

#### **Cirque Italia Water Circus**

Aug. 15-18. Cirque Italia will present a captivating story about Rafael, a farm boy swept away by a tornado who lands in the heart of a city's chaos. Experience this extraordinary journey of self-discovery. [cirqueitalia.com](http://cirqueitalia.com). White Oaks Mall, 2501 Wabash Ave., 941-704-8572.

#### **Yart Sale**

Sat., Aug. 16, 9-3am. The SAA's annual sale of supplies and equipment in metals, ceramics, painting, photography, photography, paper arts and more. As people clean out their closets and donate supplies and equipment from a forgotten hobby, the SAA offers them to the public at low prices. [springfieldart.org](http://springfieldart.org). Free admission. Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

#### **Abe's Amble 2025**

Sun., Aug. 17, 7:30am. On the last day of the Illinois State Fair in August each year, hundreds of runners from Illinois and surrounding states take to the streets covering the fairgrounds, Lincoln Park, Oak Ridge Cemetery and back. [srrc.net/abesamble](http://srrc.net/abesamble). TBA. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

#### **Powerlight Fest**

Sun., Aug. 17, 2pm. American Idol star Colton Dixon headlines the show at 8pm. The festival begins at 2pm with praise and worship with Hope Church. One God, One Church performs at 3:30pm, Rare of Breed at 5pm. and Emerson Day at 6:30pm. See the Facebook page for more info. Free with admission to fair. The Lincoln Stage, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-553-5271.

#### **Balloons Over 66 Weekend**

Aug. 22-24. More than 35 balloons will be launched from locations throughout Lincoln. The weekend includes the annual Lincoln Art Fair, dock dogs, vendors, live music and more in the downtown area. Untethered balloon rides can be purchased. Downtown Lincoln.

#### **2025 Lincoln Art Fair**

Fri., Aug. 22, 5-8pm and Sat., Aug. 23, 10am-5pm. Held in the heart of downtown Lincoln, this event is part of the Balloons over 66 Weekend, one of Lincoln's premier events. Artisans are welcome to apply for the fair. Visit the website for more info. [lincolnnartinstitute.com](http://lincolnnartinstitute.com). Downtown Lincoln, 309-287-3744.

#### **Danny Funderburk and Anticipation**

Fri., Aug. 22, 7pm. An evening with Gospel Hall of Fame member Danny Funderburk and family gospel group Anticipation. Free, donations accepted. Ashland First Baptist Church, Ashland, 221 W. Washington St., 217-883-1651.

#### **Bridging the Gap**

Sat., Aug. 23, 11am-2pm. Event brings the community and first responders together in a spirit of unity, trust and fun. Includes barbecue. Presented by The Outlet in partnership with the Springfield Police Department. This is the event's 10th year. Free. Jaycee Park Pavilion, Monroe Street and White City Boulevard, 217-843-7475.

#### **Kitten Circus**

Sat., Aug. 23, 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 Road, 217-544-7387.

#### **Land of Lincoln Chorus**

Sun., Aug. 24, 5pm. Ice Cream Social Series Concert. Special guests: Sound Celebration Chorus. Sherman Village Park Amphitheater, Sherman, 1200 Rail Fence Drive, 217-737-3359.

#### **Neighborhood Block Party**

Sun., Aug. 24, 5-7pm. Connect with neighbors, local businesses and community groups at this event hosted by Douglas Avenue UMC. Includes hot dogs and cotton candy, bounce house, foam machine, games, prizes, crafts, face painting, baby goats, school supply swap and live music. Bring a non-perishable food item for the MicroPantry for a prize ticket. [douglasavenue.org](http://douglasavenue.org). Free. Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church, 501 S. Douglas Ave., 217-546-4631.

#### **Monthly Prairie Hikes**

Last Wednesday of every month, 9-10:30am. Through Oct. 29. Join Illinois Audubon Society's director of land stewardship, Jamie Arntzen, as she shares her expertise on guided hikes through the prairie. See something new every month in this evolving, dynamic landscape. [springfieldaudubon.org](http://springfieldaudubon.org). Free. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 Clear Lake Ave., 217-303-1996.

#### **Raymond Celebration**

Aug. 28-30. This annual event features live music, carnival rides, food, children's events, fireworks, parades and prizes. Raymond Celebration, Raymond, Broad Street, 217-313-3757.

#### **Pride on the Eastside**

Fourth Thursday of every month, 5:30-6:30pm. A social group and support meeting for LGBT and people of color. Phoenix Center OUT East, 704 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-528-5253.

#### **Springfield Mile**

Sat., Aug. 30, 12pm and Sun., Aug. 31, 12pm. The annual Labor Day weekend doubleheader of the world's premier flat track motorcycle racing series. You just now imagined the sound of all those motorcycles roaring past the Grandstand, didn't you? [americanflattrack.com](http://americanflattrack.com). \$20-\$150. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-632-0277.

#### **Downtown Springfield Community Cleanup Day**

Last Sunday of every month, 1-3pm. Through Sep. 28. Meet at the DSI office. Snacks and supplies will be provided. [downtownspringfield.org](http://downtownspringfield.org). Downtown Springfield, Inc., 3 W. Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-544-1723.

## **SEPTEMBER**

#### **Prairieland Chautauqua – Greetings from Jacksonville, 1825-2025**

Fri., Sep. 5, 6-9pm and Sat., Sep. 6, 10am-5pm. This year's theme is centered around the city



of Jacksonville in celebration of Jacksonville's bicentennial. Nichols Park, Jacksonville, 110 Holkenbrink Drive, 217-479-4641.

#### Tour de Heartland

Sat., Sep. 6, 8am-1pm. Pedal for preservation of the Marbold Farmstead at the 2nd annual Tour de Heartland bike ride hosted by the Historic Marbold Farmstead Association. This event raises funds to restore the farmstead. Cyclists can choose between a scenic 14-mile ride or a challenging 40-mile course, both starting at Greenview High School with a rest stop at Country Hills Golf Course. Register at [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com). [historic-marbold-farmstead.org](http://historic-marbold-farmstead.org). \$40 for 14-mile ride, \$45 for 40-mile ride. Historic Marbold Farmstead, Greenview, 21722 State Hwy 29, 720-838-0498.

#### Historic Marbold Farmstead Heritage Festival

Sat., Sep. 6, 9am-3pm and Sun., Sep. 7, 9am-3pm. Step back in time for two days of history, community and entertainment. Experience live bluegrass music, historic demonstrations, artisan goods, delectable food vendors and guided tours of the Marbold home. Highlights include a pie contest, a presentation on picture postcards and The Corn Crib activity center for kids. [historic-marbold-farmstead.org](http://historic-marbold-farmstead.org). Adults \$6, Family \$10. Historic Marbold Farmstead, Greenview, 21722 State Hwy 29, 720-838-0498.

#### Downtown Springfield Family Fun Fest

Sat., Sep. 6, 11am-3:30pm. A day packed with joy, laughter and endless entertainment, all while supporting Prevent Child Abuse Illinois. Includes inflatable obstacle courses, tasty treats from food trucks, special character appearances, interactive games and non-stop action on the main stage, ending with a foam party. [preventchildabuseillinois.org](http://preventchildabuseillinois.org). Free. Y Block, north of the Governor's Mansion, 217-522-1129.

#### Vinegar Hill Neighborhood Block Party

Sat., Sep. 6, 12-3pm. A family-friendly event. Features food, entertainment and children's activities. Free. Vinegar Hill Mall, 107 W. Cook St., 217-522-3123.

#### Westside Farmers Market

First Sunday of every month, 2-5pm. Through Oct. 5. Enjoy live music, Kidz Corner, chalk and face paint and fresh produce, flowers, handmade goods and boutique clothing. Located at the Papo's Cafe Strip Mall. Free. Papo's Cafe, 3290 W. Iles Ave., 217-502-2007.

#### Rock and Run for Mental Health

Sun., Sep. 7, 9am-12pm. Event features 5K run, 1K fun run/walk, food trucks, paint party and art show and live music. Partial proceeds to benefit nonprofit mental health organizations. [rock4mentalhealth.com](http://rock4mentalhealth.com). \$30. Rochester Community Park, Rochester, 90 Wild Rose Lane.

#### St. Cabrini Fall Festival

Sun., Sep. 7, 10:30am-5pm. Features music, food and beverages, children's games and much more. The Jonnie Concaroo Band plays at 2pm. Proceeds benefit the parish. Free. St. Frances Cabrini Parish, 1020 N. Milton Ave., 217-522-8555.

#### Capital City Century

Sat., Sep. 13, 7am-5pm. Five distances from which to



**Does Your Security Manager Need A Vacation?**

**Protect your Home, Family & Valuables for only \$495. Call 217-744-9000 for more information.**

**Young's Security Systems**

*We provide you with peace of mind.*

217 ★★★★★

**BURGER WEEK** ★★★★★

★★★ PART DEUX

**AUGUST 18-27, 2025**

50th Anniversary

**Sponsors**   **MjKellner**  **AMERICAN FAMILY RESOURCES** 

**COMMUNITY**

**CHILD CARE CONNECTION**

*Child Care Resource & Referral*

*Assisting families and child care providers in obtaining education, and quality, affordable child care to help children and families reach their greatest potential.*

*Supporting our community with the child care resources they need to thrive.*

**CONTACT US TO LEARN ABOUT OUR SERVICES**

- CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
- FIND A CHILD CARE PROVIDER
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING & EDUCATION
- QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & ACCREDITATION ASSISTANCE

**info@4childcare.org • 800.676.2805 • 4childcare.org**

**Serving Christian, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon, and Scott counties.**

**FIND US ON**  **@CCCC.SDA13**





*A positive path  
for spiritual living*

**Our Youth & Family Ministry empowers  
the next generation with loving kindness  
and acceptance. We welcome all families,  
children, teens, and young adults into our  
safe, sacred space to explore, discover,  
and experience spirituality.**

**Sundays at 10 am  
Southern View Village  
417 E. Cordelia**



choose. Curated routes and low-traffic roads for the seasoned cyclists and beginners alike. Presented by the Springfield Bicycle Club. Register online. \$25-\$45. Sherman Athletic Club, Sherman, 300 S. First St., 217-899-9175.

#### **Night Glow Festival**

Thu., Sep. 18, 6-9pm. As the sun sets, watch the sky come alive with a breathtaking hot air balloon glow at dusk. Besides glowing balloons, event includes food truck and beautiful park views. \$5 admission, cash only. Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-585-2941.

#### **Clayville Fall Festival**

Sat., Sep. 20, 9am-4pm and Sun., Sep. 21, 9am-4pm. A local favorite! Event includes music, food, crafts, children's activities and historic buildings to tour. See the Facebook site for more info. Free. Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains, Route 125, 217-481-4430.

#### **Mini Chess Tournament**

Sat., Sep. 20, 10am-2pm. Chess play for all ages and skill levels. Three games minimum, more if time permits. Register 10-10:25am, play begins at 10:30am. Open to the public, beginners welcome. Bring a chess set. [springfieldchessclub.com](http://springfieldchessclub.com). Free. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-726-2584.

#### **Edwards Place Fine Art Fair**

Sat., Sep. 20, 10am-5pm and Sun., Sep. 21, 10am-4pm. Artwork from artists across the country gather to show their work. Support them, as well as the SAA, by coming out to shop at the best fall art fair in Springfield. Free admission. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

#### **56th Prairie Land Steam Show & Fall Festival**

Sep. 26-28, 8am-5pm. See horse-powered equipment, antique tractors, gas and steam engines, demonstrations on bailing, blacksmithing and more. Includes steam train rides, flea market and food. \$10, children 12 and under are free. Prairie Land Heritage Museum, Jacksonville, 1005 W. Michigan Ave., 217-243-7262.

#### **Route 66 Mother Road Festival**

Fri., Sep. 26, 6-10pm, Sat., Sep. 27, 9am-10pm and Sun., Sep. 28, 9am-12pm. Hundreds of street machines, muscle cars and hot rods will rumble into the heart of Springfield's historic downtown followed by thousands of spectators for a weekend of family fun, live music and entertainment. Huge cruise Friday night with car show 9am-10 p.m. Saturday and 9am-noon Sunday. Don't miss the popular burnout competition. [route66fest.com](http://route66fest.com). Free for spectators. Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-553-5271.

#### **Annual Artisan Market**

Sat., Sep. 27, 9am-4pm. This year's event features over 30 local and regional artists showcasing unique works. See the Facebook page for more info including an artisan list, directions, latest announcements and more. Free. Illinois State Fairgrounds Commodities Pavilion, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.



*Join Us!*

**Embracing community,  
nurturing core values.  
Explore your dance journey  
with a  
Free  
trial!**



**Toddlers through Adults**

**• Dance • Fitness •  
Tumbling • Silks**

*Qualified adult instructors!*

**[springfielddance.com](http://springfielddance.com)**

**217•483•3623**







## Go Back to School with UCB!

You bought pencils, folders, and markers, but don't forget about your child's financial future!

Open a UCB Savings account and teach your children the responsibility of saving money at an early age.

- Start saving with a \$1.00 minimum opening deposit
- Earn interest on the balance of the account
- No minimum balance requirement for children under 18 years old
- 24/7 account access with Digital Banking<sup>1</sup>

**Visit with us today in person or online to learn more!**

1. Your cellular provider's data and text messaging rates may apply.

**UCBbank.com | 217-787-3000**

Member FDIC



## Learning money skills is quite the epic quest.

That's why CEFCU® has the **Milestone Challenge**. It's all about encouraging good financial habits. The best part is, any CEFCU member age 10-15 can step up to the challenge!

Complete at least nine challenges to earn a special prize.\*

**Find out more at [cefcu.com/challenge](https://cefcu.com/challenge).**

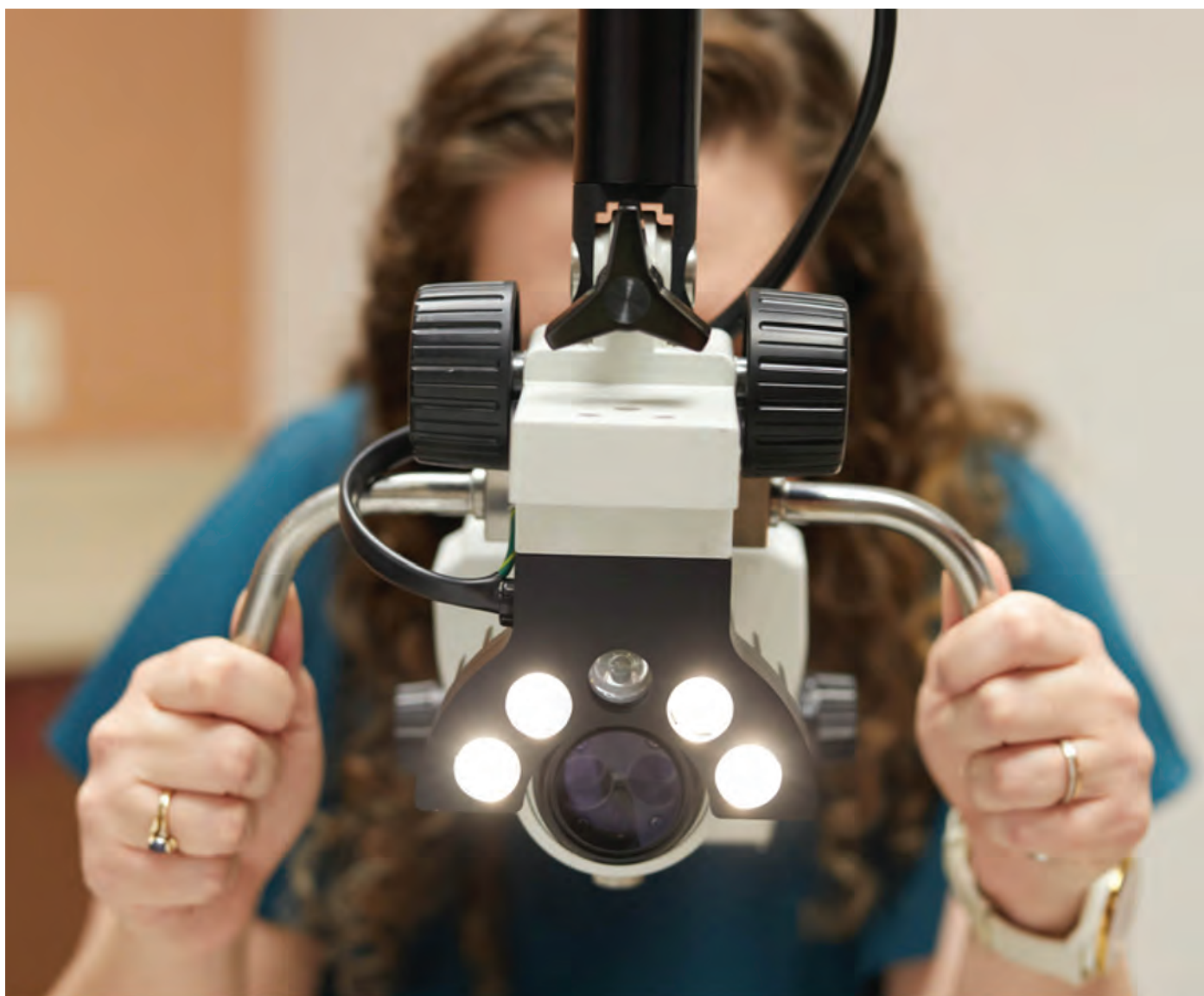
**CEFCU**  
Not a bank. Better.®

\*Visit [cefcu.com/challenge](https://cefcu.com/challenge) for official rules and requirements.

Insured by NCUA





SET YOUR SIGHTS ON  
**BACK-TO-SCHOOL PHYSICALS**

Healthy children make better  
students and stronger athletes.

Schedule their back-to-school  
physicals today.

Call [217.545.8000](tel:217.545.8000).



**SIU MEDICINE**

CENTER FOR FAMILY MEDICINE | SPRINGFIELD