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Official Visitors Guide of Springfield

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VISITOR

2026/27



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Oak Ridge Cemetery is owned and operated by the City of Springfield, IL.

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Greetings! On behalf of the City of Springfield, Illinois, I am proud to welcome you to our remarkable community. Whether this is your first visit or a return trip, we invite you to discover why Springfield continues to be "Always Legendary."

Springfield offers something for everyone, from vibrant festivals and one-of-a-kind events to beautiful parks, scenic trails, and a growing culinary scene that blends exciting new restaurants with beloved local favorites. No matter your interests, you'll find a city rich in stories, experiences, and opportunities to create lasting memories.

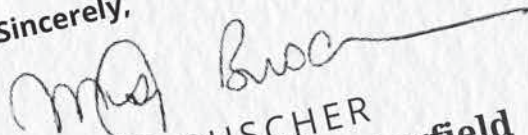
As the hometown of Abraham Lincoln, Springfield's historical legacy is unmatched. Visitors can stroll through Lincoln's preserved neighborhood, explore the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, visit the Lincoln Tomb, or immerse themselves in history at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. At the same time, our city is alive with creativity, culture, and celebration throughout the year.

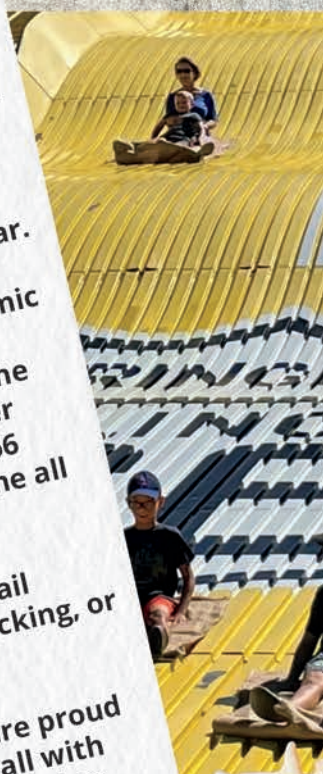
This year brings an exciting lineup of events, including the Midwest Toy and Comic Fest in April, the official launch of the Great Race in June, a community-wide celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary in July, the inaugural season of the Women's Professional Baseball League in August, and the return of the Mother Road Festival in September. While the official 100-year anniversary of Route 66 takes place in November, Springfield will be celebrating this historic milestone all year long.

For those seeking outdoor adventure or relaxation, Lake Springfield, our trail system, and picturesque parks offer the perfect setting for kayaking, picnicking, or a peaceful walk.

Springfield is a city that honors its past while embracing the future. We are proud of our traditions, excited about what lies ahead, and grateful to share it all with you. Thank you for choosing Springfield as your destination, we look forward to welcoming you and making your visit truly legendary.

Sincerely,


MISTY BUSCHER
 Mayor, City of Springfield





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About the cover

This year's Visitor Guide cover proudly celebrates the Route 66 Centennial – marking 100 years of America's most iconic highway. As the heart of Illinois' Mother Road, Springfield is home to more than four dozen Route 66 sites, attractions, culinary adventures, and can't-miss photo opportunities. Throughout this milestone year, the capital city joins the global celebration with special events and warm Midwestern hospitality, welcoming visitors from around the world to experience the magic of Route 66 right here in Springfield. Picture includes the recently refurbished and iconic Shea's Gas Station during the grand opening celebration.

Photo credit: Visit Springfield

CAPITAL CITY

VISITOR

2026/27

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Abe's hometown

Meet Springfield's best-known resident and revered icon



Two centuries after his birth, Springfield's best-known resident remains a revered icon, a leader who bore the weight of destiny to his untimely demise. Born in dire poverty and self-educated, Abraham Lincoln rose to lead our nation during its darkest time. His words inspired Americans during the Civil War, and they inspire us today.

Lincoln was born in Kentucky, grew up in Indiana and came into his own in Illinois. As a young man, he arrived in New Salem. A year later, he was elected captain of a militia

company in the Black Hawk Indian War. When the pioneer village helped elect Lincoln to the state legislature, he had to borrow money to purchase a suit. At the age of 28 he moved to Springfield without enough money to buy a bed. Through initiative, hard work and talent, he became an established and respected lawyer, was elected to the U.S. Congress, debated Stephen Douglas in an unsuccessful bid for the U.S. Senate, and in 1860 was elected the 16th president of the United States.

As Lincoln left for the nation's

capital in 1861 and the Civil War appeared imminent, he prophetically told a crowd assembled at the train station in Springfield: "I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested on Washington."

After Lincoln's assassination, a grieving nation cast him as a mythic figure. Over the years Springfield has become a destination for many American pilgrimages. But in Lincoln's hometown you'll find not only the remnants of Honest Abe the rail-



2

splitter, you'll also discover a more complex, shrewd and wondrous man than the one likely encountered in your high school textbooks.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

212 N. Sixth St.
217-558-8948
presidentlincoln.illinois.gov
Admission

Whether you're a Lincoln researcher or just curious about the life of the Great Emancipator, you should begin your visit at the museum, on the northeast corner of Jefferson and Sixth streets. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum parking ramp is off Sixth Street between Madison and Mason streets.

All museum exhibits are located on the ground floor, and all facilities are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. On the entryway floor, a compass points visitors to the plaza where the historical tour begins. Visitors see a replica of Lincoln's boyhood home in Indiana and the front of the White House as it appeared in 1861. From that sunny atrium-like area, with its 70-foot ceiling, visitors may proceed to any of the display areas.

This state-of-the-art facility was carefully designed with exacting historical detail. Rare historic artifacts tell the entire story of our nation's 16th president. Visitors can enter key scenes from his life. Interactive exhibits reveal the horrible toll of the Civil War. Special exhibits put Illinois history in the

spotlight.

The special effects theaters will entertain, educate and mesmerize you with ghostly images, live actors and high action. Witness the 1860 presidential election as though it were happening today, complete with television news coverage and campaign commercials.

Items from the institution's world-class Lincoln Collection, numbering in the tens of thousands, are exhibited on a rotating basis in the Museum's Treasures Gallery. Visitors might see a handwritten copy of the Gettysburg Address, a Bible that belonged to the Lincolns or a piece of Mary's beautiful jewelry.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

112 N. Sixth St.
800-610-2094
presidentlincoln.illinois.gov
Free

The Lincoln Presidential Library is just across Jefferson Street from the museum and contains an immense treasury of carefully preserved documents and artifacts, some 13 million items in all. The Lincoln Collection is also housed in the library, as is the Papers of Abraham Lincoln research project.

The library is home to "Lincoln's Life in Letters," an exhibit that explores some of the most beautiful or important documents from Lincoln's life. Tourists can visit during business hours Monday through Friday. Researchers should schedule an appointment in advance.

#1 - A visit to Springfield isn't complete without exploring at least one of the many Abraham Lincoln sites.

#2 - *Ghosts of the Library* uses Holovision special effects to take audience members on a journey to answer the question, "Why save all this old stuff?"

Union Square Park

Union Square Park, immediately to the west of the museum, is home to two Abraham Lincoln statues and "Acts of Intolerance," a sculpture by Preston Jackson commemorating the Springfield Race Riot of 1908. The park is the site of occasional concerts and special events hosted by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Lincoln Home National Historic Site

426 S. Seventh St.
217-391-3221
nps.gov/liho
Free (free ticket required for home tour)

The National Park Service invites you to walk in the footsteps of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Conveniently located in downtown Springfield, the four-square-block historic site is within easy walking

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Free

The historic site is currently in a restoration project and will reopen on a limited basis in 2026. Reservations will be required. The Springfield Visitors Center is located on the ground floor.

Edwards Place Historic Home

700 N. Fourth St.
217-523-2631
edwardsplace.org

Admission

This antebellum mansion has recently undergone a full-scale restoration to its 1850s appearance. Visitors will see the house as it appeared when it was owned by Benjamin S. Edwards and his family, who were relatives of Abraham Lincoln through marriage. The Lincolns were frequent guests in the home. Another Lincoln connection is the "courting couch" and "wedding piano" now displayed in the front parlor of Edwards Place. Both originally belonged to Mary Lincoln's sister, Elizabeth, with whom Mary lived before her marriage. Closed January-February.

Lincoln Tomb

1500 Monument Ave.
Oak Ridge Cemetery
217-782-2717

<http://historicspringfield.dnr.illinois.gov/>
[Facebook.com/StateHistoricSitesOfSpringfieldIL](https://www.facebook.com/StateHistoricSitesOfSpringfieldIL)
Donations accepted

A 117-foot granite tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery houses the remains of Abraham Lincoln, his wife and three of their four sons (Lincoln's oldest son, Robert, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery). Designed by famed sculptor Larkin Mead and completed in 1874, this beautiful landmark is nestled in Oak Ridge Cemetery. The cemetery also contains a public receiving vault, which was constructed in 1860 and served as the scene of President Lincoln's funeral.

At the entrance to the Tomb itself, there is a bronze bust of Mr. Lincoln where visitors from around the world have stopped to rub the nose of the statue for good luck.

While at the cemetery, you can visit the gravesites of a number of other prominent Illinoisans, including governors, poet Vachel Lindsay and United Mine Workers leader John L. Lewis. The State Historic Sites Springfield are managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Land Management. Check the website for a listing of Porch Talks and Walk, Hike, Bike History experiences.

- 3. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- 4. Old State Capitol Building
- 5. Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices / Springfield Visitors Center

of the historic site takes approximately two hours. Onsite parking is \$2 per hour, and admission to the Lincoln Home, exhibits and movies are free.

A variety of historic exhibits are located throughout the four-block neighborhood surrounding the Lincoln Home and can be viewed on a self-guided basis.

Old State Capitol

1 Old State Capitol Plaza
217-524-3971
<http://historicspringfield.dnr.illinois.gov/>
[Facebook.com/StateHistoricSitesOfSpringfieldIL](https://www.facebook.com/StateHistoricSitesOfSpringfieldIL)
Donations accepted

Before his days as president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln spent countless hours at the building we now call the Old State Capitol. It is also the place where Lincoln served his final term (1840-1841) as an Illinois state legislator.

As an attorney, Lincoln tried several hundred cases before the Illinois Supreme Court housed here. It is also the site where Lincoln delivered his famous House Divided speech. During the 1860 presidential campaign, Lincoln used the Old State Capitol's governor's room as his headquarters.

John Jones, Frances Gage and many other leaders worked here as well to expand the meaning of freedom in Illinois.

On May 3 and 4, 1865, following Lincoln's assassination, 75,000 mourners convened at the Old State Capitol to bid farewell as Lincoln's body was lying in state in the building's Representatives Hall.

In the 1960s, the Greek Revival-styled building was reconstructed. Today, the first floor features a central hall flanked by rooms interpreting government offices, a library and the Supreme Court room. Also, a new video room and artifact gallery are located on the first floor. The second-floor rooms were recreated to include a magnificent rotunda, legislative chambers and smaller offices and meeting rooms. Visitors can take a 30-minute guided tour or view the rooms on their own. The State Historic Sites at Springfield are managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Land Management.

Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices

1 S. Old State Capitol Plaza
217-524-3971
[Facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/)

distance of several other historic sites, hotels and restaurants.

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln left his home of 17 years – the only home he ever owned – to serve as the 16th president of the United States. The Lincoln Home has been completely restored to its 1860 appearance and reveals much about Lincoln as husband, father, neighbor and politician.

Tours of this national treasure are conducted by National Park Service rangers. Free tickets are required for house tours and may be obtained at the Lincoln Home Visitors Center – which also includes an award-winning film, gift shop and exhibit – open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., seven days a week. The site is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's day. A complete tour



Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site

15588 History Lane, Petersburg
 (about 20 miles NW of Springfield
 on Route 97)
 217-632-4000

lincolnsnewsalem.com
 Donations accepted

A visit to Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site will transport you to a century long gone, while giving you a better understanding of life as a pioneer. See where Abraham Lincoln split rails, clerked in a store and served as postmaster, among other positions that influenced him to eventually become the Great Emancipator. Watch and interact as history comes to life through the costumed characters of the people who lived here more than 150 years ago.

While many of the structures were rebuilt over the original sites in the early 1930s, the town adheres to an impressive and painstaking attention to 1830s authentic detail. Interpreters in period dress effectively explain and demonstrate life in the 1800s.

Lincoln's New Salem has a visitor center where guests can view the film Turning Point - an introduction to Abraham Lincoln's New Salem experience. The visitor center also contains a museum exhibit, highlighting artifacts used by original



New Salem residents. A souvenir shop and restaurant are also available on site. Theatre in the Park presents musicals and plays in the outdoor theater during the summer.

The site hosts a variety of special events throughout the year, such as the Candlelight Walk and Pioneer Life Summer Day Camp. Lincoln's New Salem is also home to a well-equipped campground. You can easily spend at least a day here, if not a weekend, depending on when you're visiting.

Lincoln Family Pew
 First Presbyterian Church
 321 S. Seventh St.
 217-528-4311
lincolnschurch.org
 Free

Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln attended First Presbyterian Church for 10 years at the church's former location (Third and Washington streets) where they rented pew #20. Mary Lincoln became a member of the church and their son, Tad, was baptized here,

while Abraham Lincoln famously never joined any church. In 1872, the congregation moved to South Seventh Street and Capitol Avenue and held funeral services for Mary Todd Lincoln in 1882. The Lincoln pew is available for viewing.

Between 1890 and 1922, seven memorial windows by the world-famous glassmaker and artist Louis Comfort Tiffany were installed. Until air conditioning proliferated beyond movie houses and taverns, their

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9/12 - 9/13	Art Spectacular
10/10 & 10/11	Carve for the Carillon
10/16 & 10/17	Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular
12/05 - 12/20	Winter Holiday Floral Show
12/13	Caroling at the Carillon

1740 W Fayette Ave | 217-546-4116



Looking for Lincoln

Discover your very own Lincoln story right here in Springfield, where history isn't just a chapter – it's the whole book!

As the proud home to a treasure trove of historic sites connected to our nation's 16th president, Springfield is a vibrant hub that invites you to stroll down its streets, where over 50 captivating exhibit signs await to unfold the fascinating tales that helped shape Lincoln's legacy.

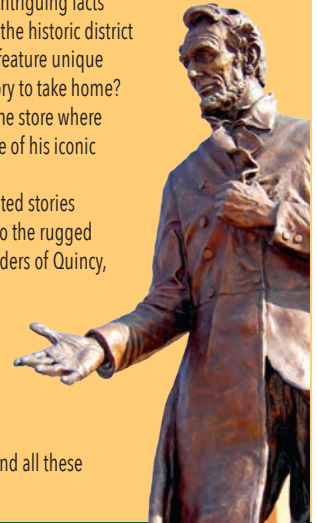
The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, affectionately known as Looking for Lincoln, is on a mission to bring these stories to life. Each street-side exhibit sign is a window into the past, offering intriguing facts about Lincoln, his contemporaries and the world he navigated. Nestled primarily in the historic district of downtown, these signs not only provide timelines and location insights but also feature unique medallions for a fun souvenir rubbing – because who wouldn't want a piece of history to take home?

Examples include: the office where Lincoln's dentist extracted a painful tooth, the store where he selected the perfect wedding ring for Mary and the haberdashery that crafted one of his iconic stovepipe hats. Springfield is a trove of history waiting to be uncovered!

Additionally, embark on a journey through the captivating world of Lincoln-related stories that stretch across all 43 counties of Illinois. From the northern reaches of Freeport to the rugged landscape of Jonesboro, and from the eastern edges of Danville to the western wonders of Quincy, there are over 250 historic interpretive panels, historic sites, and engaging events just waiting to share their Lincoln tales. Whether you're a history buff or just curious to learn more, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

So, lace up your walking shoes and embark on your own Lincoln journey. After all, history is best when shared, and with Looking for Lincoln, the historic spirit of Lincoln is alive for you find!

Visit www.lookingforlincoln.org for an interactive map that makes it a snap to find all these incredible experiences.



bottom portions swung open to permit better air circulation during sweltering summer Sunday services. Sealed and protected against the elements since the mid-1960s, they are a historical testament to a unique art form – symphonies of sunlight for Springfield citizens and tourists.

This vibrant congregation continues to worship and serve the Springfield community from its downtown location as it has for almost 200 years.

Lincoln Depot

930 East Monroe St.
217-544-8695

lincolndepot.org Free

When Lincoln left Springfield by train from the Great Western Depot on the morning of Feb. 11, 1861, he was headed for Washington, D.C., to assume the presidency.

"To this place and the kindness of these people, I owe everything," Lincoln said, addressing the crowd which gathered to bid him farewell. His assassination in 1865 ensured he would never return alive, making that train station the last place he ever set foot in Springfield.

Now called the Lincoln Depot,

the station still stands at the intersection of the 10th Street rail corridor and Monroe Street. Although the depot has been remodeled several times its appearance remains largely true to how it appeared the day of Lincoln's departure from Springfield. As fate would have it, Springfield attorney Daniel Noll, son of depot owner Pinky Noll, is a descendant of Lincoln's law partner, William Herndon. The depot was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. A short film entitled "Abraham Lincoln's Inaugural Journey" is on continuous display in the lobby.

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BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2025 WINNER

Museums and historic sites

History in the heart of Illinois



DOWNTOWN AREA

Dana-Thomas House - A Frank Lloyd Wright design

301 E. Lawrence Ave.
217-782-6776
<http://historicspringfield.dnr.illinois.gov/>
[Facebook.com/StateHistoricSitesOfSpringfieldIL](https://www.facebook.com/StateHistoricSitesOfSpringfieldIL)

StateHistoricSitesOfSpringfieldIL
Donations accepted
A visit to Springfield is not complete without touring the magnificent Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Dana-Thomas House. The home contains the largest collection of site-specific, original Wright art glass and furniture befitting Wright's first "blank check" commission.

In 1902, Springfield socialite and women's rights advocate Susan Lawrence Dana commissioned Wright to design a new residence around the existing family home. Dana spared no expense, and Wright went all-out in what's considered one of his first full expressions of the Prairie Style. When finished in 1904, the \$60,000 project was the largest residence Wright had built - 35 rooms on three levels, encompassing 12,000 square feet of living space.

In the early 1980s the state of Illinois acquired the residence from then-owner Thomas Publishing. The house contains the largest collection of Wright furniture and art

glass windows in the world. It also features a panoramic mural, created by internationally renowned artist George Niedecken, who painted many murals for Wright.

Events at the Dana-Thomas House include concerts, tours, and floral designs during the holidays. The State Historic Sites at Springfield are managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Visit the website for additional information regarding special programs being planned by IDNR to celebrate the preservation of this architectural gem.

Elijah Iles House

628 S. Seventh St.
Open Sat. 12-4 p.m.,
April 30-Oct. 15,
or email ileshouse1998@gmail.com
for an appointment.
217-679-0797
ileshouse.org

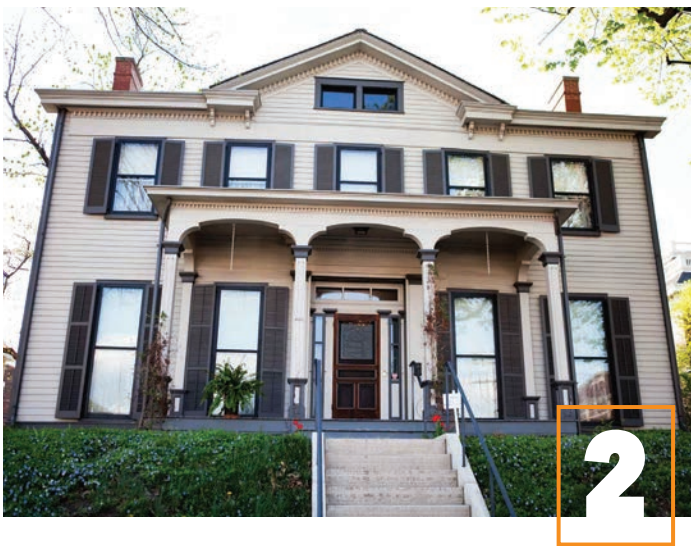
Donations accepted
The Elijah Iles House is thought to have been built before 1837. Elijah Iles, a founder of Springfield, and wife Malinda lived here; it is the city's oldest home still in original design. There is evidence that the same architect who designed the Old State Capitol built it. It is one of the state's earliest residences in the Greek Revival style. Two of Springfield's most famous

citizens, Abraham Lincoln and poet Vachel Lindsay, are known to have visited the house later. Lincoln was a guest of Robert Irwin, and they enjoyed many a card game in the parlor. Because of the house's impressive architecture and rich history, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. It had to be moved from two earlier locations, finding its current home at the corner of Seventh and Cook streets in 1998. An elevator, accessible from special parking behind the house, provides access to visitors with limited mobility. The Farrell and Ann Gay Museum of Springfield History is in the lower level. The House hosts its annual "Clara Irwin's Strawberry Party" every July 4. It is also decorated every December and open to the public for three days of evening Candlelight Tours.

Illinois State Museum

502 S. Spring St.
217-782-7386
illinoisstatemuseum.org
Free - donations appreciated

The Illinois State Museum tells the story of Illinois through art, archeology, natural science, culture and history. Visitors experience three floors of permanent and changing world-renowned exhibits inspired



by the museum's 13.5-million-piece collection. Adults and children alike will find themselves in the story of sea creatures, Ice Age behemoths and centuries of Illinois human history. Enjoy the rotating and wonderfully curated temporary exhibitions. The Illinois State Museum is one of the state's true gems, and it is completely free.

Kidzeum of Health and Science

412 E. Adams St.
217-679-2123
Kidzeum.org
Admission
Kidzeum, located in the heart of Springfield's Downtown Historic District, offers an engaging and educational experience for children and families. Spanning three floors, Kidzeum features immersive exhibits designed to spark curiosity and creativity in children of all ages. With interactive displays and hands-on activities, the museum invites children to explore everything from science and art to local history. It's the perfect destination for families looking to learn, play and connect in one dynamic, family-friendly environment. Kidzeum is also home to the Migrating Mural, created by nationally renowned artist Jane Kim – part of the Route 66 Mural Trail.

Route History, Inc.

737 E. Cook St.
217-503-4129
www.routehistory.net
Free admission, \$10 for Virtual Experience
A museum and souvenir shop that integrates history and technology through exhibits, storytelling and a virtual reality experience that highlights the significant roles of Black businesses, the Negro Motorist Green Book, the

Great Migration and sundown towns along the Illinois leg of Route 66 during the Civil Rights and Jim Crow eras.

The Route History Virtual Experience is a 20-minute immersive experience that allows visitors to wear an oculus and learn about historic Black people, events and businesses along Route 66 in the cities of Chicago, Joliet, Bloomington, Springfield, Brooklyn and East St. Louis.

Vachel Lindsay Home State Historic Site

603 S. Fifth St.
217-782-6776
http://historicspringfield.dnr.illinois.gov/
Facebook.com/
StateHistoricSitesOfSpringfieldIL
Donations accepted. Reservations are required.

"Prairie troubadour" Vachel Lindsay captured the attention of audiences around the world during the early 1900s. He was born on Nov. 10, 1879, and died on Dec. 5, 1931. Both events took place in the Lindsay family home across the street from the Illinois Governor's Mansion. Lindsay's father, Thomas, was a physician; his mother, Catherine, was an artist and social reformer. Lindsay was supposed to follow in his father's footsteps, and after high school he attended Hiram College in Ohio to study medicine, but he eventually dropped out to attend art schools in Chicago and New York.

In the early 20th century, Lindsay set out on a series of tramps across America. At the conclusion of one of these trips, his poem "General William Booth Enters into Heaven," a eulogy to the founder of the Salvation Army, was published in Chicago's *Poetry* magazine. The poem brought him national attention, and subsequent works garnered international acclaim. Some of his best-known poems include "The Congo" and "Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight."



Lindsay's family home, now a state historic site, has been restored to depict life in 1917, when Lindsay's parents still played an active role in community life. Examples of Lindsay's poetry and art, not a part of the house at that time, have been added to showcase the poet. Events include poetry readings and writing workshops. The State Historic Sites at Springfield are managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

NORTH OF DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum

1440 Monument Ave.
217-391-6323
spiaahm.org
Donations accepted
The Museum opened in 2012 and is located at the main entrance to Oak Ridge Cemetery, within walking distance of Lincoln's Tomb. The mission is "to tell authentic stories about African American life in Springfield and central Illinois through exhibitions, education, collections and programs to preserve, interpret and celebrate African American history and culture. Some of the exhibits featured include: The Middle Passage, documenting the slave trade; Something So Horrible, The Springfield Race Riot of 1908, which led to the formation of the NAACP; Oldest Springfield African

1. Dana-Thomas-House
2. Vachel Lindsay Home
3. Illinois State Museum

American Churches dating back to 1838 and Central Illinois Pioneer Families from the 1800s to the present. The exhibits are extensively researched and plans call for adding a hologram exhibit in the near future to make the museum more accessible for patrons.

Illinois War Memorials

1441 Monument Ave.
217-524-3971
http://historicspringfield.dnr.illinois.gov/
Facebook.com/
StateHistoricSitesOfSpringfieldIL
World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial in Oak Ridge Cemetery was constructed to honor the 987,000 men and women from Illinois who served our country during World War II, when 22,000 Illinois citizens gave their lives in pursuit of liberty. The memorial design centerpiece is a globe 12 feet in diameter, which represents the world in conflict during World War

It is surrounded by a granite wall engraved with the names and dates of major battles of the Pacific and European theaters of war. A central plaza of personalized engraved bricks completes the design.

The Illinois Korean War Memorial, dedicated on June 16, 1996, is also located in Oak Ridge Cemetery. The monument's centerpiece is a 12-foot bronze bell surrounded by four larger-than-life warriors representing the five branches of the armed forces – Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and Marines. The names of over 1,700 Illinoisans killed in Korea are inscribed along eight walls of the memorial's granite base.

The Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in May 1988. The memorial incorporates five black granite walls upon which are inscribed the 2,970 names of Illinoisans who died or are still missing. The five black granite walls form interior courtyards, one for each of the five branches of service. Each branch of service is designated by its insignia, which is etched on inner 15-foot-high gray granite walls. Also inscribed on the gray granite walls are the names of those listed as missing in action or as prisoners of war, as well as the names of the highest decorated veterans in each branch of service. An eternal flame burns atop the memorial where the gray

granite walls converge.

Dedicated in 2016, **The Illinois Purple Heart Memorial** honors recipients of the Purple Heart killed or wounded from all wars the United States has participated in. The center of the Memorial includes an eight-foot piece of black granite with an engraving of a Purple Heart on it. The other side of the stone features a quote from William Shakespeare's Henry V: "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he to-day that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother." Two smaller black granite stones to the left and right of the centerpiece of the Memorial feature the engravings of four soldiers.

The newest addition is the **Gold Star Families Memorial Monument**, dedicated in 2025 to honor the families of serviceman and women who sacrificed their lives while serving in the military.

The State Historic Sites at Springfield are managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Illinois State Military Museum

Camp Lincoln
1301 N. MacArthur Blvd.
217-761-3910
facebook.com/illinois.state.military.museum
Donations accepted
Located on the grounds of Camp Lincoln,



Gold Star Families Monument

headquarters of the Illinois National Guard, the Illinois State Military Museum is dedicated to the state's military heritage and collecting, preserving, interpreting and exhibiting the military artifacts associated with the citizen-soldier of Illinois. The Citizen-Soldier exhibit features the military experiences of famous Illinois soldiers such as Carl Sandburg, Robert McCormick, John A. Logan and Abraham Lincoln.

While you're there, take a close look at the target board used by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 to test-fire the new Spencer rifle, or ask about the museum's collection of Civil War

flags currently held in storage but viewable by the public. A realistic World War II scene depicts Illinois' 132nd Infantry in combat on Guadalcanal in 1942. Displayed outside are restored Vietnam War-era AH-1 Cobra and UH-1 "Huey" helicopters and an M60A-3 tank.

The Pearson Museum

801 N. Rutledge St.
217-545-4382
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healing, including pharmaceutical, surgical, dental and alternative medicine. Treatments through the centuries come to life in permanent and changing exhibits. Named for long-practicing Springfield physician Emmett Pearson, the museum features a dental exhibit, a complete homeopathic dispensary and an entire 1900 drugstore from Canton, Illinois, with its many apothecary jars and furnishings. School groups and practicing physicians often visit the museum to hear lectures. Open by appointment.

Air Combat Museum

Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport
835 S. Airport Rd.
aircombatmuseum.com
Donations accepted

The Air Combat Museum showcases the role of military aviation and features a collection of historic aircraft and aviation memorabilia including a P-51 Mustang, a Vought F4U-5 Corsair, a P40 under restoration, a Beechcraft AT-11 used to train bombardiers in World War II, a 1931 Fleet Model 9 biplane and the world's only remaining Kreutzer Air coach, among others. A WWI-replica Sopwith Camel is being built on the premises. For individual visits, donations are suggested. Group tours are \$75, by appointment only.

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Museum

503 S. Walnut St.
217-544-0616
duvcw.org
Free

The museum preserves countless artifacts of Civil War history, including rifles, medals, photographs, currency, drums, uniforms and letters from soldiers at the front. A gift shop offers a variety of books about the Civil War and other memorabilia. Located next to the Museum is an American foursquare-style house built in 1898, dedicated as the Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson Library and Research Center, the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic. The library houses a complete set of "War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies." Numerous other volumes are also available for on-site research.

NEARBY

Camp Butler National Cemetery

5063 Camp Butler Rd.
217-492-4070
www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/campbutler.asp
One of 14 sites designated national cemeteries by President Abraham Lincoln, Camp Butler was also used to train Union troops and served as a prisoner-of-war camp during the Civil War. Some 800 Confederate soldiers are buried here. So, too, are 39 German and four Italian military personnel and a Korean spy who was working for Germany, interred here after unsuccessful efforts to locate their kin after World War II. The site has an outside touch-screen kiosk that permits visitors to locate the graves of soldiers buried at Camp Butler.

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 or call 217-494-7105

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502 South Spring Street
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www.illinoisstatemuseum.org
 217.782.7386

Clayville Historic Site

12828 State Route 125 (about a mile east of Pleasant Plains)
 From Springfield, take Jefferson Street west and stay to the left on 125 where Route 97 (the road to New Salem) breaks north.

217-481-4430

clayville.org

Donations accepted

Visit the oldest brick building in Sangamon County, which is celebrating 200 years in 2024. Built in 1824 by the Broadwell family, it was the stagecoach stop, inn and tavern on the old post road to Beardstown. The 14-acre pioneer site includes two log cabins, both moved to the site in the early 1960s. The Batterton cabin was constructed in 1817 and represents early pioneer life, perhaps similar to the cabin John Broadwell would have constructed when he arrived in 1819. Two large 1850s-era barns were also moved to the site and reconstructed. One barn holds the pioneer agriculture museum and the other has been updated as a venue rental space and includes an open-air pavilion with a large stone fireplace. The Rustemeyer Blacksmith Shop, the last active blacksmith shop in Springfield, has also been relocated here. Don't forget to stop by the reconstructed school house; rumor has it that a young Abraham Lincoln would stop and visit his friend Mentor Graham, who was a teacher at the school, and listen to the students read their lessons. In 1842, the first Whig Party state convention was held at Clayville, named after candidate Henry Clays. Guided tours are available by appointment, or visitors may just wander the grounds.

Abraham Lincoln Long Nine Museum

200 S. Main St., Athens (12 miles north of Springfield on Rte. 29; also take I-55, Williamsville Exit 109, then west seven miles. Athens is seven miles east of Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site).

217-361-7857

AbrahamLincolnLongNinemuseum.com

Donations accepted

Located in the original 1831-32 Col. Matthew Rogers Building. On Aug. 3, 1837, Abraham Lincoln and most of the other "Long Nine" legislators from Sangamon County were present at the Rogers Building to be honored at a banquet for helping pass the bill to move the state capital to Springfield. Permanent exhibits include a recreated banquet area, audio-narrated dioramas showing Lincoln's activities in the Athens area while he was living in nearby New Salem, Biography Room, History Room and remnants of the original "Lincoln Stairs" - used by Lincoln and the others to reach the second-floor banquet area. Tours are self-guided. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 1-5 p.m., from June 2 through Aug. 30.

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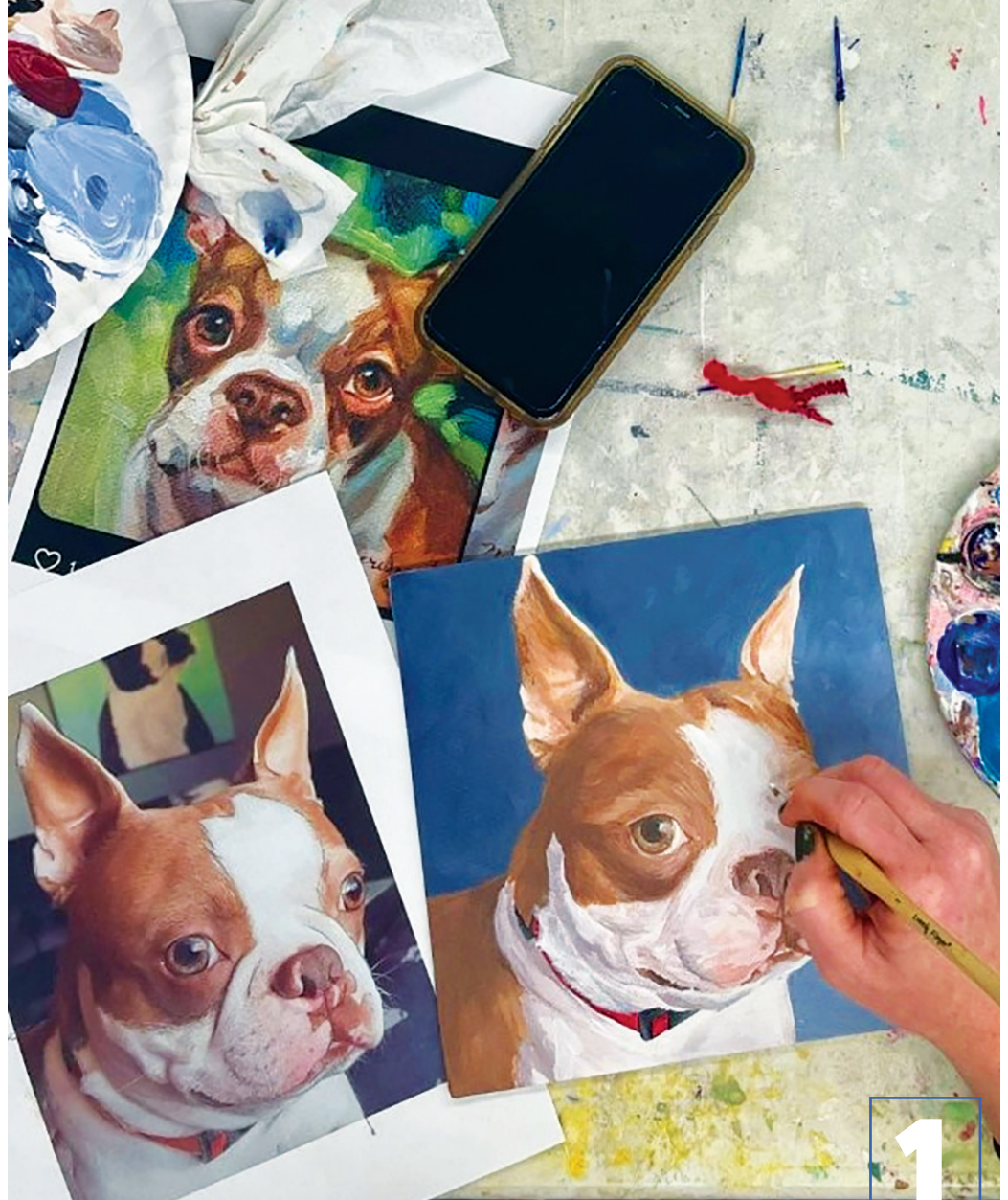
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Springfield Art Association

Historic Edwards Place, art galleries and family events



Photos via www.springfieldart.org

The Springfield Art Association is at the heart of Springfield's thriving arts and culture scene. Boasting two art galleries, an art school, a Lincoln-era historic house museum and a calendar packed with family-friendly events, there is always something to see or do at the SAA.

For the art aficionado, the Springfield Art Association offers two galleries that are open to the public free of charge. The M.G. Nelson Family Gallery keeps its finger on the pulse of contemporary art by hosting monthly exhibits featuring local, regional and international artists. In the mood to see or buy what central Illinois' top artistic talent has created? Head downtown to the SAA Collective gallery at Fifth and Washington streets in the historic Broadwell Pharmacy Building. The SAA Collective showcases the work of more than 60 member artists in a variety of media, including painting, photography,

ceramics, fibers and jewelry. It's the perfect place to go for a one-of-a-kind gift.

If you are looking for a unique experience, the SAA offers "SAAmlers;" these one-night workshops are a chance to make something in one night in the ceramics, metals, glass or 2D studios on the SAA campus.

The Springfield Art Association's main campus and historic Edwards Place are located at 700 N. Fourth St. Parking is free in the adjacent lot or on the street.

The M.G. Nelson Family Gallery is open Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., admission is free.

Historic Edwards Place is open March through December on Tuesday-Saturday with guided tours at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Tours are \$12 per adult or \$10 for SAA members, seniors, military personnel/veterans and students with ID. Children

10 and under are free. Group tours are available with advance booking and are \$5 per person for groups of 10 or more. Tours by appointment in January and February and on Mondays throughout the year.

The SAA Collective gallery is located at 105 North Fifth St. It is open Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Check www.springfieldart.org and www.edwardsplace.org for more information about the Springfield Art Association, Edwards Place and all the events they offer.

For history lovers, the Art Association offers the opportunity to tour historic Edwards Place. This antebellum mansion was the Art Association's headquarters in the early 20th century and has recently undergone a full-scale interior restoration to its 1850s appearance.

Today, visitors to Edwards Place will



2

1. Springfield Art Association Introduction to Acrylic & Oil Painting: Pet Portraits class
2. Edwards Place will host 250 Years of Fashion, Saturday, August 22, 2026

see the house as it appeared when it was owned by Benjamin S. Edwards and his family. Benjamin was the youngest son of Illinois territorial and third governor, Ninian Edwards. His brother, Ninian W. Edwards, was married to Elizabeth Todd, Mary Lincoln's oldest sister, making the Edwards family relatives of Abraham Lincoln through marriage. The Lincolns were frequently guests at the Edwards' elaborate dinners, parties and picnics.

No Lincoln buff should leave Springfield without seeing the "courting couch" or "wedding piano," both now displayed in the Edwards Place front parlor. Both originally belonged to Mary Lincoln's sister Elizabeth, with whom Mary lived before her marriage. Lincoln and Mary would sit together on the sofa while they were courting and listen to Elizabeth play the piano. In 1842, both the sofa and piano were silent witnesses to the Lincolns' wedding ceremony, which took place in Elizabeth's parlor.

You won't find velvet ropes or designated pathways in Edwards Place. Rather, you are invited in without boundaries to fully explore the house's history and secrets: fragments of original wallpaper and plaster left in place and on display, original family furnishings and archaeological artifacts recovered on site. There are also regular special events designed to bring the past to life, such as visits from Abraham Lincoln, tea parties, piano concerts, plays and even murder mysteries.

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Visual and performing arts

Where to find theater, dance and other cultural outlets



Photo via facebook.com/SAACollective

Copper Coin Ballet Company

420 S. Sixth St.
coppercoinballet@gmail.com
coppercoinballet.org

The goals of the Copper Coin Ballet Company are to develop collaborative projects, to support the creative efforts of the region and to provide free and open experiences in which the art of dance may be shared and improved in partnership. CCBC stages annual performances of "Rockballet" and Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker."

Grant Conservatory of Music and Dance

501 W. Elliott Ave.
grantconservatory@gmail.com

The newest performance venue in Springfield, and a fine example of mid-century modern architecture, also serves as an education facility for young artists. The Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestra Springfield Youth Performance Group and Springfield Social Dance Club are all in residence.

Hoogland Center for the Arts

420 S. Sixth St.
217-523-2787
hcfa.org

The Hoogland Center for the Arts is the home of the arts in downtown Springfield, with performances scheduled almost every weekend throughout the year. Over 20 different arts and civic organizations call the Hoogland home. The building has three performance spaces, an art gallery, a dance studio, private offices and plenty of meeting space. Every year a variety of organizations hold meetings at the Hoogland, thanks to its location in the heart of downtown Springfield surrounded by the city's best restaurants, hotels and tourist stops. The Springfield Area Arts Council, a nexus of information for artists of all stripes, also has office space at the Hoogland. The Hoogland's website provides an updated calendar of events and links to other area arts organizations.

Illinois College TheatreWorks

300 Lockwood Ave., Jacksonville
217-245-3471
ic.edu/theatre/tickets

The producing arm of the Illinois College department of theater presents both faculty and student-directed work at the McGaw Fine Arts Center in Jacksonville. It is a campus-driven

program that consists of a variety of performances including MainStage plays, student-directed one-acts and an improv troupe.

Illinois Symphony Orchestra Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestras

501 W. Elliott Ave.
217-522-2838(Admin)
217-206-6160 (Tickets)
lsymphony.org

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Springfield Municipal Band

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100027789866543>
springfieldbandmanager@gmail.com

This year marks the municipal band's 90th anniversary of providing free music in the city's parks for both residents and visitors. It is directed by Tom Philbrick and includes approximately 80 musicians who alternate on the various performances. Auditions for the group are held in late

April or early May each year, contact band manager Pat Moore at the above email address to request info about joining the band. The schedule includes outdoor concerts in Duncan Park at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and at Edwards Place at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays from June through the first week in August and in other parks and events throughout the summer.

Springfield Theatre Centre

420 S. Sixth St.
217-523-2787
SpringfieldTheatreCentre@gmail.com
springfieldtheatrecentre.com
Housed at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, this local theater group has year-round performances as well as summer performing arts camps for children, providing central Illinois with quality theatre, educational opportunities and a creative outlet for live theatrical arts.

The Legacy Theatre

101 E. Lawrence Ave.
217-528-9760
atthelegacy.com
This intimate, jewel-box theater is an eclectic voice in the area arts landscape. Built in 1950 and lovingly rescued and renovated by a grassroots group of arts lovers, The Legacy Theatre is known for its lavish productions of Broadway musicals, as well as concerts, film and events for families.

The Springfield Muni

815 East Lake Shore Dr.
217-793-6864
themuni.org
The Muni is an outdoor amphitheater tucked away at Lake Springfield that offers residents and visitors a unique venue in which to enjoy quality, locally produced entertainment all summer long. The Muni is one of the largest all-volunteer community theater organizations in the nation.

Theatre in the Park

15588 History Lane (Route 97),
Petersburg
217-725-0239
theatreinthepark.net
tipboxoffice@gmail.com
A nationally acclaimed repertory theater located at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site. The outdoor amphitheater offers a unique environment for a variety of performances throughout the summer.

UIS Performing Arts Center

One University Plaza
217-206-6160
UISpac.com
Located on the campus of the University of Illinois Springfield, the UIS Performing Arts Center encompasses a variety of venues and programs including Sangamon Auditorium, the intimate UIS Studio Theatre, the UIS Ticket Office and the UIS Performing Arts Education Connections program. It hosts more than 120 events each year, including conferences, debates and a broad spectrum of the highest quality of music, theater, dance and comedy shows. From Broadway shows to today's popular musical stars, the UIS Performing Arts Center hosts big name entertainment throughout the year. It is the only venue of its kind and size in Sangamon County, drawing audiences from a 14-county semi-rural region.

Visual arts

Lincoln Plaza Galleria

4 S. Old State Capitol Plaza
217-679-2581
Facebook.com/lincolnplazagalleria
A sensory-accessible art gallery with work from more than 130 artists, both local and from around the U.S. The gift shop offers many unique, handmade gifts.

M.G. Nelson Family Gallery

700 N. Fourth St.
217-523-2631
springfieldart.org/mg-nelson-family-gallery.html
Located on the campus of Springfield Art Association, the gallery brings a variety of high-quality visual arts from the traditional to the most contemporary and features a variety of work from around the globe. An average of 12 exhibitions rotate through the gallery each year. These exhibitions represent art from as close as the elementary school and as far away as Europe. The gallery is free and open to the public.

SAA Collective

105 N. Fifth St.
217-544-2787
springfieldart.org
Located downtown in the historic Broadwell Pharmacy Building, the SAA Collective showcases the work of more than 60 member artists in a variety of media, including

painting, photography, ceramics, fibers and jewelry. It's the perfect place to go for a one-of-a-kind gift. The SAA Collective is committed to fostering community awareness and participation in the visual arts while providing support for local emerging and professional artists. The gallery is free and open to the public.

The Pharmacy Gallery & Art Space

623 E. Adams St.
720-447-4548
Ever-changing themed art exhibitions sales gallery and open-concept artists' studio space located in a spacious downtown gallery, The Pharmacy Gallery is dedicated to cultivating and celebrating expressions of multidimensional artists and has a professional clinician trained in art therapy. It features contemporary art and hosts a variety of cultural events throughout the year. Continuing through spring of 2026 the gallery hosts the Bob Waldmire exhibit accompanied by David Schwartz Photography, both artists featuring work related to Route 66 as the iconic "Mother Road" celebrates its 2026 centennial.

Trutter Museum/Murray Gallery

5250 Shepherd Rd.
217-786-2785
llcc.edu/trutter-murray
Located on the campus of Lincoln Land Community College, the gallery showcases various exhibits throughout the year, including creative works from faculty and students, and selections from the Philip and Mary Kathryn Trutter collection of art, artifacts and other cultural items of interest.

Visual Arts Gallery - University of Illinois Springfield

One University Plaza
217-206-6506
uis.edu/visual-arts/visual-arts-gallery
The UIS Visual Arts Gallery seeks to expand and enrich understanding of the contemporary art for Illinois citizens, artists, and students through diverse, high-quality exhibitions. It holds regular exhibits by visiting artists, faculty and students. The gallery benefits the Illinois art community by increasing public awareness of the visual arts and by exhibiting artists of regional and national importance. Events are free and open to the public.

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CAPITAL CITY VISITOR
2026/27



in print and online at
capitalcityvisitor.com
Info: marketing@illinoistimes.com

TAMMI'S TREASURES ANTIQUES & MORE



follow us on  and 

tammistreasures.com

Open Daily 10am-5:30pm
no checks cash or card only

490 W. State Route 104,
Divernon, IL • 217-628-3333
Exit 82 off I-55



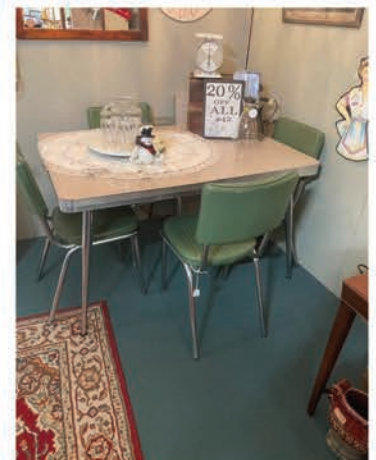
ANTIQUES • COLLECTIBLES • VINTAGE • PRIMITIVES • ONE-OF-A-KIND FINDS
UNIQUE GIFTS • ARTISAN CREATIONS • AND SO MUCH MORE!

Sweet Pea's ANTIQUES & MORE

sweetpeasantiquesandmore.com

Both Malls Located
off I-55 exit 82

14335 Frazee Road,
Divernon • 217-628-1122
Open Daily 10am-5:30pm
no checks cash or card only



WHERE *History* MEETS THE ROAD

ELLAIR
DRIVE IN

LIVE THE JOURNEY
EXPERIENCE THE LEGENDS
ILLINOISROUTE66.ORG



COLISEUM



CHAPEL OF ROCKS

VACANCY

PHONES

Visit
Springfield
Illinois
ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 • 1926-2026

Let's Get Social!

    @VISITSPRINGFIELD

enjoy
illinois

THE BEST OF *Springfield Route 66*

Follow the Glow

Neon has always been part of the magic of Route 66, and Springfield keeps that glow alive. Step inside the **Ace Sign Co. Sign Museum** to see restored vintage signage, then visit the **Illinois State Fairgrounds Route 66 Experience**, where you can walk the entire Illinois Route 66 corridor in microform.

Picture Perfect Stops

Springfield is packed with Route 66 photo ops that turn road trips into memories. Explore the **Route 66 Mural Trail**, follow the **Wayside Exhibits** to learn the story of the road, and seek out Springfield's larger-than-life **Route 66 Giants**, all easy stops that invite you to slow down and take it in.

Where Route 66 History Still Lives

Springfield's Route 66 history isn't just recreated, it's preserved. Visit **Shea's Gas Station**, experience the spirit of the road through the **Bob Waldmire Route 66 Art Exhibit**, and stroll along the original **Carpenter Park Alignment**, where Route 66 once carried travelers straight through the city. At **Route 66 Motorheads Museum** classic cars and Americana bring the Mother Road's golden age to life.

Only in Springfield

Some Route 66 moments can only happen here. **Slide Down 66** - soar down the 40' high, iconic Giant Slide on the historic IL State Fairgrounds, catch a movie at the **Route 66 Twin Drive-In**, or cruise down a portion of the original **Historic Brick Road** just outside Springfield, where the road feels exactly as it did decades ago.

Iconic Eats

Route 66 wouldn't be Route 66 without the food. Bite into the famous "hot dog on a stick" at **Cozy Dog Drive In**, grab a donut at **Mel-O-Cream Donuts**, or enjoy a bowl of Joe Rogers chili at **The Chili Parlor**, all just a few favorites of Route 66 travelers.



Snap Springfield Photo Contest 1st Place Winner: Peter Pascua



African American History

Embark on a Historical and Emotional Journey.

Springfield's 1908 Race Riot. View Artist Preston Jackson's Race Riot inspired sculptures, Acts of Intolerance, in Union Square Park and the 1908 Race Riot mural inside HSHS St. Johns Hospital.

The Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, located on Monument Ave., tells the stories of African American life in

central Illinois and hosts several temporary exhibits.

Route History, on Cook St., sheds light on Black experiences, local tragedy, and resilience along Route 66 in Springfield.

Locations throughout Springfield
VisitSpringfieldIllinois.com/blogs

Illinois DNR

Everyone Belongs in History

Explore Illinois' capital city through a series of inspiring outdoor experiences

- Walk, Hike, Bike History
- Lincoln Tomb Porch Talks
- **NEW THIS YEAR!**
Dana-Thomas House Porch Talks

All events running mid-May through mid-November



International Carillon Festival

New Date!

Make plans now to be in Springfield for Memorial Day Weekend. Listen to Carilloneurs from around the world, enjoy family friendly fun, feast on a variety of food trucks and take in breathtaking fireworks in the sky above. The Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon is one of the largest and finest of the world's carillons. Boasting 67 cast bronze bells, covering a range of 5 ½ chromatic octaves and total bell weight of 82,753 pounds.



RUNS JUNE 4 - AUGUST 8

Celebrate America - Where History Meets the Road!

Experience the spirit of Lincoln's hometown, where history comes alive through unforgettable reenactors, Route 66 treasures, and inspiring moments honoring America's 250th birthday.



**Free trolley service to historic sites
Tuesdays-Saturdays!**

Experience the rich history of our sites and attractions with our free trolley service. Our hop-on, hop-off, air-conditioned trolley is the perfect way to explore our major attractions.

To Learn More:
Scan the QR code below



LEGENDARY SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



SPRINGFIELD HAS YOUR...

› Passport to Fun! ‹‹



1 Abe's Hat Hunt

Join us for a scavenger hunt throughout Springfield to find President Lincoln's hidden hats. Start the adventure by picking up a pocket-sized Abe's Hat Hunt Passport containing a map, clues, and stickers at any of the four Passport & Prize Stop locations.

- Springfield Visitors Center (temporary location - 109 N. 7th St.)
- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum
- Lincoln Home
- Dana-Thomas House

2 Living Legends and Landmarks

Experience Route 66 in a unique and memorable way! Enjoy our Living Legends and Landmarks along the route with our easy to follow passport! Try catching the Legends in action to learn about their journey and snap a selfie with them or at one of the Landmark locations! **Pick up the passport at any of the above mentioned locations.**



3 Capital City Bourbon Journey

Whether you are a bourbon connoisseur or never tried a sip, you are in the right place! You can choose any of these doors to walk through and let them know you are part of the Capital City Bourbon Journey. **The passport can be picked up at any participating location or the Springfield Visitors Center.**

BourbonJourney.springfield.il.us

4 Horseshoe Trail

Jump on the Horseshoe Trail in Springfield! A legend since 1928, you won't want to miss this culinary delight. **We've made it easy, just scan the QR code, sign up and start checking in, eating, and earning points!**



EXCITING EVENTS IN

The Capital City of Route 66

Centennial Route 66 5K Foot Race June 6, 2026

Lace up for the Centennial Route 66 5k Foot Race at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Start at Legends Neon Sign Park and tackle the legendary dirt mile. A one-time event full of Route 66 nostalgia and unforgettable fun!

Paint the Street June 27, 2026

Leave your mark in Springfield! Book an overnight stay at a Springfield hotel during Paint the Street (June 26-27) and get a free painting square.

Route 66 MRF September 25-27, 2026

Celebrating 25 years, the International Route 66 Mother Road Festival brings street machine, muscle car and hot rod enthusiasts to historic downtown Springfield for an incredible weekend of family entertainment.

Find more details for each event on our website: visitspringfieldillinois.com.

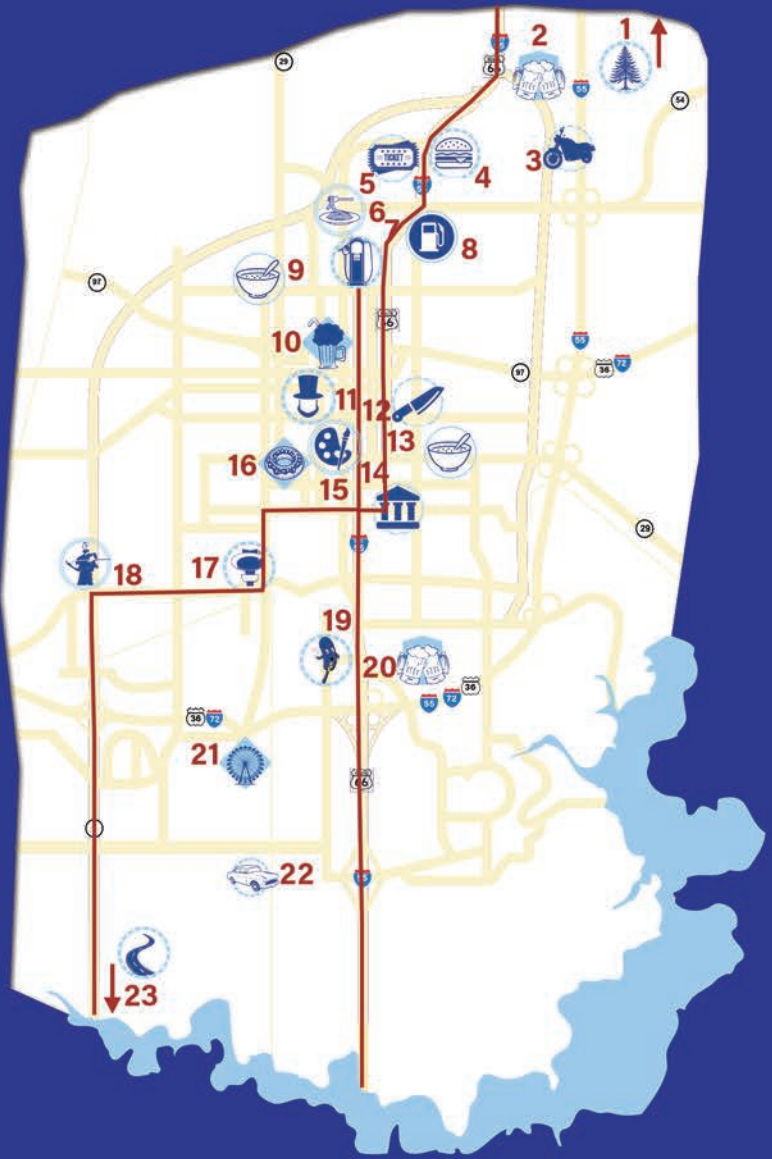


**25TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
ROUTE 66 MOTHER ROAD FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026**

OVERNIGHT IN THE HEART OF ILLINOIS ROUTE 66



- 1** Carpenter Park Alignment
2500 S 11th St.
- 2** Weeble's Bar & Grill
4136 N. Peoria Rd.
- 3** Simpson's Harley Davidson
2301 N. Dirksen Pkwy.
- 4** The Stadium Smokehouse Bar & Grill
2300 N. Peoria Rd.
- 5** The Route 66 Experience and Giant Slide
801 E. Sangamon Ave.
- 6** Fulgenzi's Pizza & Pasta
1168 E. Sangamon Ave.
- 7** Mahan's Filling Station
1168 E. Sangamon Ave.
- 8** Shea's Gas Station
2075 N. Peoria Rd.
- 9** Dew Chilli Pub & Grill
301 N. Grand Ave. W.
- 10** Maid Rite
118 N. Pasfield St.
- 11** Springfield Visitors Center
1 S. Old State Capitol Plaza
- 12** Maldaner's Restaurant
222 S. 6th St.
- 13** The Chili Parlor
820 S. 9th St.
- 14** Route History Museum
737 E. Cook St.
- 15** Bob Waldmire Exhibit
623 E. Adams St.
- 16** Mel-o-Cream Donuts
227 E. Laurel St.
- 17** Ace Sign Museum
2540 S. 1st St.
- 18** Giant Lauterbach Man
1569 Wabash Ave.
- 19** Cozy Dog Drive In
2935 S. 6th St.
- 20** The Curve Inn
3219 S. 6th St.
- 21** Knights Action Park & Route 66 Drive-In
1700 Knights Recreation Dr.
- 22** Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex
600 Toronto Rd.
- 23** Historic Brick Road
Snell & Curran Rds., Auburn, IL



enjoy
illinois

FIND THE PERFECT SPOT

To Call Home

WHILE YOU'RE HERE!

Choose from a variety of comfortable and affordable hotel options.
Springfield boasts nearly 4,000 rooms to choose from.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"We want to thank you for the wonderful help you provided in setting up our recent trip to Springfield. The personal attention, organization, and recommendations you provided were so appreciated. The trip was a great success due in large part to your assistance."

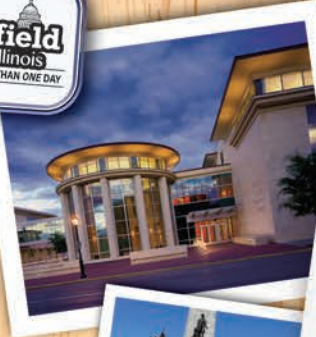
- Jill F. from Waterford, Michigan



Photo credit: Raiyyan SM

"When we visited the Visitors Center in Springfield, the very nice people who were there that day to help, did an exceptional job helping my husband and myself with wonderful suggestions and directions, so we could explore Springfield."

- Gail C. from New York



"The entire experience was phenomenal. I have had a lifelong curiosity for presidential history. Abraham Lincoln is one of my heroes. Visiting Springfield has been on my bucket list for a long time. I feel like I barely scratched the surface with what is available to see and experience in Springfield. The city and surrounding areas have many places to visit that are affordable, steeped in history and family friendly. We are looking forward to our next Springfield adventure!"

- Alana G



What events are going on while I'm here?

No matter what kind of event you are looking for, we have you covered. Featuring the most comprehensive list of local events, head to our website's upcoming and ongoing event pages to find your next adventure!



Photo credit: Keenan O'Neill

WHAT PEOPLE ARE ASKING

What/where should we eat?

While Springfield is full of mouth-watering eats, you have to try our signature dish - The Horseshoe Sandwich! Start off with two thick slices of toasted bread, topped with your choice of meat, then cover that with a heaping pile of crispy French fries and drench with homemade cheese sauce. Our Horseshoe Trail is the perfect place to start! Find all the culinary delights on our website's Eat+Drink page!



Where is a gift & souvenir shop?

- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum Gift Shop
- America's National Parks Store at Lincoln Home
- Lincoln Souvenir & Gift Shop near Lincoln's Tomb
- Mr. Lincoln's Souvenir and Gift Shop





Springfield Visitors Center

If you are looking for a legendary experience in the Land of Lincoln, you're going to want to stop by the **Springfield Visitors Center**. Located on the first floor of the **Lincoln-Herndon Law Office** in the Tinsley Dry Goods Building, our visitors center is your one-stop shop for all the information you need to customize your visit.

- Talk to our friendly and knowledgeable travel experts who can help you plan your visit, suggest new things to do, and answer any of your questions.
- Pick up a free **Explorer Passport** - Abe's Hat Hunt & Living Legends and Landmarks of Route 66. The passport is filled with sites, attractions, museums and culinary treasures in one pocket-size booklet of fun!
- New this year: the Free Illinois State Route 66 Passport.
- Get brochures, maps, coupons and discounts for various attractions and theaters in the city.
- Learn more about the rich history and culture of Springfield, the home of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States.

Whether you are here for a day, a weekend, or a week, the Springfield Visitors Center is your gateway to a memorable and enjoyable stay in Springfield. Don't miss this opportunity to discover the best that Springfield has to offer. Stop by the center today and let the adventure begin!

217-789-2360 • VisitSpringfieldIllinois.com

Currently Open: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Open Saturdays May 2, 2026 - December 19, 2026

Springfield Visitors Center

**LOCATED AT THE HISTORIC LINCOLN-HERNDON LAW OFFICE
1 S. OLD STATE CAPITOL PLAZA**



Springfield Free Wifi

SPRINGFIELDFREEWIFI is available in the Springfield Visitors Center, as well as in outdoor spaces throughout historic downtown. No account or password required. Just look for SpringfieldFreeWifi in your available networks.



Springfield Walks

Tour Services

Springfield Walks offers an engaging ghost walk, step-on guide services for coach groups, and expert local guides. Consider an exclusive private tour experience including the new Route 66 adventure and the popular Lincoln Experience Tour.

Learn more at springfieldwalkstours.com, or call 217-502-8687.

#VisitSpringfield



Share your experiences with **@VisitSpringfield**.

You could be featured on our social media and future marketing!



Explore All Things Springfield
On Our Website!

<< VisitSpringfieldIllinois.com >>

Simply Scan and Start Exploring.

Access interactive listings with maps and links through these QR codes.



Find all the exciting and historic places to visit, including shopping and outdoor recreation.

PLAY



Carefully curated blogs help you find useful information on specific topics and exciting new adventures in town.

BLOGS



Upcoming and ongoing events are plentiful in Springfield! Find them all here.

EXCITING EVENTS



There is so much to see and do! Use our plan page—loaded with ideas and itineraries—to get started planning the perfect trip.

PLAN



Looking for the perfect bite or a delicious drink? Here's a list of culinary delights.

EAT & DRINK



Getting here and getting around is as easy as scanning the QR code.

TRANSPORTATION



Join in on the local America 250 events as we commemorate the Anniversary.

AMERICA 250

MEMORABLE CONVENTIONS & MEETINGS

Happen Here!

Enjoy unique, customizable meeting and convention space throughout the three areas of Springfield. Boasting nearly 4,000 overnight rooms and 325,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, we can create the perfect setting. Offering a wide variety of complimentary services and decades of talent and experience, Visit Springfield is here to take the stress out of planning. Our sales team all specialize in specific markets, including: Agriculture, Medical, Military, Auto, Sports, Hobby, Fraternal, Faith, Corporate, Association & Motorcoach.

Don't get started without us! We have tips, tricks and special event venues you won't want to miss out on!

Choose Springfield, IL, for your next legendary event. Your attendees will thank you!



START PLANNING TODAY BY CALLING ONE OF OUR ABE-MAZING SALES TEAM MEMBERS
217-789-2360 · VisitSpringfieldIllinois.com/ContactUs

Welcome Visitors Experience Springfield

on

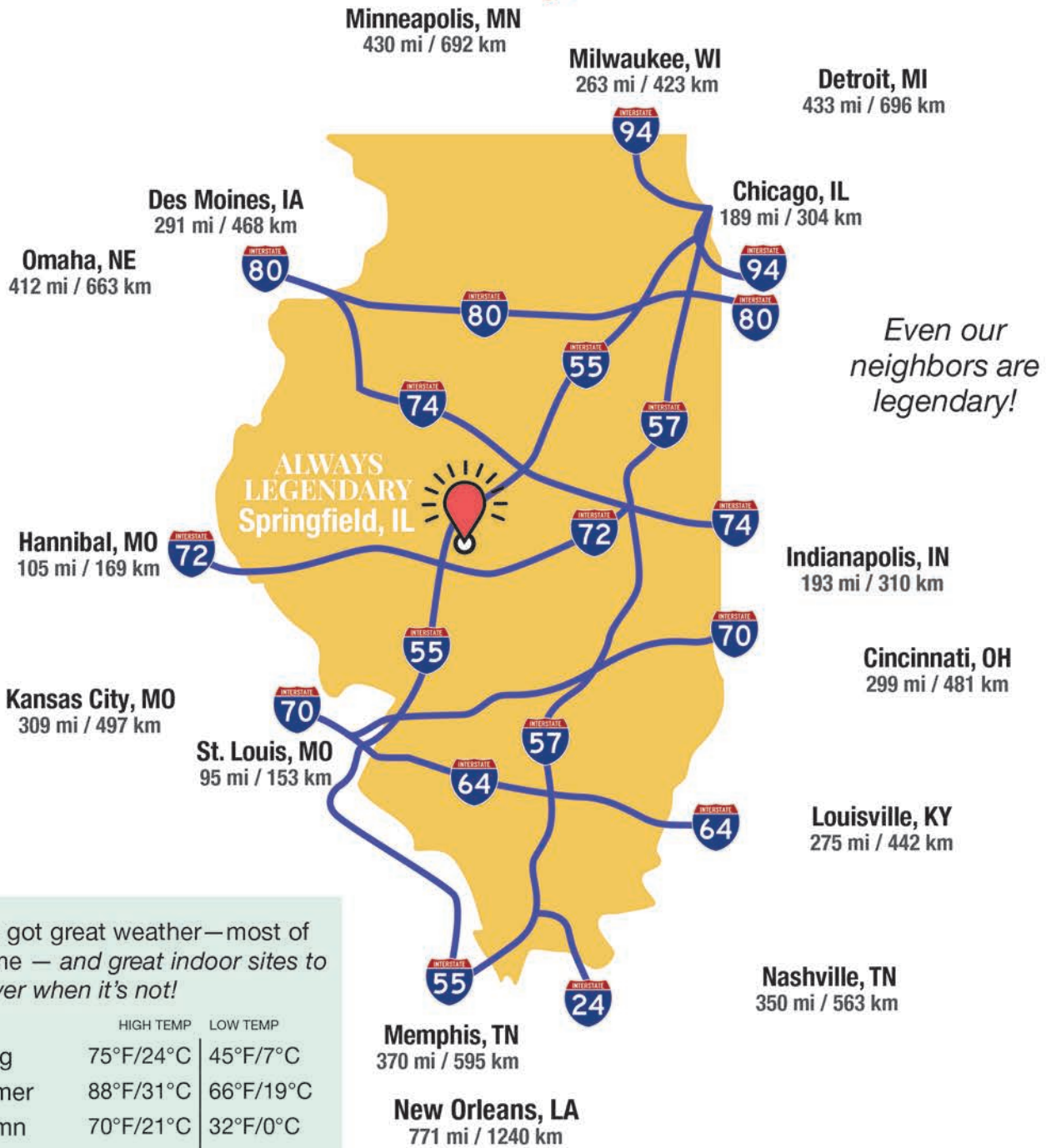


Avoid parking and driving hassles.
SMTD can take you all over Springfield
with a **DAY PASS** for **ONLY \$3.00!**
Kids 5 and under ride FREE!



Visit SMTD.org for routes and schedules

How Far is Springfield From...



We've got great weather—most of the time — *and great indoor sites to discover when it's not!*

SEASON	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP
Spring	75°F/24°C	45°F/7°C
Summer	88°F/31°C	66°F/19°C
Autumn	70°F/21°C	32°F/0°C
Winter	40°F/5°C	19°F/-7°C

Springfield, Illinois is located at the crossroads of I-55 and I-72, and along the Historic Route 66 Byway!



Transportation

Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport

Served by:
Allegiant Air
American Airlines
Breeze Airways

Amtrak

Service to Downtown Springfield
Complimentary Hotel Shuttle Service

Checklist of Things to do in Springfield!

- Grab some Local Grub (Chow down at Cozy Dog Drive in)
- Take in a Lincoln Site (Explore the Presidential Museum)
- Get your Glow On (Bask in the neon at the Route 66 Experience)
- Enjoy the Architecture (Tour the stunning Dana-Thomas House)
- Explore Visual Arts (Limited time Bob Waldmire Exhibit at The Pharmacy)
- Find your "Hush"pitality (Relax at Lincoln Memorial Garden)
- You Fill in the Rest...
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

YOUR VISITOR RATING:

1-5 STOPS

You Need
Another Day!

6-10 STOPS


Great Visitor Effort!
(can you squeeze in one more?)

11+ STOPS

★★★
Springfield, IL
Super FAN!

(Abe would be proud!)



Share your legendary moments with us by tagging @VisitSpringfield and you may be featured in our marketing!

VISIT SPRINGFIELD

DOWNTOWN SITES + ATTRACTIONS ▲

- A. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**
112N. 6th St. | 217-558-8844
- B. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum**
212 N. 6th St. | 217-558-8844
- C. Acts of Intolerance:1908 Race Riot Sculpture**
6th & Madison St. | 217-558-8948
- D. Dana-Thomas House - A Frank Lloyd Wright Design**
301 E. Lawrence Ave. | 217-782-6776
- E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marker**
2nd & Capitol Ave.
- F. Elijah Iles House**
628 S. 7th St.
- G. Governor's Mansion**
410 E. Jackson St. | 217-782-6450
- H. Illinois Firefighters Memorial**
Capitol Complex | 217-782-8996
- I. Illinois Police Officers Memorial**
Capitol Complex | 217-782-8996
- J. Illinois State Capitol**
401 S. 2nd St. | 217-782-209
- K. Illinois State Library**
300 S. 2nd St. | 217-785-5600
- L. Illinois State Museum**
502 S. Spring St. | 217-782-7386
- M. Illinois State Police Memorial Park**
6th & Lawrence Ave. | 217-525-1922
- N. Kidzeum of Health & Science Museum**
412 E. Adams St. | 217-971-2123
- O. Lincoln Depot**
930 E. Monroe St. | 217-544-8695
- P. Lincoln Family Pew - First Presbyterian Church**
321 S. 7th St. | 217-391-3221
- Q. Lincoln Home National Historic Site**
426 S. 7th St. | 217-391-3221
- R. Old State Capitol**
1 Old State Capitol Plz. | 217-785-7960
- S. Route History**
737 E. Cook St. | 217-503-4129
- T. Vachel Lindsay Home**
603 S. 5th St. | 217-524-0901

DOWNTOWN HOTELS + B&B ●

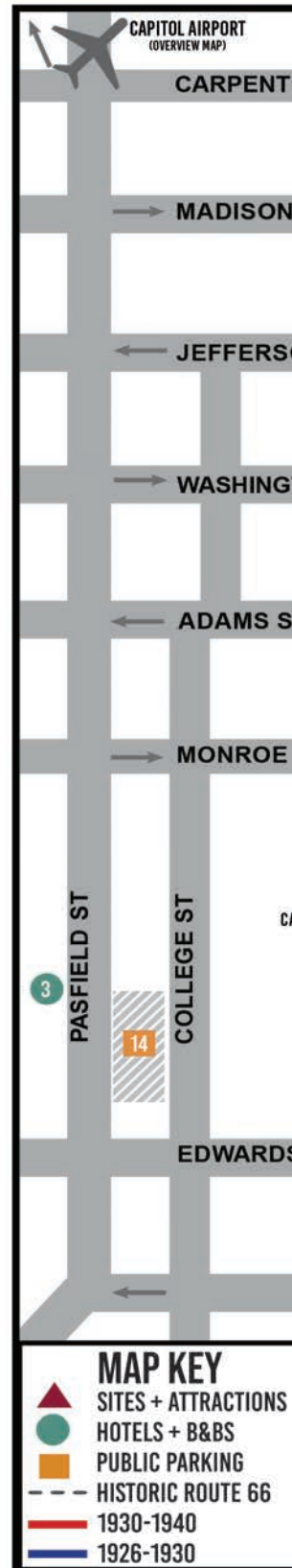
- 1. Carpenter Street Hotel**
525 N. 6th St. | 217-789-9100
- 2. Inn at 835 Boutique Hotel**
835 S. 2nd St. | 217-523-4466
- 3. Pasfield House**
525 S. Pasfield St. | 217-670-2449
- 4. President Abraham Lincoln Springfield**
A DoubleTree by Hilton
701 E. Adams St. | 217-544-8800
- 5. State House Inn**
101 E. Adams St. | 217-528-5100
- 6. The Bressmer-Baker House**
913 S. 6th St. | 562-684-7483

PUBLIC PARKING ■

- 7. 6th St. & Capitol Ave.** Multi Level
- 8. Presidential Museum** Multi Level/RV
- 9. 7th St. & Monroe St.** Multi Level
- 10. 7th St. & Washington St.** Multi Level
- 11. Old State Capitol** Underground
- 12. Lincoln Library (public)** Underground
- 13. Lincoln Home** Lot
- 14. Edwards St. & College St.** Lot
- 15. Dana-Thomas House** Lot

EAT + DRINK

Scan QR Code for a complete listing of area Eat + Drink spots.



VISITORS CENTER ⓘ

Springfield Visitors Center
1 S. Old State Capitol Plaza
217-789-2360
Monday - Friday: 9am - 4:30 pm
VisitSpringfieldIllinois.com

Lincoln Home Visitors Center
426 S. 7th St. | 217-391-3221
Daily: 8:30am - 5 pm

HOSPITALS ⓘ

Springfield Memorial Hospital
701 N. 1st St. | 217-788-3000
HSHS St. John's Hospital
800 E. Carpenter St. | 217-544-6464

RESOURCES

Lincoln Library (public) | 326 S. 7th St
Illinois State Archives | Capitol Complex
Amtrak | 100 N. 3rd St
A Lincoln Capital Airport | 1200 Capital Airport Dr.
Greyhound Bus | 111 S. 11th St.
SMTD | call 217-522-5531 for route information



NOTES:

Visitors Map HISTORIC DOWNTOWN



FY 26

SITES + ATTRACTIONS

- A. Abraham Lincoln Long Nine Museum**
200 S. Main St., Athens | 217-361-7857
- B. Ace Sign Museum**
2540 S 1st St. | 217-522-8417
- C. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary**
2315 Clearlake Ave. | 217-544-2473
- D. Air Combat Museum**
835 S. Airport Dr.
- E. Camp Butler National Cemetery**
5063 Camp Butler Rd. | 217-492-4070
- F. Carpenter Park Alignment**
1 Carpenter Park Trail | 217-544-1751
- G. Clayville Historic Site**
12828 Rt. 125, Pleasant Plains | 217-481-4430
- H. Cozy Dog Drive In**
2935 S. 6th St. | 217-525-1992
- I. Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Museum**
503 S. Walnut St. | 217-544-0616
- J. Edwards Place**
700 N. 4th St. | 217-523-2631
- K. Gold Star Family Memorial**
1500 Monument Ave., Oak Ridge Cemetery | 217-782-2717
- L. IL State Fairgrounds Route 66 Experience**
Illinois State Fairgrounds
- M. Henson Robinson Zoo**
1100 E. Lake Shore Dr. | 217-585-1821
- N. Illinois Fire Museum**
Main St., IL State Fairgrounds | 217-785-1030
- O. Illinois Korean War Memorial**
1500 Monument Ave., Oak Ridge Cemetery | 217-782-2717
- P. Illinois State Military Museum**
1301N. MacArthur Blvd. | 217-761-3910
- Q. Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial**
1500 Monument Ave., Oak Ridge Cemetery | 217-782-2717
- R. Knight's Action Park & Route 66 Twin Drive-In**
1700 Recreation Dr. | 217-546-8881
- S. Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center**
2301 E. Lake Shore Dr. | 217-529-1111
- T. Lincoln Tomb**
1500 Monument Ave., Oak Ridge Cemetery | 217-782-2717
- U. Lincoln's New Salem**
15588 History Ln. Rt. 97, Petersburg | 217-632-4000
- V. Motorheads Route 66 Bar, Grill, & Museum**
600 Toronto Rd. | 217-679-7323
- W. Oak Ridge Cemetery**
1441 Monument Ave. | 217-789-2340
- X. Purple Heart Memorial**
1500 Monument Ave., Oak Ridge Cemetery | 217-782-2717
- Y. SCHEELS Sports Park at Legacy Pointe**
3801 S. MacArthur Blvd.
- Z. Shea's Gas Station and Museum**
2075 N. Peoria Rd.
- AA. Springfield & Central IL African American History Museum**
1440 Monument Ave. | 217-391-6323
- AB. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon**
1740 W. Fayette Ave., Washington Park | 217-546-3853
- AC. Trutter Museum/Murray Gallery**
5250 Shepherd Rd., Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) | 217-786-2785
- AD. Washington Park Botanical Garden**
1740 W. Fayette Ave. | 217-546-4116
- AE. World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial**
1500 Monument Ave., Oak Ridge Cemetery | 217-782-2717

HOTELS + B&B

- 1. **Baymont Inn & Suites**
5871 S. 6th St. | 217-529-6655
- 2. **Best Western Clearlake**
3440 E. Clearlake Ave. | 217-525-7420
- 3. **Candlewood Suites**
2501 Sunrise Dr. | 217-522-5100
- 4. **Comfort Inn & Suites**
3675 S. 6th St. | 217-529-8898
- 5. **Comfort Suites Near Route 66**
2620 S. Dirksen Pkwy. | 217-753-4000
- 6. **Country Inn & Suites by Radisson**
3092 Stevenson Dr. | 217-544-5151
- 7. **Courtyard by Marriott**
3462 Freedom Dr. | 217-793-5300
- 8. **Crowne Plaza Springfield Convention Center**
3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy. | 217-529-7777
- 9. **Days Inn by Wyndham**
5970 S. 6th St. | 217-529-1410
- 10. **Drury Inn & Suites**
3180 S. Dirksen Pkwy. | 217-529-3900
- 11. **Fairfield Inn & Suites**
3951 S. MacArthur Blvd. | 217-280-8700
- 12. **Hampton Inn & Suites**
2300 Chuckwagon Dr. | 217-793-7670
- 13. **Hilton Garden Inn**
3100 S. Dirksen Pkwy. | 217-529-7171
- 14. **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**
3050 S. Dirksen Pkwy. | 217-529-7771
- 15. **Home2 Suites by Hilton**
2975 S. Dirksen Pkwy. | 217-843-4010
- 16. **LaQuinta Inn & Suites**
1121 Lejune Dr. | 217-697-5686
- 17. **MainStay Suites**
3185 S. Dirksen Pkwy. | 217-529-1100
- 18. **Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham**
2636 Sunrise Dr. | 217-753-2636
- 19. **Motel 6 Springfield**
6011 S. 6th St. | 217-529-1633
- 20. **Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center**
3280 Northfield Dr. | 217-523-7900
- 21. **Quality Inn & Suites**
3442 Freedom Dr. | 217-787-2250
- 22. **Ramada by Wyndham Springfield North**
3281 Northfield Dr. | 217-523-4000
- 23. **Red Roof Inn**
3200 Singer Ave. | 217-753-4302
- 24. **Residence Inn by Marriott**
2915 E. Stanford Ave. | 217-527-1100
- 25. **Sleep Inn**
3470 Freedom Dr. | 217-787-6200
- 26. **Spark by Hilton Springfield SW**
3446 Freedom Dr. | 217-793-9277
- 27. **SpringHill Suites by Marriott**
3921 MacArthur Blvd. | 217-789-0000
- 28. **Staybridge Suites**
4231 Schooner Dr. | 217-793-6700
- 29. **Super 8 East**
1330 S. Dirksen Pkwy. | 217-528-8889

RECREATION

CAMPING

- 1. Double J Campground
- 2. Illinois State Fair Campground
- 3. KOA Campground
- 4. Lincoln's New Salem Campground
- 5. Riverside Park Campground
- 6. Sangchris Lake State Park

PARKS

- 7. Centennial Park
- 8. Lincoln Park
- 9. Washington Park
- 10. Southwind Park
- 11. Bunn to Lost Bridge Trail

TRAILS

- 12. Interurban Trail
- 13. Lost Bridge Trail
- 14. Sangamon Valley Bike Trail
- 15. Wabash Trail

GOLF COURSES

- 16. Bergen Golf Course
- 17. Brookhills Golf Club
- 18. Bunn Park Golf Course
- 19. Lincoln Greens Golf Course
- 20. Long Bridge Golf Course
- 21. Pasfield Golf Course
- 22. Piper Glen Golf Club
- 23. The Rail Golf Club
- 24. The Oaks Golf Club

VISIT SPRINGFIELD

Scan QR Code for Visit Springfield Website for more Springfield FUN! or call us with questions at 800-545-7300



NOTES: Scan the QR codes below for more info.

Horseshoe Trail



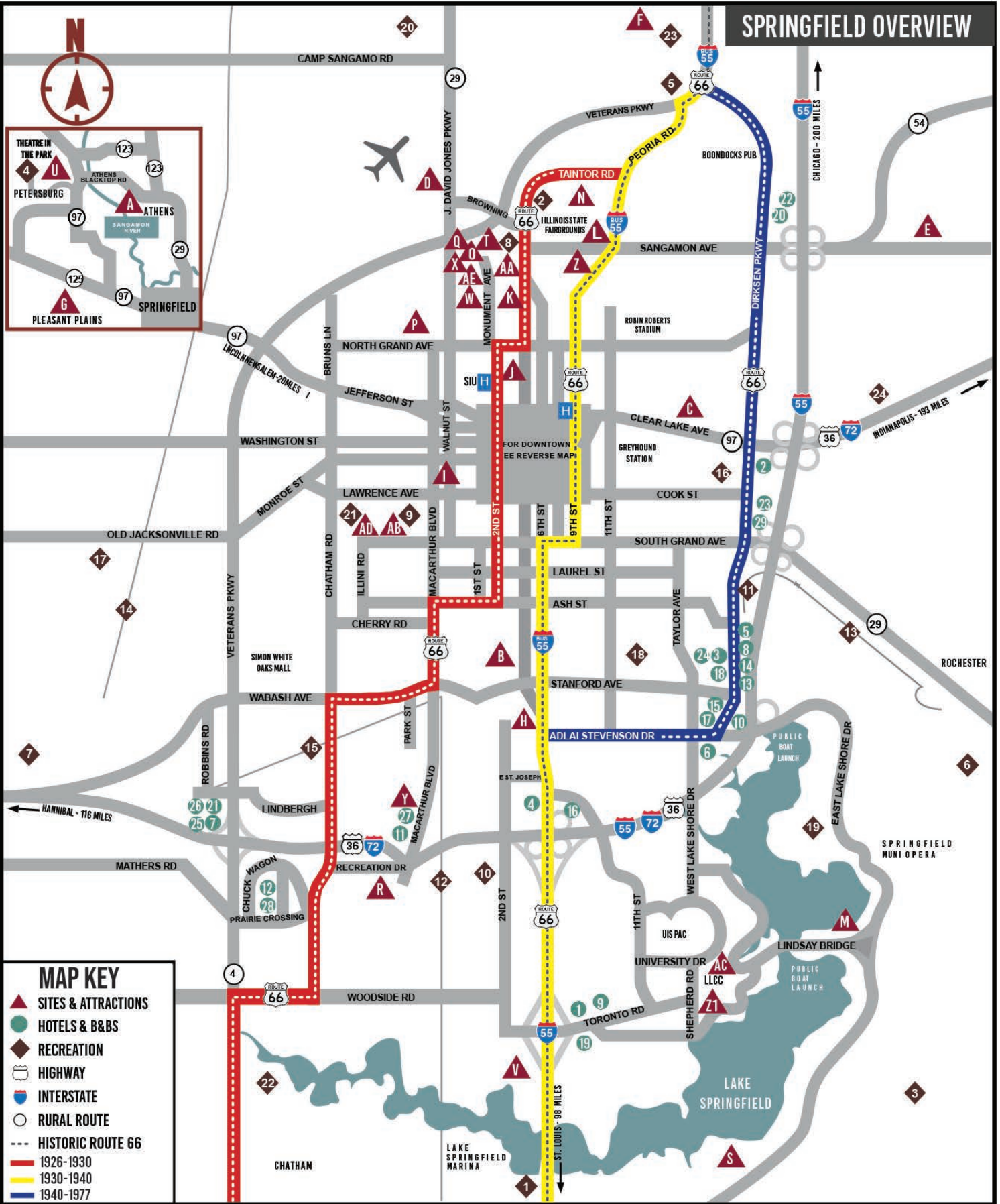
Route 66 Mural Trail



Route 66 Wayside Exhibits



SPRINGFIELD OVERVIEW



The capital city

Take in the sights and sounds of the seat of Illinois government



Illinois State Capitol

401 S. Second St.
217-782-2099

Illinois boasts a stunning State Capitol, and in recent years the legislative chambers and multifloor west wing were magnificently restored. It is well worth visiting this National Historic Landmark. Construction began on the sixth and current Illinois Capitol in 1868 after officials determined that more space was needed for government business. The building took 20 years to complete and cost more than \$4.5 million. The first legislative session in the new Capitol was held in 1877, but the structure wasn't finished for another decade. Designed in the shape of a Latin cross and capped by a 361-foot-high dome, the building stands 74 feet taller than the U.S. Capitol.

In addition to watching Illinois politicians from the balcony-level seating area, visitors can view the awe-inspiring artwork, statues and paintings inside the limestone Italian Renaissance Revival building. Murals, a variety of marbles and a unique architectural design add to the elegance and grace of Illinois' center of government.

Guided tours are the best way to

learn more about the historic building, Illinois state government and the history of Illinois represented by statues, murals, portraits, paintings and other artwork. Free tours are given every half-hour on weekdays and start on the first floor rotunda. Visitors must remain with the tour guide on weekends, so go during the week if you want to explore. Enter through the west doors. Visitors must go through metal detectors. Park for free at the Capitol Complex Visitors Center, 425 S. College St.

Open many holidays, but call ahead first.

Illinois Governor's Mansion

410 E. Jackson St.
217-782-6450
www2.illinois.gov/sites/GovernorsMansion

Free

Built in 1855, the Illinois Governor's Mansion is one of the oldest and most historically rich mansions in the U.S. The Governor's Mansion tells the story of the house's evolution since 1855, of the lives and times of the renowned persons who inhabited it, and of the illustrious visitors, including Abraham Lincoln and FDR.

The Mansion reopened in July 2018 after a spectacular, privately funded three-year renovation. It is now fully ADA accessible and has professionally trained docents for guided tours, as well as expanded programming, an all-new visitor center and a gallery space with rotating exhibits curated by the Illinois State Museum and Illinois First Lady MK Pritzker. An original sculpture by renowned artist Richard Hunt was created specifically for the Lincoln Parlor, which has hosted presidential meetings and served as an office space for Illinois governors since the 1880s. Michael S. Smith, interior designer for the Obama White House, redecorated the Governor's Mansion in collaboration with First Lady MK Pritzker. The rooms have been enhanced with sophisticated color palettes, gorgeous fabrics, wallpapers and bespoke furniture. The dining room is embellished with a charming folk-style mural, and the chic Chicago room was created, featuring Frances Elkin's canopied beds and a Samuel Marx secretary cabinet.

Individuals and groups who would like to tour the Governor's Mansion are required to have a reservation in advance.



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Route66-DriveIn.com**

1700 Knights Recreation Drive | Springfield, IL 62711
217-546-8881

What the locals do for fun

Get off the tourist track and relax



Illinois State Fair

Haven't you seen enough sights? How about some fun? Take it from the locals – here are many ways to have a good time in the capital city that don't involve learning anything at all. Just enjoy.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY ENTERTAINMENT

Amazing Xscapes

1650 Wabash Ave.
217-679-6396
amazingxscapes.com
Choose from several different escape room themes and book your private adventure online.

B's Creative Studio

1333 Wabash Ave., Suite B
217-726-6523
Bcreative.studio
The studio hosts craft events and workshops for both adults and kids, plus the retail store specializes in personal and creative gift items made by local artists.

Bounce Tag

3720 Hollis Dr.
217-288-4386
bouncetag.com
An indoor play park for kids and teens. Bounce houses, activity areas, arcade and laser tag.

China Towne

4007 Yucan Dr.
217-698-8198
chinatownceramics.com
A pottery-painted-by-you studio with a large selection of pottery and all the supplies that you need.

Chuck E. Cheese

2369 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-793-0230
chuckcheese.com

Dabble

1704 E. Sangamon Ave.
217-687-1904
A do-it-yourself arts and crafts studio offering a variety of projects including acrylic painting, fairy gardens, terrariums, beads and resins.

Eagle Golf and Grill

3941 Pintail Dr.
217-970-4137
Eaglegolfandgrill.com
Indoor golf simulators, restaurant and bar.

Ergadoozy Creative Play Center

1320 S. State St.
217-544-9477
ergadoozy.com
An indoor play center for kids under 12. Seven play spaces offer unique ways to run, crawl and slide, no matter the weather.

Henson Robinson Zoo

1100 E. Lake Shore Dr.
217-585-1821
springfieldparks.org
Just south of town near Lake Springfield, Henson Robinson Zoo features more than 90 species of animals from Africa, Asia, Australia and North and South America. Parking is free, and food is available for purchase or you can bring your own and have a picnic in the pavilion.

Kidzeum of Health and Science

412 E. Adams St.
217-971-4435
Kidzeum.org
Admission
Interactive exhibits where kids are encouraged to touch, jump, climb, play, create, be active and explore. Through state-of-the-art exhibits and programs, kids learn while they play.

King Pin Lanes Bowling Center

3115 E. Sangamon Ave.
217-544-0838
kingpinusa.com
This family-owned and operated bowling center can host your party or special event, or just a night out with the family.

Knight's Action Park and Route 66 Twin Drive In

1700 Recreation Dr.
217-546-8881

knightsactionpark.com
route66-drivein.com

Prepare to get wet and wild at Knight's Action Park. In addition to pedal boats and water slides – including the four-story Devil Ray and the popular Splash Kingdom – this perennial local favorite also offers mini-golf, a driving range, batting cages, kiddie rides, go-karts, an arcade and more. After dark, have a nostalgic family movie night in the car. Route 66 features two screens, each showing double features that begin shortly after dusk on the weekends April through October and seven nights a week between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend.

Legends Entertainment

1250 Linconshire Blvd.

Legends-Springfield.com

Indoor entertainment complex with bowling, an arcade, food court and party rooms.

Opening spring 2026

Malibu Jack's

2501 W. Wabash Ave.

(inside White Oaks Mall)

217-280-4787

Malibujackspringfield.com

Indoor theme park with go-karts, bowling, miniature golf, arcade games laser tag and more. Restaurant and bar on site.

Nelson Center

1601 N. Fifth St.

217-753-2800

springfieldparks.org

In the heart of Lincoln Park sits the Nelson Center, home to an ice rink that features year-round public ice skating sessions. Nelson Center also has an outdoor pool that includes a diving board, slide and separate kiddie pool. Open between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend.

Real Ax

2920 S. MacArthur Blvd.

217-622-8553

Realaxthrowing.com

A BYOB ax throwing facility where you can put your skills to the test. Five pits hold up to eight players per pit and can be reserved for parties or group outings.

Riverside Stables

2310 Chinchilla Rd.

217-522-7702

riversidestable.com

Take a scenic trail ride along the Sangamon River. You can also rent a canoe or kayak for a half day or full day excursion.

SCHEELS

3801 S. MacArthur Blvd.

217-726-6330

scheels.com

This destination shopping experience has a large selection of sporting gear and fashion, but also features a 16,000-gallon salt water aquarium, a 65-foot-tall Ferris

POWERLIGHT ABE LINCOLN CAR SHOW Spectacular



Larry Wilcox Robert Pine



Candy Clark

Cruise Night Friday, July 31
Car Show Spectacular August 1

CHERRY HILLS CHURCH

2125 Woodside Road | Springfield, IL

INFORMATION

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facebook.com/abelincolncarshow

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Fri & Sat: 3:30pm-10:00pm. • Sunday: 3:30-8:00pm.

217 ★★★ FOOD ★★★ WEEK

Join Illinois Times in celebrating the best food and drinks in the area and try special off-menu creations #eatlocal

217 Pizza Week Feb. 9-15

Monday, February 9, 2026 National Pizza Day

217 Burger Week (10 days) March 16-25

217 Taco, Nacho & Margarita Week Apr. 27 - May 4

217 Pony Shoe Week June 22-28

217 Burger Week (10 days) Aug. 17-26

217 Weiner Week Sept. 14-20

217 Italian Week Nov. 9-15

217 Comfort Week Dec. 7-13

2027 Pizza Week Feb. 8-14

2027 Burger Week March 15-24

www.217foodweek.com

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wheel, putting greens, golf stimulators and Walk of Presidents. Ginna's Café and Fuzziwig Candy Shop are located inside.

Skateland South

1500 Recreation Dr.

217-546-4543

skatelandofspringfield.com

Whether you're looking for an afternoon of fun or a venue for a celebration, Skateland is a family-friendly roller skating rink.

SkyZone Trampoline Park

3454 Liberty Dr.

217-331-6600

skyzone.com/springfieldil

This all-walled trampoline playing court features an array of fun activities ranging from fit to low-impact.

Springfield Walks

217-502-8687

springfieldwalkstours.com

Springfield's premiere and first tour company bringing you all the history and mystery that Lincoln's Springfield has to offer.

X-Golf

3201 S. Veterans Parkway

<https://playxgolf.com/locations/springfield-illinois/>

Indoor golf simulators, restaurant and bar.

SPECIAL EVENT AND CONCERT VENUES

Boondocks

2909 N. Dirksen Pkwy.

217-679-0145

boondockspub.com

Both national and local talent perform at this live music venue, which won the Academy of Country Music's "Nightclub of the Year" award in 2016. It is primarily a standing, general admission venue.

Donnie B's Comedy Club

2200 Meadowbrook Lane

217-391-5653

donniebs.com

Donnie B's is the premier comedy club in the Midwest, offering everything from nationally touring acts to open mic nights. The club, now in its 27th season, hosts comedy shows at Casey's Pub inside the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Illinois State Fairgrounds

801 E. Sangamon Ave.

217-782-1698

agr.state.il.us/spacerental/calendar-of-events/

If you happen to be visiting the capital city between Aug. 8-18, we recommend the spectacular Illinois State Fair, featuring all the animals, rides, tractors, concerts and attractions you can imagine. But nearly every weekend of the year there is something special happening on the fairgrounds, which is just a couple of miles north of downtown Springfield. Events run

the gamut from horse shows and a giant flea market, to a weekly farmers market (spring through fall) and craft sales. Other weekend-long events include a home show, garden sale, motorcycle races and coin show, among many others. Visit the Illinois Department of Agriculture's calendar of non-fair events.

The BOS Center

One Convention Center Plaza

217-788-8800

TheBOSCenter.com

Located in the heart of downtown Springfield, this multi-purpose facility hosts many events open to the public including concerts, circuses, sports tournaments and much more. Check their calendar for upcoming events.

UIS Performing Arts Center

One University Plaza

217-206-6160

uispac.com

This auditorium located on the campus of University of Illinois Springfield hosts national tours for musicians, comedians, Broadway shows and more. Check their calendar for upcoming events.

SPORTS

MidState Mayhem Roller Derby

Skateland South

1500 Recreation Dr.

midstatemayhemrollerderby.com

This all-female, amateur roller derby team promotes and supports local athletics, charities, civic organizations and businesses.

Springfield Jr. Blues

1601 N. Fifth St.

Nelson Center

217-525-2589

jrblues.com

The season for this North American Hockey League team runs from September-March. All tickets are general admission.

Springfield Lucky Horseshoes

1415 N. Grand Ave.

Robin Roberts Stadium

217-679-3511

shoesbaseball.com

The Springfield Lucky Horseshoes are members of the Prospect League, a wood bat experience similar to most minor league parks around the country. All tickets are general admission, although party rooms are available for rent.

Springfield FC Soccer

Semi-Pro Soccer

4600 11th St.

SASA Fields

sfpdfc.com

Springfield FC is now a member of the United Premier Soccer League.



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The outdoors

Springfield's lakes, parks and other great green spaces



Washington Park

Boating and fishing

Lake Springfield

217-757-8660 x1011

cwlpc.com

Public boat launches are available from a variety of locations. Try your hand at fishing from the shoreline or from your boat in a private cove.

Lake Springfield Marina

17 Waters Edge Blvd.

217-483-3625

lakespringfieldmarina.com

Full-service marina with slip rental by day, week, month or season. Rent a pontoon boat, personal watercraft or canoe, kayak or paddle boat for cruising or fishing on Lake Springfield. Rent a party barge (seats 25-30) for your family or company outing.

Biking and hiking

Bunn to Lost Bridge Trail

This 1.5-mile trail is an extension of the Lost Bridge Trail from Rochester. Street crossings on Dirksen Pkwy. and Taylor Avenue

Trail heads at IDOT Building (2300 Dirksen Pkwy. parking lot) and Abundant Faith Christian Center (2525 Taylor Avenue parking lot).

Interurban Trail

This bicycle and pedestrian trail is 8.3 miles long. It begins at the corner of Wabash Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard and proceeds in a southerly direction following the abandoned Interurban Railroad right-of-way to the town of Chatham. The asphalt surface trail is open year-round for biking, skating, jogging and hiking.

Trail heads at Wabash Avenue and Park Street (parking lot), Hazel Dell and West Grand, Woodside Road and Pedigo Lane (parking lot).

Lost Bridge Trail

This trail stretches nearly five miles, from Springfield's east side to the town of Rochester, and is built on the Old Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line.

Trail head at Illinois Dept. of Transportation (2300 Dirksen Pkwy.) parking lot.

Sangamon Valley Trail

This 11.5-mile trail is a mostly shaded route from the southwest Centennial Park north to Stuart Park and extending further north to Irwin Bridge Road. It includes scenic bridges which puts hikers and cyclists at eye level with the tree tops.

Trail heads at Centennial Park (5751 Bunker Hill Road, parking lot), Stuart Park (1800 Winch Ln., parking lot) and a lot off Central Creek Road, about half a mile west of Brown Road and a mile from the Irwin Bridge Road endpoint.

Wabash Trail

The paved trail extends three miles along Springfield's southwest side, beginning at Robbins Road and continuing all the way to Park Street. Great for rollerblading, hiking and biking. Also connects to the Interurban Trail via a connecting sidewalk.

Trail heads at BJ Grand Salon (3055 Robbins Road) and Wabash Avenue and Park Avenue.

For more information on bike and hike trails, call 217-544-1751 or visit springfieldparks.org/parks/biketrails.

Golf courses

Bergen Park Golf Course

200 Eastdale Ave.

217-753-6211

springfieldparkdistrictgolf.org/bergen.html

Established in 1930, Bergen Golf Course was built on fertile farm ground which to this day provides a lush

terrain. The course features eight par fours and one par three. The course has no bunkers or water hazards which makes it playable for golfers of all abilities.

Brookhills Golf Club

5350 Old Jacksonville Rd.

217-787-8495

facebook.com/brookhillsgolfcourse/

Designed by Leon Howard, this course features a 9-hole golf course, driving range and pro shop. Relax in the Club House following a round of golf.

Bunn Park Golf Course

2500 S. 11th St.

217-522-2633 springfieldparkdistrictgolf.org/bunn.html

A regulation 18-hole facility, this tree-lined course has narrow fairways and challenging holes. Water comes into play on several holes throughout the course.

Lincoln Greens Golf Course

700 E. Lake Shore Dr.

217-786-4111

springfieldparkdistrictgolf.org/lincoln-greens.html

A challenging 18-hole course situated on 240 acres on the shores of Lake Springfield.

Long Bridge Golf Course

1055 Camp Sangamo Rd.

217-744-8311

longbridgegolf.com

This 9-hole course overlooks the Sangamon River Valley. Besides a round of great golf, enjoy live entertainment at the clubhouse every Friday evening.

Pasfield Park Golf Course

1700 W. Lawrence Ave.

217-753-6226

springfieldparkdistrictgolf.org/pasfield.html

A historic 9-hole public golf course located in the heart of Springfield. Its narrow fairways, undulating hills and small greens will challenge your game.

Piper Glen Golf Club

7112 Piper Glen Dr.

217-483-6537

piperghen.com

Cited as a 4.5 star facility by *Golf Digest* and listed as a top central Illinois course by *Illinois Magazine*, this course provides dramatic elevation changes, prairie grass plantings and large undulating greens.

The Oaks Golf Course

851 Dave Stockton Dr.

217-528-6600

theoaksgolfcourse.com/

Opened in 1926, the 18-hole course features over 6,000 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 70.

The Rail Golf Club

1400 S. Club House Dr., Sherman

217-525-0365

railgolf.com

A sprawling 240-acre dairy farm turned into The Rail, rated

four stars by *Golf Digest* and continually voted as one of the best places to play golf in central Illinois.

Nature preserves

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary

2315 E. Clear Lake Ave.

217-544-2473

illinoisaudubon.org.

This is the perfect place to take a quick nature walk without driving out of town. Just off one of Springfield's busiest streets, Clear Lake Avenue, the sanctuary is a hidden jewel that's accessible in minutes. Once a mid-19th-century farm, it's now a wooded haven for birds and is owned by the Illinois Audubon Society. One trail takes 15 minutes to complete; a longer trail takes 45 minutes. The visitor center offers information about the trees, plants and birds commonly encountered. Visitors can also tour the restored 1850s Margery Adams farmhouse.

Carpenter Park Nature Preserve

IL 124 and I-55

217-544-1751

springfieldparks.org

This lovely park has 434 acres, lined on one side by the shores of the Sangamon River and The Rail golf course on the other. It is located in the north side of town, west of Business Route 55 (Peoria Road). A winding park road leads to a clearing with a parking lot, historic stone shelter, a picnic area and a map. The park is primarily used for hiking and nature observation. Part of the park is an Illinois Nature Preserve.

Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center

2301 E. Lake Shore Dr.

217-529-1111

lincolnmemorialgarden.org

A woodland and prairie garden with over five miles of trails lead you on a journey through the Illinois landscape Lincoln would have known. Depending on the season you visit, you could discover springtime dogwoods in full bloom, colorful prairie wildflowers of summer, burnished autumn leaves or snow-covered maple trees bursting with sap. Located on the shores of Lake Springfield and designed by landscape architect Jens Jensen, the garden is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Be sure to visit the Garden's Nature Center and Split Rail Gift Shop.

Springfield's parks

Centennial Park

Bunker Hill Rd. and Lenhart Rd.

217-544-1751

springfieldparks.org

Part of southwest Springfield, this 190-acre park features skateboard facilities, bocce ball courts and a 100 ft. sledding hill, in addition to a playground and outdoor picnic areas.

Lincoln Park

1601 N. Fifth St.

217-753-2800

springfieldparks.org/parks/lincoln/

Lincoln Park, located on the north side of Springfield, is an 88-acre site added to the park district in 1905. Its design and many features date back to its original development, including a historic lagoon and pavilion. The park includes disc-golf courses, tennis courts, shuffleboard and a horseshoe park, plus the Nelson Recreation Center with an outdoor swimming pool and two indoor ice rinks.

Southwind Park and Erin's Pavilion

4965 S. Second St.

217-585-2941

springfieldparks.org

Every inch of this 80-acre park is ADA accessible, serving as a national model for inclusion for all people. Stroll 2.5 miles of urban trails and enjoy the sensory gardens, playground and fishing piers. The park also has eco-friendly wetlands, a wind turbine, solar panels and a geothermal system.

Washington Park

South Grand Ave. and MacArthur Blvd.

217-544-1751

springfieldparks.org/parks/washington/

Washington Park is a 150-acre site just a couple miles from downtown Springfield. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is Springfield's largest and most active park. The **Washington Park Botanical Garden**, at the far west side of the park, features a glass-domed conservatory, gallery and greenhouses and is open year-round Monday to Friday from 12-4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 12-5 p.m. With more than 20 acres of land, it features 1,200 species of plants in 10 different garden areas and the conservatory. The park is also home to Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, the sixth largest in the world. Washington Park is also home to two fishing ponds stocked with catfish and trout, picnic shelters, playgrounds, public tennis courts, nature trails and bike and jogging paths.

Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon

1740 W. Fayette Ave.

217-546-3853

The Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon is an icon in Washington Park. It was a gift of Senator Thomas Rees, publisher of the Illinois State Register from 1881 until his death in 1933. Rees attributed his great interest in bells to visiting carillons in Belgium and The Netherlands. He left specific instructions in his will regarding the number of bells and the location of the carillon.

A carillon player plays the bells manually using a keyboard. To more fully appreciate the carillon, take in a carillon concert. From May 1 through Sept. 30, concerts are on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. During June, July and August, concerts are held seven days a week at 6:30 p.m.

In October, November, December and April, the concerts are on Saturdays at 2 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 4 p.m. No concerts are held during the months of January, February or March. The world-renowned International Carillon Festival is held annually in June.

Springfield offers many other welcoming parks, nature spots, gardens and prairie wilderness. All Springfield parks are open dawn to dusk. For more information about Springfield's parks and golf courses, visit springfieldparks.org/parks.

The nightlife

Where to find live entertainment in the capital city



The nightlife of Springfield and surrounding communities is diverse and robust. Blues, folk, jazz, rock, country, hip-hop, dance music, open mic events and karaoke nights are well-represented on any given night in central Illinois and the capital city. Solid local acts playing original and cover material mix with national touring bands on the road from St. Louis to Chicago or between Indianapolis and Kansas City to create a fertile atmosphere for vibrant entertainment.

Local, regional and national touring acts of various genres take the stage weekly at several clubs around the city including The Curve Inn (3219 S. Sixth St.), The Blue Grouch (510 W. Maple St.), The Stadium Smokehouse Bar and Grill (2300 Peoria Road), Mother Road Diner (925 E. Joseph St.), Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum and Entertainment Complex (600 Toronto Road) and Weebles (4136 Peoria Road). There are too many venues to mention, ranging from coffee shops to

bars, breweries and wineries, with local bands and musicians of all flavors. For a complete listing of what's going on in and around the capital city on any given week, check the arts and entertainment listings in *Illinois Times*, the city's free weekly newspaper, which also publishes *Capital City Visitor*. Look for the numerous *IT* newsstands throughout downtown, as well as at area hotels, restaurants and stores or check the online calendar at illinoistimes.com.

Blues

Every Monday night starting around 7 p.m., the Illinois Central Blues Club (ICBC) sponsors a different band at the Alamo (115 N. Fifth St.). Local, regional and national acts have enlivened this wonderful music experience during the 30-plus years of Blue Mondays. Watch for special blues events regularly sponsored by the active ICBC at different venues in town.

Jazz

Jazz in all its varied forms is

represented at certain nightclubs and restaurants. On the near west side of town, the Lime Street Cafe (951 S. Durkin Dr.) serves up jazz-style musicians with an occasional foray into classic rock 'n' roll.

Comedy

If laughter is what you're after, look no further than Donnie B's Comedy Club (217-391-JOKE or donniebs.com for location and tickets) or head north of town to the Mason City Limits Comedy Club (114 E. Chestnut, Mason City). Both venues feature nationally known touring comedians weekly, with occasional open mics for the aspiring comic.

Acoustic

Singer-songwriters and acoustic music performers are in abundance around town and in the area. Venues with regular shows include Pease's at Bunn Gourmet (2941 Plaza Dr.), It's All About Wine (1305 Wabash Ave.) and Farmhouse Brews (3001 Veterans Parkway, inside Harvest Market).

3 Hot Days in August

AUGUST 13-15, 2026



**Annual city-wide observance of the
1908 Springfield Race Riot**

Save the Date

 **Lincoln
Library**
Springfield's Public Library

Food and drinks

Where to go in Springfield when it's time to eat



Luminary Kitchen & Provisions

American

5th Street GEM
221 S. Fifth St.
217-970-4019

**66 Mother Road Diner
(inside Route 66 Hotel and
Conference Center)**
625 E. St. Joseph St.
217-529-6626

A&Q Café
3141 Baker Dr.
217-679-1822

Abe's Hideout
2301 S. Dirksen Pkwy.
217-679-2044
abeshideouts.com

Applebee's Grill & Bar
2554 Sunrise Dr.
217-528-7021
applebees.com

Aunt Lou's Soul Food
524 E. Monroe
217-717-1916
auntlous.com

Big Sharks Fish & Chicken
330 South Grand Ave.
217-717-9700

Bob Evans
4221 Conestoga Dr.
217-698-3800
bobevans.com

**Boyd's New Generation
Restaurant and Catering**
1831 South Grand Ave. E.
217-544-9866

Buffalo Wild Wings
2808 N. Dirksen Pkwy.
217-670-0048
4420 Wabash Ave.
217-546-9453
buffalowildwings.com

CD's BBQ
723 North Grand Ave. East
217-670-1894

Carter's Fish Market
Carry out only
1900 South Grand Ave. East
217-525-2571

Chesapeake Seafood House
3045 E. Clear Lake Ave.
217-522-5220
chesapeakeseafoodhouse.com

Chick-fil-A
2431 Wabash Ave.
217-546-2000
chick-fil-a.com

The Chili Parlor
820 S. Ninth St.
217-523-4989
thechiliparloronline.com

Chili's Grill & Bar
2891 Veterans Pkwy.
217-546-8505
chilis.com

Clay's Popeye's BBQ
1121 South Grand Ave. E.
217-522-0386
popeyesbbq.com

Cook's Spice Rack & Chili
910 North Grand Ave. W.
217-492-2695
cookspicerack.com

CoreLife Eatery
2580 Wabash Ave.
217-331-7038
corelifeeatery.com

Cozy Dog Drive In
2935 S. Sixth St.
217-525-1992
cozydogdrivein.com

**Cracker Barrel Old Country
Store**
5975 S. Sixth St.
217-529-2290
crackerbarrel.com

**Crazy Fish &
Chicken Grill**
2415 N. Dirksen Parkway
217-679-1638

Culver's
2540 N. Dirksen Pkwy.
217-544-5050
4400 Wabash Ave.
217-726-7991
culvers.com

Dave's Hot Chicken
2401 Wabash Ave.
217-321-0803

Dew Chili Parlor
21 Cottonwood Dr.,
Chatham
217-697-5101
dewchilliparlor.com

**Dockside Grill at Lake
Springfield Marina**
17 Waters Edge Blvd.
217-483-3625
Open seasonally

**Dolphin Chicken,
Fish & Grill**
Carry out only
409 North Grand Ave. East
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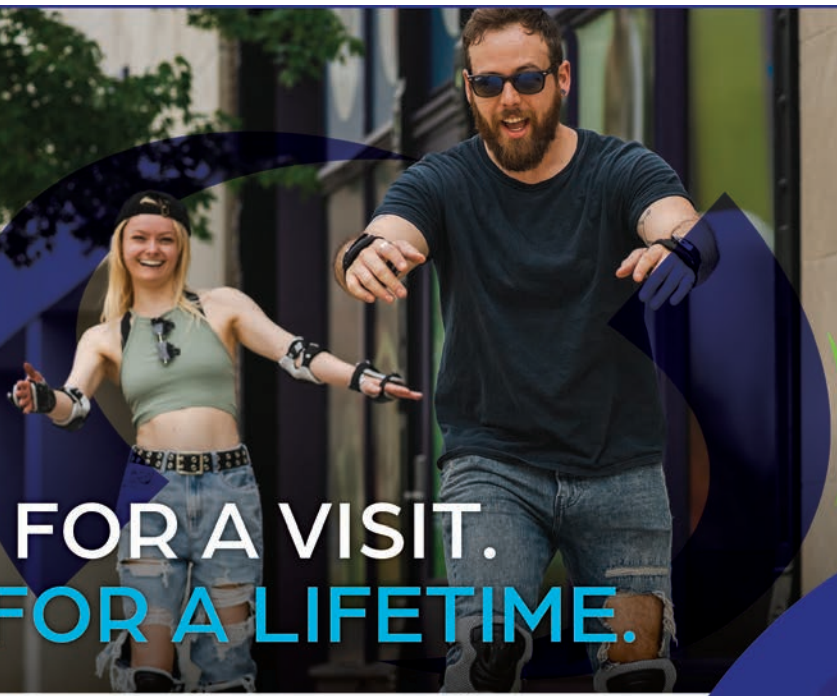
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Uniquely Springfield

Horseshoes

You haven't truly experienced Springfield until you've eaten a horseshoe (or at least a ponyshoe). Springfield originated this concoction, consisting of thick-cut slices of bread topped with meat, then potatoes, and cheese sauce over the top. Chef Joe Schweska of the Leland Hotel created the horseshoe in the late 1920s. The Leland Hotel, now an office building, was located on the corner of Sixth and Capitol streets. The original horseshoe was made with ham cut in the shape of a horseshoe, wedges of potato (the nails), a Welsh rarebit-type cheese sauce and was served on a hot metal plate (the anvil). Today's horseshoe typically has two slices of Texas toast, your choice of meat (hamburger, ham, turkey, chicken or shrimp), French fries and a rich cheese sauce smothered over the top. Most people believe the secret is the cheese sauce. A smaller version with just one slice of bread is called a ponyshoe. You can find horseshoes on many menus in Springfield with different variations on the classic version.



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217-726-5070
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Uniquely Springfield

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thaibasil217.com

Thai Kitchen 2
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217-953-3777
yummybowl.us

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217-572-1766

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The Lumpia House
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joegallinaspizza.com

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Little Italy's Pizza
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razzospizza.com

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riccospizzaco.com

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saputos.com

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217-679-1195

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AZ-CA Mexican Grill
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217-546-6906
aztcamexicangrill.com

Blue Margaritas Mexican Bar & Grill
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217-670-1394
bluemargaritas.com

Casa Real Cantina & Grill
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217-303-5323
mycasareal.com

Chadito's Mexican American Grill
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217-529-8226
chaditos.com

Charro Mexican
2500 Sunrise Dr.
217-970-4053
charromexican.com

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217-525-2666
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tacogringo.com

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217-753-9083

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thetacojoints.com

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crumbcookies.com/ilspringfield



Uniquely Springfield

Chilli (otherwise known as Chili)

Chilli is a popular menu item in Springfield, but here it is more commonly spelled chilli, not chili. The first chilli restaurant in Springfield, and the first to call it "chilli," was the Dew Chilli Parlor which opened in 1909. Although the original location is now closed, the secret recipe lives on at Lucky Dogs Chilli at 4333 Congestoga Dr. and Dew Chilli at 21 Cottonwood Dr., Chatham. Another local favorite, which was established by Joe Rogers in 1945 as the Den Chili Parlor, is now called The Chili Parlor, located at 820 S. Ninth Street. If you eat a bowl of Firebrand chili at The Chili Parlor, your name will be memorialized on the wall.

Dolce Anna Gelateria Italiana
715 N. Seventh St., Riverton

Dunkin'
102 Chatham Rd.
630-560-1153
2744 S. Sixth St.
217-210-9112
dunkindonuts.com

El Gallo Panaderia & Café
435 South Grand Ave.
Opening summer 2026

Fannie May Candies
2939 S. Veterans Pkwy.
217-546-2845
fanniemay.com

Incredibly Delicious
925 S. Seventh St.
217-528-8548
incrediblydelicious.com

Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
2301 W. Monroe St.
217-718-6200
krispykreme.com

Mel-O-Cream Donuts
217 E. Laurel St.
217-544-4644
3010 S. Sixth St.
217-529-7708
1953 W. Monroe St.
217-546-4651
525 North Grand Ave.
217-528-2303
4411 Yucan Dr.
217-679-1107
mel-o-cream.com

Mockingbird Bakery
129 S. John Road, Rochester
217-498-1354
mockingbird.org

Nothing Bundt Cakes
2476 Wabash Ave.
217-210-7450
nothingbundtcakes.com

Paleticz Ice Cream & Snacks
1374 Toronto Rd.
217-679-1104

Pease's at BUNN Gourmet
2941 Plaza Dr.
217-793-1840
bunnngourmet.com

Pease's Candy Shop
1701 S. State St.
217-523-3721
peasescandy.com

Scoop du Jour
95 W. Plummer Blvd., Chatham
217-697-8327
scoopdujour.net

Schlee's Gourmet Bakery & Bottle Shop
227 S. Sixth St.
schlee'sgourmet.com
217-993-8269

Smallcakes
2300 Wabash Ave.
217-679-0683
smallcakescupcakery.com

Taki Taco Ice Cream Shop
2955 Lindbergh Blvd.
217-823-6995

Taki Taco Pho & Bakery
2415 N. Dirksen Parkway

The Vanilla Bean
2339 S. Dirksen Pkwy.
217-503-4290

Wildflower Bakery
101 W. Locust St., Chatham
217-836-1990

Coffee, Tea and Juice

Arrowroot Coffee Co. Roastery and Coffee Lounge
625 E. Adams St.
arrowrootcoffee.com

Barnes & Noble Café
3111 S. Veterans Pkwy.
217-546-9440
barnesandnoble.com/h/cafe

Bean Counter Roastery & Coffee House
1913 W. Iles Ave.
217-546-4740
encounterthecounter.com

Brezie's Roasted Beans
3351 S. Sixth St.
217-761-0996

Custom Cup
321 E. Monroe St.
217-652-6154
customcupcoffee.com

Grab-A-Java
1702 S. Sixth St.
217-523-5282
3115 Hedley Rd.
217-698-9773
300 Chatham Rd.
217-670-1353
latte1.com

HAE's Bakery and Coffee Shoppe
921 W. Jefferson St.
217-652-2921
3844 Wabash Ave.
217-741-8073

Meii Tea
3106 W. Iles Ave.
217-679-1269

Scooter's Coffee
2935 E. Clear Lake Ave.
262-670-2362
1740 Wabash Ave.
877-719-1288
scooterscoffee.com

Starbucks Coffee
3200 E. Clear Lake Ave.
217-525-7759
3412 Freedom Dr.
217-787-0764
1901 W. Monroe St.
217-793-2193
745 Stevenson Dr.
217-753-2978
2728 N. Dirksen Pkwy.
217-523-5599
3190 S. Dirksen Pkwy.
starbucks.com

Stella Coffee & Tea
1135 W. Governor St.
262-622-3151
stellacoffeetea.com

Vextor Boba Tea Lounge
4310 Wabash Ave.
217-670-1797

Wellthy Juice Co.
2922 Plaza Drive
The Gables
217-939-1008
wellthyjuiceco.com

Whimsy Tea Company
316 E. Adams St.
217-331-6920
whimsyteacompany.com

Yellow Bird Coffee House
1001 N. First St.
217-670-2825
yellowbirdcoffeehouse.com

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BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021 WINNER
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BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2018 WINNER
BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2019 WINNER
BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2020 WINNER
BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2023 WINNER
BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2024 WINNER
BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2025 WINNER

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1702 S. 6th St. Spfld.
3115 Hedley Rd. Spfld.

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The City of Springfield Bank

THE LION KING
August 20 - 22
JR

*This program is partially supported by a grant from the Springfield Area Arts Council through state funds provided by the Illinois Arts Council.

For more information about our season visit themuni.org

Drink up

Microbreweries and wineries in the Springfield area



Vondra Social House

Microbreweries

Anvil & Forge Brewing and Distilling

619 E. Washington St. (downtown)
217-679-1195
anvilandforge.com

One of a burgeoning number of craft breweries in the capital city, Anvil & Forge opened in late 2018. The place has a no-nonsense vibe, with walls made from metal siding and reclaimed barn wood, a cement floor and a mix of fluorescent and incandescent lighting. There's as much space devoted to brewing and planned distilling operations, and you can see it all from the bar. Early offerings have featured off-the-beaten path versions of IPAs and wheat beers. The Foundry Pizza Kitchen on site serves up pizza by the slice or 18-inch pies with scratch-made crusts that utilize Anvil & Forge's various brews. Build your own pizza, or choose from a variety of specialty pies.

Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery and Eatery

500 S. Sixth St. (downtown)
217-670-0267

connshg.com/obed-and-isaacs
Obed and Isaac's opened in 2012 and proved that brewpubs could be as popular here as anywhere else. Housed in an historic mansion nestled against a sizeable outdoor beer garden to accommodate summertime crowds, Obed's is a comfortable walk from Lincoln's Home and other downtown historic sites. Most of the inside is used for restaurant space, but there is also a good-sized bar inside and plenty of outdoor seating. The food is excellent and affordable. Tap offerings are expansive and often adventuresome. Try a flight of micro brewed beers, and be sure to sample the flatbread pizza, made from grains left over from the brewing process. The atmosphere is laid back, with the beer garden featuring bocce ball courts and welcoming dog. Obed's doesn't accept reservations, and Sunday brunch (11 a.m.-2 p.m.) is especially popular, so plan to arrive early.

7th Street Cider

503 S. Seventh St. (downtown)
217-679-4726
connshg.com/7th-Street-Cider

Located across the street from Lincoln's Home and adjacent to Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery and Eatery, 7th Street Cider offers locally sourced ciders, meads and perrys. Central Illinois' first cidery is in a former home that has an illustrious history. It was originally built in the 1850s by Isaac Lindsey six blocks down on South Seventh Street. To help cover the down payment, Lindsey borrowed about \$600 from none other than Abraham Lincoln. The home later came into the possession of the Maisenbacher family, who held it for many generations. By 2008, the vacant home was in disrepair and slated to be demolished. The Conn family, local preservationists and business owners, purchased the house and relocated it to its current site, renovating it for use as a coffee shop before it became 7th Street Cider in 2022.

Engrained Brewing Co.

1120 W. Lincolnshire Blvd.
217-546-3054
engrainedbrewery.com
Located conveniently at the Interstate 72 and MacArthur

Boulevard interchange, Engrained opened in 2013 and has become a must-stop for anyone who appreciates fine beer served tastefully. The oatmeal stout at Engrained is beyond exquisite, one of a half-dozen selections brewed and offered year-round, augmented by five or so offerings that come and go. It's also a farm-to-table restaurant with food offerings that range from hamburgers and flatbreads to steaks. Great surroundings with soft lighting that makes you relax even before the first glass.

Hand of Fate Brewing Co.

107 E. Douglas St., Petersburg
217-691-1098
handoffatebrewing.beer

This place is run by a former funeral director who parlayed a home brewing hobby into statewide fame by winning a competition in 2017 to receive the honor of producing Illinois' official bicentennial beer. What The Fuzz, the winning beer that's a Hand of Fate staple, is a cream ale infused with ginger, peaches and tea, which is as perfect for the summer as it sounds. The brewery, a few miles from Springfield, is a destination beer parlor that employs such ingredients as cucumbers and honey for adventurous drinkers who aren't afraid to stray from traditional stouts and ales. A recent kitchen expansion now allows for a full menu that includes salads, sandwiches, Angus burgers, flatbread pizza and even chicken and waffles.

Sangamo Brewing Co.

109 E. Mulberry St., Chatham
217-697-8026

Facebook.com/SangamoBrewing
The newest addition to the craft brewing scene, Sangamo Brewing Co. combines the concept of a craft brewery with a living history museum of beer advertisement known as "breweriana." The memorabilia highlights brands from across the U.S., with a special focus on historic Illinois beer brands. There are also plenty of family-friendly collectibles, including historical sodas and trains. A full menu is available, ranging from appetizers and tacos to salads, horseshoes and sandwiches.

Springfield Beer Co.

3788 W. Wabash
217-441-2780
spfldbeercompany.com
A locally owned microbrewery with a

tasting room serving award-winning beer brewed on-site and available on draft or in growlers to go. No food service, but feel free to bring your own.

Wineries/Wine Bars

Bloom Wine Bar & Florals

2 Old State Capitol Plaza (downtown)
Bloomspringfield.com
Offers wine, craft cocktails, mocktails and beer, along with floral services and a space for private events.

Cafe Amulet

105 S. Seventh St., Petersburg
217-685-9276
Cafeamulet.com
Come for the coffee and pastries, stay for the cocktails. Newly transformed into a cafe, it offers house-made pastries with local ingredients, quality coffee and a cozy space. The event space upstairs can accommodate up to 100 guests and often hosts live music and other special events.

Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant

2501 W. Wabash Ave., White Oaks Mall
217-321-9100
chwinery.com
This upscale casual restaurant offers a signature menu featuring dishes designed to pair perfectly with Cooper's Hawk wines. You can also sample the wines in the tasting room and take home a bottle of your favorite from the gift shop.

Danenberger Family Vineyards

12341 Irish Rd., New Berlin
217-488-6321
danenbergerfamilyvineyards.com
Bring your picnic basket or enjoy appetizers and wood-fired pizzas prepared on site. With live music, outdoor movie nights, bocce ball courts and special events throughout the year, there are plenty of reasons to spend time here.

Hill Prairie Winery

23753 Lounsbury Rd., Oakford
217-635-9900
hillprairiewinery.com
Located just 30 minutes north of Springfield on Route 97 near Oakford, Hill Prairie is nestled among a vineyard and native Illinois prairie grasses. The winery, tasting

bar and banquet facility are housed in a renovated barn, circa 1911. Hill Prairie has live music every Sunday, festivals, murder mystery dinner theaters and more, plus award-winning wines to sample.

It's All About Wine

1305 Wabash Ave., Suite M
217-546-9463
Itsallaboutwine.net
It's All About Wine offers old and new world classics, including wines from newer, emerging regions at a variety of prices. You'll also find a selection of both popular and craft spirits, beer, canned cocktails and ciders, from familiar to smaller, artisan producers. It's All About Wine hosts live music, trivia and other events most weekends, and you're welcome to bring food in or have something delivered. There are also complimentary tasting events as well as guided educational classes.

The Corkscrew

2625 Chatham Road
217-698-1112
Thecorkscrew.com
The Corkscrew is a locally owned wine shop that thrives on the educational aspect of wine. While the retail shop offers a wide variety of wines and charcuterie from around the world, wines are sold by the glass Friday from 5-8 p.m. and at Saturday tasting events from 2-5 p.m.

Vine & Rind

3267 Ginger Creek Dr.
217-970-2977
Savor chef-prepared dishes designed for sharing and beautifully crafted charcuterie boards while exploring 24 wines by the glass at interactive self-serve stations. There's also live music, hands-on culinary sessions and classes, plus a retail space where you can purchase your favorite wine, cheese or charcuterie boards to take home with you.

West of Wise Winery

14096 State Highway 97, Petersburg
217-632-6003
westofwise.com
This small-batch winery located south of Petersburg near Lincoln's New Salem features wines produced on-site from locally grown grapes. Food is available during musical events, otherwise, bring a picnic basket and enjoy the scenery.

Shopping

Where to go in Springfield when it's time to shop



Dumb Records

Antiques and Flea Markets

Abe's Old Hat Antiques & Country Store

111 N. Sixth St.
217-414-3320

Abe's Tradin' Post

2704 Peoria Rd.
217-753-2237

Barrel Antique Mall

14266 Frazee Rd, Divernon.
217-628-9192

Hilda's Antique Mall

5850 S. Sixth St. Rd.
217-585-1438
barrelantiquemall.com

Northfield Flea Market

3226 E. Sangamon Ave.
217-306-1873

Sangamon Antique Mall

3050 E. Sangamon Ave.
217-522-7740

Springfield Vintage

215 S. Fifth St.
217-652-8413
springfieldvintage.com

Boutiques

Beige Bee Boutique

3255 Ginger Creek Dr.
Opening Spring 2026

Bella Boutique

2805 W. White Oaks Dr.
217-726-6500
bellaspringfiel d.com

Better with Bubbli

3857 Stadium Dr.
Betterwithbubbli.com

Corrine's Closet

223 S. Sixth St.
2501 Wabash Ave.
217-210-2060
corrinescloset.com

Daisy Jane's Gifts

9 W. Old State Capitol Plaza .
217-622-7183
daisyjanesgifts.com

District 23 Boutique

830 South Grand Ave. W.
217-679-1352
district23.com

Elodie Grace Boutique

1340 S. State St.
217-638-4718
elodiegracebouique.com

Gypsy Soul

3450 Liberty Dr.
217-679-0174
gypsosoulspringfield.com

Indi's Consignment Boutique

3069 S. Dirksen Parkway
217-679-1108
Indiyasboutique.com

Inspira

3848 Wabash Ave.
630-767-9912
inspiratlb.com

Itty Bitty Fashion Trunk

403 E. Adams St.
ittybittyfashiontruck.com

Jerzi Rae's Boutique

1927 W. Iles Ave.

Jim Herron, Ltd.

2935 Plaza Dr.
217-753-8036
jimherronltd.com

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www.edwardsplace.org

217-523-2631

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Once In A Blue Moon

Murphy's Loft
210 S. Sixth St.
217-679-0758
murphys-loft.com

On the Go Boutique
3063 Hamlin Pkwy.
217-679-3372

SBW Boutique & Gifts
1275 Wabash Ave.
(inside Red School Mall)
217-381-3138

The Roost
2939 Montvale Dr.
217-528-2234
theroostcoop.com

**Sarah Adele for
The Top Drawer**
3329 Robbins Rd.
217-547-1586
sarahadele.com

**Shabby Shack
Boutique**
1533 Wabash Ave.
217-523-3550

**Shayna Gibbons
Keeley Boutique**
3278 W. Iles Ave.
217-717-1946
shaynagibbonskeeley.com

The Wardrobe
2820 Plaza Dr.
217-528-5785
thewardrobespringfield.com

Velvet & Rosemary
521 E. Washington St.
(inside Willow & Birch)
Velvetandrosemary.com

**Willow & Birch
Boutique**
521 E. Washington St.
217-726-7050
willowandbirchboutique.net

Wilson Haberdashery
3001 W. White Oaks Dr.
217-606-7055
wilsonhaberdashery.com

**Gift & Souvenir
Shops**

**A. Lincoln Presidential
Museum Store**
212 N. Sixth St.
217-558-8974
shop.alplm.org

The Cardologist
229 S. Sixth St.
217-525-4121
thecardologist.shop

Cozy Dog Drive In
2935 S. Sixth St.
217-525-1992
cozydogdrivein.com

Elkhart Station
101 Governor Ogelsby St.,
Elkhart
217-947-2199
Elkhartstation.com

**Lincoln Souvenir &
Gift Shop**
1407 Monument Ave.
217-523-1106

**Mr. Lincoln's Souvenir
and Gift Shop**
603 S. Seventh St.
217-525-2060

Museum Shop
Lincoln Home Visitors Center
426 S. Seventh St.
217-523-0222
easternnational.org

Once in a Blue Moon
1535 Wabash Ave.
217-679-1280
onceinablue-moon-gifts.com

Simply Fair
2357 W. Monroe St.
217-679-0591
simplyfairtrade.com

**Sumac Shop
Dana-Thomas House**
301 E. Lawrence Ave.
217-744-3598
sumacshop.com

**Unique Enchantments
Salon & Gift Shoppe**
1313 Stevenson Dr.
217-414-6552

**Village Tea Room &
Gift Shoppes**
3301 Robbins Rd.
217-787-3308
villagetearoomandgiftshops.com

**Wild Rose Artisan
Gallery & Boutique**
115 N. Sixth St.
217-572-1884
wildroseartisans.com

Home Decor

Alive on 66
600 Toronto Road
217-685-1055
aliveon66.com

The Coop
120 N. Main St., Chatham
217-544-4432

**Flea Market to
Fabulous**
816 S. Spring St.
217-544-2322
fleamarket2fab.com

Homescapes
2812 Plaza Dr.
217-793-3361
homescapesofspringfield.com

**Kennedy Sue Gift &
Home Boutique**
3014 Montvale Dr.
217-679-1145
kennedysue.com

**Magnolia Lane Home
Decor & More**
75 Plummer Blvd., Chatham
217-503-6513
magnolialanehomedecorand
more.com

Shabby Shack
2621 W. White Oaks Dr.
217-523-3550

Specialty Shops

Art4U
4015 Yucan Dr.
217-801-8425

B's Creative Studio
1333 Wabash Ave., Suite B
217-726-6523

Books on the Square
427 E. Washington St.
217-965-5443
booksonthesquare.com

Die Hard Games
2761 S. Sixth St.
217-698-4343
DieHardGames.Shop

Dumb Records
418 E. Monroe St.
217-691-8991
dumbrecs.com

Horse Creek Outfitters
600 S. Dirksen Pkwy.
217-544-2740

Lincoln Plaza Galleria
4 S. Old State Capitol Plaza
217-679-2581

**Little Lincoln's
Toy Shop**
3001 W. White Oaks Dr.
217-670-1326
littlincolinstoys.com

**Magic Moon Crystals
& Co.**
500 W. North St.
217-891-6683

**Peace & Appliqué
Quilt Shop**
1848 Historic Building
145 E. Main St., Rochester
217-498-6771
peaceandapplique.com

Prairie Archives
522 E. Adams St.
217-522-9742
prairiearchives.com

Richards and Stehman
317 E. Monroe St.
217-522-6801
rscustomproducts.com

Sangamon Watches
206 S. Sixth St.
SangamonWatches.com

SCHEELS
3801 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-726-6330
experience.scheels.com

**Simpson's Harley
Davidson**
2301 N. Dirksen Pkwy.
217-528-8356

**The Crafted Stag
Supply**
3455 Freedom Dr.
217-494-4340
craftedstagsupply.com

The Shop
Illinois State Museum
502 S. Spring St.
217-782-7386

The Soul Shoppe
1052 E. Stanford Ave.

Titan Games
2205 Wabash Ave., St. 103
217-679-7019
Titangamesonline.com

Springfield Clock Shop
629 E. Washington St.
217-679-7321
springfieldclock.net

Studio on 6th
215 S. Sixth St.
217-522-8006
studioon6thart.com

**Underdog Sports,
Memorabilia & Games**
2581 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-801-2561
underdog-sports.com

White Oaks Mall
2501 W. Wabash Ave.
217-787-0110
simon.com/mall/white-oaks-mall

Wild Birds Unlimited
1930 S. MacArthur Blvd.
217-789-6468
Springfieldil.wbu.com

VISIT THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN LONG NINE MUSEUM

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Located in the historic Col. Matthew Rogers Building, where Abraham Lincoln and the "Long Nine" legislators were honored in a banquet on Aug. 3, 1837 – after helping pass the bill to move the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield.

Includes:

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- "Biography Room" with information about each of the "Long Nine" legislators
- "Lincoln stairs"
- Audio-narrated dioramas of Lincoln's activities in the Athens area
- "History Room" – with copies of Lincoln's 1834 survey of the "Post Road" and 1841 legal filing for Col. Rogers
- Restored 1830s post office
- Historic "post and beam" (mortise and tenon) circular sawn beams
- "Looking for Lincoln" wayside marker
- Data Sheet and information (free)
- Gift Shop

National Register of Historic Places (2005);
www.abrahamlincolnlongninemuseum.com
 ph 217-899-4500



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 Lunch 11am-10pm • Sunday 11am-9pm



This year's big events

Noteworthy happenings in and around the capital city



Event listings updated daily at illinoistimes.com

ONGOING

Bob Waldmire Art Exhibition

Fridays, 12-6pm and Saturdays, 12-6pm. Through Dec. 19. Bob Waldmire was the iconic hippy artist of Route 66. See displays of his life story and original artwork. Free, donations accepted. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 801-810-9278.

David Schwartz Photography Exhibit

Fridays, 12-6pm and Saturdays, 12-6pm. Ongoing. The work of photographer, visual storyteller and Route 66 enthusiast David Schwartz is on display next to the Waldmire exhibit. Free, donations accepted. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 801-810-9278.

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 spot on eventbrite.com. Free. Illinois Governor's Mansion, 410 E. Jackson St., 217-782-6450.

The Art of Jazz

Second Thursday of every month, 7-9pm. Through Dec. 17. Spend a Thursday evening at the Pharmacy Gallery's Art of Jazz monthly concerts. Light snacks and refreshments available. Donation at the door. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 217-523-0653.

"The Road to Adventure: Exploring Route 66"

Wednesdays-Sundays, 9am-4pm. Through Dec. 31. This vibrant, hands-on exhibit for kids brings the magic of the historic Mother Road to life - and it's fun for the whole family. kidzeum.org. \$5-\$12. Kidzeum of Health and Science, 412 E. Adams St., 217-679-2123.

Comedy on the Mezz

Mon., April 27, 7-8:30pm, Mon., June 29, 7-8:30pm, Mon., Aug. 24, 7-8:30pm and Mon., Oct. 26, 7-8:30pm. Clean comedy with some of the best local and regional standup comedians. Located in the store mezzanine. Accessible by elevator. goharvestmarket.com. Free. Harvest Market - Springfield II, 3001 S. Veterans Pkwy., 217-793-3601.

Levitt AMP Springfield Music Series

Thu., May 28, 6-9pm. A variety of outstanding music acts perform Thursdays from May 28 through July 30, 6-9pm. Lineup of artists to be announced. Free. Y Block, Main Stage, Fourth and Jackson streets, 217-753-3519.

History Comes Alive

June 4-Aug. 5. Immerse yourself in Abraham Lincoln's hometown and meet a cast of historical reenactors. Hop on board a free trolley and explore multiple historic sites where you'll delve into the lives of some of Springfield's most fascinating people. Various sites in downtown Springfield. 217-789-2360 x5520.

Carillon concerts

April through December. Master carillonneur Carlos van Ulft and local assistant carillonneurs play a variety of music from original compositions to arrangements of popular classics and pop music. Carillon-rees.org. Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, Washington Park, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

Illinois Product Farmers Market

Thursdays, 3:30-7:30 p.m., from May 7 through Sept. 24. Local meats, produce, dairy products, baked goods, honey and jams, craft beers,



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Monday-Sunday 6.30a-3.00p

www.cafemoxo.com



9am-7pm and Fri., April 10, 9am-7pm. Shop this huge multi-family garage sale with items from 425 families. Features thousands of items for kids from birth to tweens. Items include clothing, shoes and sandals, swimsuits, dance and sports gear, toys, nursery essentials, furniture and more. Wednesday pre-sale \$7-\$10 unless new parents, first responders or veterans. Other days free entry. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-8047.

Central Illinois STEM Fair

Wed., April 8, 5:30-8pm. See the best in STEM programs, activities and curriculum with more than 80 exhibits from area schools and organizations. Find a great summer STEM camp, that next college science or engineering program or just attend to have fun. More than 1,000 attendees are expected for the third year in a row. At the Rochester High School Athletic Complex. Free. Rochester High School, Rochester, 3 Rocket Dr., 217-498-9761.

Henson Robinson Zoo Opening Weekend

Sat., April 11, 10am-5pm and Sun., April 12, 10am-5pm. Get ready for a wild adventure as the zoo kicks off another incredible season. Bring the whole family for a day full of fun, excitement and animal encounters. springfieldparks.org. Adults \$7.50, children 3-12 \$5.50, seniors \$5.50. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-544-1751.

Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon

Sat., April 11, 7:30am. This course immerses runners in Lincoln history unlike any other race! The race starts and finishes at the Old State Capitol where Lincoln gave his House Divided speech and near his former law office. Hosted by Springfield Road Runners Club. www.srrc.net. \$40 for volunteers, \$85 for runners. Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-492-5823.

Spring Market

Sat., April 11, 9am-3pm. Shop the market at the mansion and Becker Library. More than 40 incredible local vendors will be on hand offering handmade goods, art, jewelry and more. Brinkerhoff Mansion, 1500 N. Fifth St., 217-361-5555.

Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

Sat., April 11, 10am. Event will commemorate the 161st anniversary of Lincoln's death. Music will be provided by the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band. Program sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. suvw.org. Free. Lincoln's Tomb State Historic Site, 1500 Monument Ave., 847-910-0164.

Jeff Dunham

Sat., April 11, 5pm. Get ready, Springfield,

Night Glow at Southwind Park

woodworking, jewelry and more. Note: There are no farmers markets on Aug. 13, 20 or 27. agr.illinois.gov. Illinois State Fairgrounds, The Shed, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-524-9129.

Old Capitol Farmers Market

Wednesdays and Saturdays, May 13 through Oct. 31. 8am-12:30pm. Springfield's longest-running and most popular Farmers Market in downtown. Largest producer-only market in Illinois outside of Chicago. Fourth and Adams streets.

Route 66 Submerged: A Sunken Road, A Story Resurfaced

Mondays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m., 1 & 2 p.m., from June 1 through Oct. 2. This 45-minute interpretive boat tour by local storytellers on Lake Springfield reveals a hidden chapter of America's most iconic highway. Beneath the surface lies a stretch of Springfield's original Route 66 alignment, submerged when Sugar Creek was dammed in 1933. This immersive journey blends history,

nature and narrative - offering visitors a fresh, unforgettable way to experience Route 66 from a new angle. Advance registration required. eventbrite.com. Lake Springfield Marina, 17 Waters Edge Blvd., 217-483-3625.

APRIL

Mystery Movie Monday

First Monday of every month, 7pm. Through May 4. Attendees won't know the title of the film until the red velvet curtain opens on the Grand Screen. Movies from across the spectrum of genres will be shown: comedy, drama, suspense, musical, romance, western - everything but horror. Films will span from the early days of the 20th century to contemporary titles. Free popcorn. 5 movies for \$40. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence, 217-528-9760.

"Lincoln: A Life and Legacy that Defined a Nation"

Ongoing through April 26. This exhibit gives visitors a close-up look at dozens of the artifacts and documents in the forthcoming ALPLM-created book *Lincoln: A Life and Legacy that Defined a Nation in 100 Objects* published by Rizzoli. The stunning photography of the book features artifacts taken by Chicago-based art photographer Maxwell Johnson. Free with admission. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St, 217-558-8844.

Lilacs and Letters

April 1-8, 1:15pm. A single actor alone on a stage, portraying one of America's most influential poets as he processes the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and tends to wounded Civil War soldiers. The play is set at the Armory Square Military Hospital in Washington, D.C., in the shadows of an early morning in 1865. Poet Walt Whitman, a hospital volunteer, sits among the sleeping wounded as he reflects on national grief and puts the finishing touches on poetry eulogizing President Lincoln. Free with admission. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, 212 N. Sixth St., 217-558-8844.

Greek Folk Music Concert

Wed., April 1, 12:15-1pm. This show will feature Dimitris Glaros, Trenton Perry, Joe Sandy and Tona Stamatis. uis.edu/music/. Free. First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., 217-206-6240.

Abe Lincoln Trail Trek 5K/10K

Sat., April 4, 9am. Lace up those running shoes and experience the beauty of one of Springfield's beloved parks, Carpenter Park. It features amazing views of the Sangamon River, winding trails through lush woodlands and peaceful river bottom fields. Event by FastScore Productions & Race Timing. \$30. Carpenter Park Nature Preserve Pavilion, Sherman, Cabin Smoke Trail off Business Route 55 (Peoria Road), 217-553-7695.

Trading Hands Spring/Summer Sale

Wed., April 8, 2:30pm, Thu., April 9,

comedian Jeff Dunham is coming to town as part of the Artificial Intelligence Tour. \$77. BOS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, 7th & Adams- outdoor, 217-788-8800.

Dana-Thomas House Foundation Annual Dinner

Fri., April 17, 6-9pm. Meeting will feature a multimedia presentation by Kim Bixler about living in her family's Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house in Rochester, New York, from 1977 to 1994. Bixler will recount the pitfalls of owning and living in a Wright-designed home. Living with the public's curiosity, playing hide-and-seek, coping with the habitually leaky roof and managing constant renovations make this an unforgettable story. Members \$90, non-members \$100. The Inn at 835 Boutique Hotel, 835 S. Second St., 217-788-9452.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Fri., April 17, 7:30pm, Sat., April 18, 7:30pm, Sun., April 19, 2pm, Fri., April 24, 7:30pm, Sat., April 25, 7:30pm and Sun., April 26, 2pm. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. Presented by the Springfield Theatre Centre. \$20-22. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Civil War living history

Sat., April 18, 10am-4pm. Speak to historians and re-enactors of the Civil War. Then check out the museum. Illinois State Military Museum, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd., 217-761-3910.

Run for the Rose 5K

Sat., April 18, 10am. This scenic 5K run/walk takes place at the historic New Salem State Park, starting and finishing at West of Wise Winery. Registration includes chip-timed 5K run/walk, wine tasting tickets and wine glass. westofwise.com. \$35. West of Wise Winery, Petersburg, 14096 State Highway 97, 217-632-6003.

Midwest Toy and Comic Fest: Springfield Comic-Con 2

April 18-19, 10am-4pm. Springfield Comic-Con is back and bringing out Joey Fatone from NSync, Austin St. John from Power Rangers, Rob and Maurice, the voices of Pinky and the Brain, A Traveling movie prop. Museum, tribute cars from Route 66, a petting zoo, over 130 vendors and much more. Family Day is Sunday, children 12 and younger are free accompanied by an adult. Free on-site parking. \$10. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-622-5448.

The Wizard of Oz Ballet

Sat., April 18, 2, 6pm and Sun., April 19, 2pm. Presented by the Springfield Youth Performance Group. SYPG's production of The Wizard of Oz will emphasize one of the novel's main points: that everyone has somewhere they truly belong, and good always triumphs over evil. Check website for ticket information in spring. sypgfoundation.org. Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, 1200 W. Washington, 787-1595.

Make Me a Song

Sun., April 19, 3pm. *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn* is a celebration showcasing the work of one of the most acclaimed composer-lyricists in

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State Historic Sites at Springfield



Planning a Visit?

Reservations are required for the Vachel Lindsay Home and Dana-Thomas House. To schedule your visit, please call us at 217-782-6776 or email danathomashousetours.eventbrite.com.

There is no charge for guided tours, but donations to support the historic sites are appreciated.

The State Historic Sites at Springfield include six nationally significant museums and monuments that preserve and share Illinois' rich history. These sites highlight themes of freedom, democracy, and national character through the stories of influential figures and events.



Illinois
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<http://historicspringfield.dnr.illinois.gov>



of teas, while enjoying a program which includes interactive elements about this classic story. springfieldart.org. \$45 for SAA members, \$50 for non-members. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Rob O'Neill

Sat., May 2, 6:30pm. Rob O'Neill, former Navy SEAL known for firing the shots that killed Osama bin Laden, will be the keynote speaker for the first event in the "Heroes at Home Plate" speaker series. \$40-\$55, VIP meet and greet \$150. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

Spring Bird Fair

Sun., May 3, 9am-3pm. Get all you need for those birds. From seed and toys to cages and more, the fair has a wide selection. Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, Southern View, 625 E. St. Joseph St., 217-529-6626.

Rock for Mental Health Awareness Month Concert

Sun., May 3, 5-9pm. Live music with UNCHAINED and PARK. Merchandise available, 50/50 drawing and more supporting nonprofit Rock for Mental Health. Partial proceeds will go to providing free counseling sessions to uninsured and to those in need. \$10. Boondocks Pub, 2909 N. Dirksen Parkway, 217-679-0145.

Ice Cream Social with Abe and Mary

Wed., May 6, 5pm. Meet the 16th president and first lady while enjoying a free cup of ice cream provided by Visit Springfield for this ice cream social on the porch of this historic house museum. The Springfield Municipal Band will keep guests entertained with their repertoire of music. Part of the History Comes Alive program. Free. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Fat Ass 5K & Street Party for Charity

Fri., May 8, 4-9pm and Sat., May 9, 7:30am-3pm. The Fat Ass 5K & Street Party runs through downtown Springfield. The race, on Saturday, includes beer, corn dog, doughnut and ice cream stops along with live music and entertainment throughout the route. The 5K at 10am is followed by a street party (11am-3pm) that includes cold Pepsi, Coors beer, barbecue and more live music. All profits go to charity, with a total over \$2.2 million dollars to date. \$40 junior- \$80 ultimate. Downtown Springfield.

Iron Chef Gala

Fri., May 8, 6pm. Sample the culinary delights of Springfield's finest chefs as they battle it out with their tasty creations. Event includes live music by Kapital Sound, auction and more. Monies raised benefit the students of the Ball-Chatham School District. Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-529-7777.

Old Capitol Art Fair

musical theater, a two-time Tony Award winner for the groundbreaking *Falsettos* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Presented by Lyric Theatre -Illinois School of Music and/or College of Fine and Applied Arts. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Emma

Fri., April 24, 7pm, Sat., April 25, 7pm and Sun., April 26, 2pm. Enjoy a night at the theater in our historic house museum. This year's play is "Emma," a classic adaptation from Jane Austen's novel. While Austen is often thought of as a romance writer, *Emma* is an excellent example of her witty humor and social commentary. The play follows our titular character, Emma, as she blunders her way through match-making among the landed gentry in early 19th century England. Emma becomes her own obstacle, as, "The real evils, indeed, of Emma's situation were the power of having rather too much her own way, and a disposition to think a little too well of herself." \$15. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Abraham Lincoln Pilgrimage

April 24-26. A weekend of activities and remembrance as Scouts gather to honor the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. Activities include a 20-mile hike to Springfield, visits to more than 15 Abraham Lincoln-related museums, the tomb of President Abraham Lincoln and much more. alincolnbsa.org. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, 15588 History Lane, Petersburg, 217-529-2727.

Jon Langston with Brian Fuller

Fri., April 24, 8pm. Musician Jon Langston takes the bold and the brash attitudes from classic '90s country and turbocharges his tunes with a 21st-century rock sound. \$20 advance tickets, \$99 VIP. Boondocks, 2909 N. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-679-0145.

Old Capitol Winter Farmers Market

Sat., April 25, 8am-12pm. Stock up on baked goods, meat, produce, crafts, housewares and more at this event presented by HSHS St. John's Hospital. downtownspringfield.org. Union Station, 500 E. Madison St., 217-557-4588.

Forest Therapy

Sat., April 25, 9:30am. Cassandra Claman will serve as the guide for the session, a 1.5-2-hour walk through the garden designed to deepen a sense of connection or relationship with nature. Registration required. Dress for the weather. Bring a cushion or packable chair. \$15. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra

Tue., April 28, 7pm. Glenn Miller was one of the most successful dance band leaders back in the Swing Era of the 1930s and 40s. Today, the 18-member ensemble that bears his name continues to play many of the original Miller arrangements both from the civilian band and the Army Air Force Band libraries. hcfta.org. \$39. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

MAY

Fabulous "Finnish" - Illinois Symphony Orchestra

Fri., May 1, 7:30pm. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Route 66 with a commissioned World Premiere by Michelle Isaac with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. ilsymphony.org. \$30-65. Springfield First United Methodist Church, 2941 S. Koke Mill Road, 217-206-6160.

Hammer-Inn & Chuckwagon

Sat., May 2, 9am-4pm and Sun., May 3, 9am-4pm. The blacksmiths will be working and all of the buildings will be open for this popular annual event. Also enjoy a taste of history this year. clayville.org. Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains, Route 125, 217-481-4430.

Wizard of Oz Tea

Sat., May 2, 1pm. Learn about popular tea customs in a themed tea all about The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum. Visitors will learn about the etiquette and history

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and life lessons for everyone. This production showcases fifth- and sixth-graders. hcfta.org. \$12-\$20. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Capital City Biathlon

Sat., May 23, 7:30am. Various race options. 5K run. Biathlon – 5K run and a 15-mile bike. Team biathlon – one person runs the 5K and another bikes the 15 miles. \$30-\$80. Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 12341 Irish Road, 217-488-6321.

Splash Kingdom Opening Day

Sat., May 23, 9am-8pm. Dive into a world of excitement with our wave pool, exhilarating water slides, and a relaxing lazy river. Younger guests can splash around in the kiddie pools and enjoy interactive water play areas. With a variety of attractions to suit all ages and preferences, Splash Kingdom promises a day of refreshing fun and unforgettable memories. knightsactionpark.com. \$25-\$42.95. Knight's Action Park, 1700 Knights Recreation Dr., 217-546-8881.

Lucky Horseshoes home opener

Wed., May 27, 6:30pm. The Springfield Lucky Horseshoes play the Danville Dans in their home opener. For more about the 'Shoes and special events, visit shoesbaseball.com. \$8-\$10. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

Heritage Days Summerfest

Fri., May 29, 5pm, Sat., May 30, 12pm and Sun., May 31, 10am. Annual event featuring food, beer, kids' activities including a carnival, and tons of live music. Sunday features an outdoor Mass at 10:30am. There's a \$25,000 drawing at 4pm. Little Flower School, 900 Stevenson Dr., 217-553-5223.

Mamma Mia!

Fri., May 29, 8:30pm, Sat., May 30, 8:30pm, Sun., May 31, 8:30pm, Wed., June 3, 8:30pm, Thu., June 4, 8:30pm, Fri., June 5, 8:30pm and Sat., June 6, 8:30pm. *Mamma Mia!*, the ABBA hit that debuted in 1999 and hit Broadway in 2001, is set on a Greek island and follows a young-bride-to-be determined to uncover the identity of her birth father. The journey is filled with surprises, laughter and romance. Directed by Morgan Kaplan and Andrew Maynerich. Rated PG-13. themuni.org. \$12-\$30. The Muni, 815 E. Lake Dr., 217-793-6864.

8K Trail Race and Kids Fun Run

Sat., May 30, 7:30am. Eight kilometers (4.97 miles) of trails will test runners' stamina. Race takes place over the scenic trails and pathways of the historic garden, along the trails next to Lake Springfield and through the Ostermeier Prairie Center grounds. lincolnmemorialgarden.org. \$10-\$32 early or \$37 at gate. Lincoln Memorial Garden, 2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-529-1111.



10am. gotcentralillinois.org. Adults \$30-\$40; youth \$20-\$30. Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-786-2200.

Old Capitol Art Fair

Sat., May 16, 10am-5pm and Sun., May 17, 10am-4pm. Set against the backdrop of the Old State Capitol, the art fair is the jewel of the Midwest. This tradition of fine art has brought artists and shoppers from across the country to the downtown two-day outdoor art gallery for 60 years. Original art here takes the form of jewelry, sculpture, photography, glassware, pottery, wood, metalwork, oils, watercolors and other media. The fair is one of the most popular juried art fairs in the country. Free. Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-553-5564.

Springfield PrideFest

Sat., May 16, 11am-10pm. The most beautiful of days embracing diversity and celebrating the local LGBTQ+ community. Great entertainment, drag show, 11:30am parade, food and drinks, a fun-filled family area, youth and teen talent shows, live music, vendors and pride merchandise. Organized by the Phoenix Center. springfieldpride.org. Free. Downtown Springfield, 217-528-5253.

Central Illinois Senior Celebration

Wed., May 20, 9am. This annual community event is dedicated to uplifting and empowering older adults through connection, engagement and meaningful activities. With more than 100 exhibitors and on-site health screenings, the

celebration brings the entire local aging network together in one place to create a comprehensive resource fair for seniors and caregivers alike. Concessions will be available. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-503-4643.

64th Annual International Carillon Festival

May 21-24. The International Carillon Festival brings together some of the most accomplished carillonists from around the globe for four days of spectacular performances. This family-friendly event offers a chance to hear the powerful sound of the carillon in a scenic outdoor setting. Includes food trucks, family fun, fireworks show May 22 at dusk. Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

Dinner for the Diamond

Thu., May 21, 6:30-8:30pm. Meet St. Louis Cardinals great Ozzie Smith and have dinner on the field in this event in support of the historic stadium. \$115-\$195. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 561-313-7035.

Children of Eden Jr.

Fri., May 22, 7pm, Sat., May 23, 2, 7pm and Sun., May 24, 2pm. Adam, Eve, Noah and the "Father" who created them deal with the headstrong, cataclysmic actions of their respective children. As generations pass, faith and loyalty are tested, but the bonds of family and love remain strong. An expansive musical, *Children of Eden Jr.* has plenty of roles

Jesus Christ Superstar

Fri., May 8, 7:30pm, Sat., May 9, 7:30pm, Sun., May 10, 2pm, Fri., May 15, 7:30pm, Sat., May 16, 7:30pm and Sun., May 17, 2pm. Jesus Christ Superstar is the first musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber to be produced for the professional stage. A timeless work, the rock opera is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary and universally known series of events. Presented by the Springfield Theatre Centre. hcfta.org. \$20-22. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Battle of the Sexes

Fri., May 15, 6:30pm. A night of fast pitch softball as the Springfield Lucky Horseshoes take on the Sallies, a team of the area's top softball talent. This fifth annual event will feature professional softball player Jocelyn Alo. \$13-\$16. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 561-313-7035.

Girls on the Run 5K

Sat., May 16, 9am. Join this event where participants are empowered to move with purpose, believe in themselves and set and achieve big goals. This 5K is a non-competitive event. Includes fun activities for the whole family. Race begins at

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daily tasks throughout the historic village. lincolnsnewsalem.com. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Westside Market

Second Sunday of every month, 2-5pm. Through Nov. 8. Features vendors selling a variety of items including crafts, food and more. Also includes music and community connection on the Westside. Parking lot of Papo's Cafe, 3290 W. Illes Ave.

World War II living history

Mon., June 15, 10am-4pm. Speak to historians and re-enactors about World War II (1939-1945). Then check out the museum. Illinois State Military Museum, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd., 217-761-3910.

All Shook Up

Fri., June 19, 8:30pm, Sat., June 20, 8:30pm, Sun., June 21, 8:30pm, Wed., June 24, 8:30pm, Thu., June 25, 8:30pm, Fri., June 26, 8:30pm and Sat., June 27, 8:30pm. Inspired by the music of Elvis Presley, *All Shook Up* is a rock 'n' roll romantic comedy about following one's heart, breaking the rules and finding love where one least expects it. Directed by Kelly Robertson. themuni.org. \$12-\$30. The Muni, 815 E. Lake Dr., 217-793-6864.

2026 Hemmings Great Race

Sat., June 20, 9:30am-1pm. The Hemmings Great Race begins in Springfield this year! The race to California along historic Route 66 can be grueling ... long days, harsh weather, challenging instructions, mechanical troubles, the list goes on and on. See the cars before they leave. Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-785-7960.

Jazz in Bloom

Sat., June 20, 6-9pm. Experience the Dana-Thomas House as a guest. Registration will open soon. Ticket includes live music, food and cash bar. Hosted by the Dana-Thomas House Foundation. Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-788-9452.

Legends Classic V

Sat., June 20, 6:30pm. Watch former Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals battle it out. Includes an optional VIP upgrade to meet the players. Actor Thomas Ian Nicholas, who played Henry Rowengartner in the movie *Rookie of the Year*, will play for the Chicago side. Nicholas' band will play after the game. The Cardinals roster will include Jason Sringhausen. \$21-\$31. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 561-313-7035.

Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS

June 25-28, 6am. The path to the PGA Tour comes through Springfield. Four competition rounds featuring a field

Levitt Amp Music Series

JUNE

Stella Cole

Wed., June 3, 8pm. Springfield native and rising jazz sensation Stella Cole returns to the capital city for a one-night-only concert blending timeless classics, jazz standards and some surprise musical selections. hcfta.org. \$34-\$37. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Centennial Route 66 5K

Sat., June 6, 8am. Celebrate 100 years of America's most iconic highway at this race. The race kicks off at 8am from the Route 66 Experience exhibit near Gate 2. From there, runners head out on a scenic loop through the fairgrounds, soaking in the historic charm and energy of one of Illinois' most iconic venues. The 5K starts and ends at the Route 66 Experience. \$30. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-899-9175.

Market Days

Sat., June 6, Sun., June 7 and Mon., June 8. Shop, eat, drink and socialize during

this annual event that includes sidewalk sales, artists and vendors and live music. The Gables, 2800 Plaza Dr., 793-3344.

Comic, Toy and Pokemon Show

Sun., June 7, 10am-5pm. Toys, games, comics and cosplay showcase. More than 70 tables. A place to let that geekiness shine. quadcitycon.com. Crowne Plaza Springfield, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy., 217-529-7777.

Sangamon County Fair

Wed., June 10, 9am-10pm, Thu., June 11, 9am-10pm, Fri., June 12, 9am-10pm, Sat., June 13, 9am-10pm and Sun., June 14, 9am-10pm. The premier county fair of central Illinois. Entertainment, livestock shows, exhibitors, carnival, rodeo and all the fair food you can imagine. See the website for more information and schedule of events. sangofair.com. \$5 for ages 5 and up. Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, 316 W. Birch St., 217-488-2685.

Juneteenth Celebration

June 11-17. Saturday, June 13 begins with the popular Fitness in the Park at 9am. Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church will lead a revival with music performances and spoken word tributes. Various other musical groups will perform throughout the day. Saturday also includes a car and motorcycle show. Both days will include food from various

vendors and information from local organizations. Comer Cox Park, Capitol Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, 217-572-0234.

Scotty McCreery and Josh Turner

Fri., June 12. Country music star Scotty McCreery, who won the 10th season of "American Idol" in 2011, will take center stage Friday night at the Sangamon County Fair. Josh Turner will open. Tickets go on sale Jan. 16. Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, 316 W. Birch St., 217-488-2685.

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered ...

Fri., June 12, 7:30pm, Sat., June 13, 7:30pm, Sun., June 14, 3pm, Fri., June 19, 7:30pm, Sat., June 20, 7:30pm and Sun., June 21, 3pm. This groundbreaking "choreopoem" is a spellbinding collection of vivid prose and free verse narratives about and performed by Black women. Capturing the brutal, tender and dramatic lives of contemporary Black women, *For Colored Girls ...* offers a transformative, riveting evening of provocative dance, music and poetry. hcfta.org. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Summer Frolic

Sat., June 13, 10am-4pm. Celebrate frontier heritage with period-clothed interpreters demonstrating 19th century

of 156-professional golfers from around the world competing for a total purse of \$1 million. Don't miss downstate Illinois' only professional golf tournament. Tickets are free courtesy of Visit Springfield. Upgraded all-inclusive hospitality tickets available. For more info, visit MemorialHealthChampionship.com. Free. Panther Creek Country Club, 3001 Panther Creek Dr., 217-670-2910.

Me and My Girl

June 26-28, July 8-12, 15-19, 22-26 The Legacy Theatre describes this play as "part Downton Abbey, part "My Fair Lady" and totally bonkers." When an unpolished Cockney fellow unexpectedly learns that he is the long-lost heir to a grand English estate, the upper crust won't know what hit them. atthelegacy.com. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-528-9760.

Paint the Street

Sat., June 27, 11am-7pm. Artists take over Washington Street downtown to create masterpieces in 6-by-6 squares. Each square registration will receive a paint supply bucket (including brushes and the tempera paint participants will be using which is water soluble/washable), one giveaway bag with goodies from sponsors and one Paint the Street T-shirt. Includes music, food vendors and more. \$35 per square, \$45 per pro square. Downtown Springfield, Seventh and Washington streets, 217-523-2631.

JULY

1776

Wed., July 1, 7:30pm, Thu., July 2, 7:30pm, Fri., July 3, 7:30pm, Sat., July 4, 2pm and Sun., July 5, 2pm. With music and lyrics by Sherman Edwards and a book by Peter Stone, this Tony-Award-winning show recreates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in a deeply human way. The Hoogland's production will be directed by Gus Gordon with vocal direction by Mark Gifford and a set designed by Paul Presney Jr. This patriotic musical will be performed in honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. hcfta.org. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Independence Day Celebration

Fri., July 3, 10am-4pm, Sat., July 4, 10am-4pm and Sun., July 5, 10am-4pm. Get your 19th century patriot on. Period demonstrations and the reading of the Declaration of Independence each day celebrating our great nation. newsalem.com. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Freedom Run

Sat., July 4, 7:30 a.m. Celebrate the Fourth of July with a 10K, 5K or one-mile fun run/walk. See signup details online runsignup.com. \$30. Centennial Park, 1760 W. Centennial Place, 217-553-7695.

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For more information including race options, course maps, schedule, packet pickup/endurance expo, volunteer signup, sponsorship info, parking, etc., visit mseracing.com. \$105-\$275. Lake Springfield Beach House, 100 Long Bay Dr., 314-477-6906.

Palette to Palate

Mon., July 27, 6pm. Enjoy a three-course meal and wine in the M.G. Nelson Family Gallery prepared by local chefs around an art theme. Every diner will go home with a hand-glazed dessert plate. This year's theme is Western Art. \$100. M.G. Nelson Family Gallery, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Disney's Frozen

Fri., July 31, 8:30pm, Sat., Aug. 1, 8:30pm, Sun., Aug. 2, 8:30pm, Wed., Aug. 5, 8:30pm, Thu., Aug. 6, 8:30pm, Fri., Aug. 7, 8:30pm and Sat., Aug. 8, 8:30pm. A tale of sisterly love and self-discovery. *Disney's Frozen* melts hearts with its story of courage, compassion and acceptance. Directed by Alyssa and DJ Shultz. themuni.org. \$12-\$30. The Muni, 815 E. Lake Dr., 217-793-6864.

AUGUST

Powerlight Abe Lincoln Car Show

Sat., Aug. 1, 10am-5pm. Annual car show. Cruise night at 6pm Friday starting at Horace Mann parking lot and traveling to Cherry Hills Church. Event includes car judging in 60-plus classes, trophies, helicopter and vintage aircraft demo and more. Free. Cherry Hills Church, 2125 Woodside Road, 217-553-5271.

Women's Pro Baseball League

Sat., Aug. 1. Be a part of history as a founding fan of the WPBL. Watch as the women on the four founding teams play 30 games from Aug. 1 into mid-September. Find ticket info at shoesbaseball.com or womensprobaseballleague.com/tickets/. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

Everclear with Drew Cagle & The Reputation

Fri., Aug. 7, 8pm. Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin, 12341 Irish Road, 217-488-6321.

Illinois State Fair

Aug. 13-22. 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. 13 with the Twilight Parade. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, children 12 and younger free. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Springfield Oyster and Beer Festival

Springfield Lucky Horseshoes 4th of July Fireworks

Sat., July 4, 4pm. Join the Lucky Horseshoes for a home game against the Terre Haute Rex followed by one of the area's largest fireworks displays. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-679-3511.

Chatham Freedom Fest

Sat., July 4, 5pm. Music, food, fireworks, live music and fun are on tap. Bring blankets and lawn chairs. Presented by the Chatham Jaycees. Chatham Community Park, Chatham, 731 S. Main St., 214-676-1063.

Knight's Fireworks Extravaganza

Sat., July 4, 5:30pm. Live music from The 66 Ramblers performing classic hits before the fireworks show. Arrive early to get a good spot. Free. Trade Winds Pub and Eatery, 1700 Recreation Dr., 217-546-8881.

Rock the Dock

Sat., July 4, 6-11pm. Central Illinois'

largest fireworks display. Live music as well as food and beverages. Free. Lake Springfield Marina, 17 Waters Edge Blvd., 217-483-3625.

Morgan County Fair

July 7-12. Enjoy some of what Morgan County has to offer from thrilling carnival rides and games to livestock shows and agricultural exhibits. Savor delicious fair food, watch exciting events at the grandstand like the demolition derby and tractor pulls. Find more information and a schedule at themorgancountyfair.com. \$5. Morgan County Fairgrounds, Jacksonville, 110 N. Westgate, 217-245-6800.

The Prince of Egypt

Fri., July 10, 8:30pm, Sat., July 11, 8:30pm, Sun., July 12, 8:30pm, Wed., Aug. 5, 8:30pm, Thu., Aug. 6, 8:30pm, Fri., Aug. 7, 8:30pm and Sat., Aug. 8, 8:30pm. The story of Moses and Ramses comes to life in this musical about brotherhood, faith and freedom. Featuring music by Stephen Schwartz, this show reminds us that love and courage can change the world. Directed by Wes Bridges. themuni.org. Rated G. \$12-\$30. The Muni, 815 E. Lake Dr., 217-793-6864.

Women's Distance Festival

Sat., July 11, 8am. Race on a beautiful two-mile course through the park. A virtual option is available. Kids can participate in an untimed fun run. Hosted by the

Springfield Road Runners Club. <https://www.srrc.net/wdf>. Washington Park, 1501 S. Grand Ave. W., 217-544-1751.

2026 Kids Triathlon

Sat., July 11, 8:30am. The 12th annual Springfield Kids Triathlon is presented by In Play Productions Inc., which is continuing the legacy of the Springfield Bicycle Club and the Springfield Triathlon Club. The event is a USAT-sanctioned event for children ages 6 to 15. There are three different races to choose from giving participants of all abilities options to challenge themselves. Registration deadline is July 16. \$30-\$35. Lincoln Park, Fifth Street and Sangamon Avenue, 217-544-1751.

Chatham Jaycees Sweet Corn Festival

Fri., July 17 and Sat., July 18. Live music, food, vendors, children's activities and much more. A big shout out to the local cows' contributions to that perennial favorite, the Illinois Championship Cow Chip Throw. Chatham Community Park, Chatham, 731 S. Main St.

Lake Springfield Triathlon

Sat., July 25, 7am. Presented by MSE Racing, the course for the Lake Springfield Triathlon is beautiful with a dock start (jump!) lake swim, flat bike course and gently rolling and shady run.

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voice and fearless songwriting have made her one of the genre's most defining stars. statefair.illinois.gov. \$59-\$134. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

250 Years of Fashion

Sat., Aug. 22, 1pm. In recognition of the 250th anniversary of the birth of the U.S., this fashion show spans over two centuries of fashion in America. Models will display these fashions in the parlors of Edwards Place, harkening back to the early days of fashion shows, which took place in the homes of wealthy Parisians. edwardsplace.org. \$10 for SAA members, \$15 for non-members. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Abe's Amble 2025

Sun., Aug. 23, 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. This challenging 10K course is USATF certified. There is also a certified 5K course option. src.net. TBA. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Shinedown

Sun., Aug. 23, 8 p.m. Multi-platinum rock band Shinedown is one of the most vital and forward-thinking powerhouses in music. The band has 24 No. 1 rock hits. \$60-\$140. Ticketmaster.com. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 Sangamon Ave.

Balloons Over 66 Weekend

Fri., Aug. 28 and Sat., Aug. 29. 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.

SEPTEMBER

Springfield Mile

Sat., Sep. 5, 9am and Sun., Sep. 6, 9am. The 2026 Springfield Mile is scheduled for a doubleheader weekend featuring Progressive American Flat Track racing (AFT SuperTwins and AFT Singles). Day 1 is the Springfield Mile I, and Day 2 is the Springfield Mile II. springfieldmile.com. \$20-\$150. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-632-0277.

Springfield Oyster & Beer Festival

Sat., Sept. 5, 11am-4pm. Enjoy oysters and more at this 16th annual event now at a new site in downtown Springfield. Besides thousands of fresh oysters, the event features a wide selection of beer offerings and live music. Ansar Shrine, 630 S. Sixth St., 217-525 1771, ansarupdates@gmail.com.

Balloons Over 66 Weekend

Dual Piano

Fri., Aug. 14, 7pm, Sat., Aug. 15, 7pm and Sun., Aug. 16, 2pm. Damien Kaplan and Mark Gifford will work their magic on your favorite music as only they can. A couple of guys, a couple of grand pianos and a couple of hours of delight - that's Dual Piano. Comedy runs amuck throughout their programs, and no one knows what is going to happen next - including Mark and Damien. hcfta.org. \$20-\$22. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Outraged: Terror in Springfield 1908

Fri., Aug. 14, 7:30pm, Sat., Aug. 15, 7:30pm and Sun., Aug. 16, 3pm. This play by local playwright Timothy Crawford, is an award-winning drama set against the backdrop of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot that terrorized the Black citizens of Springfield and gave rise to the NAACP. After facing a devastating loss during racial violence in the previous century, Bonaparte Baker steps off a train in Springfield on Aug. 14, 1908. His arrival leads to an uneasy reunion and sparks a flashpoint with his estranged brother-in-law. As

historic mob violence erupts and targets the Black citizens of Abraham Lincoln's hometown, Bonaparte seeks reconciliation and atonement by doing the unthinkable. *Outraged* will be presented in partnership with "3 Hot Days in August," the second annual citywide commemoration of the events of 1908. hcfta.org. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts Peggy Ryder Theatre, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Bailey Zimmerman

Fri., Aug. 14, 8pm. Multi-platinum singer-songwriter Bailey Zimmerman, from Louisville, Illinois, is one of country music's brightest stars. He's known for his chart topping hits and authentic gritty sound. \$55-\$130. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Lainey Wilson

Sat., Aug. 15, 8pm. Country music trailblazer Lainey Wilson has been named Entertainer of the Year, Female Artist of the Year, Album of the Year, and Artist-Songwriter of the Year. Tickets go on sale at 10am Saturday, Nov. 8. Ticketmaster.com. \$88-\$128. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

Matchbox Twenty

Sun., Aug. 16, 8pm. Sing all of the hits including "3AM," "Bent" and "If You're Gone." Tickets go on sale at 10am Friday on Ticketmaster.com. \$75-\$150. Illinois State

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

The Lion King Jr.

Aug. 20-22, 8:30pm. In this special youth production of Disney's *The Lion King Jr.*, join Simba, Nala and friends on a journey of love, responsibility and the circle of life in this timeless family favorite. Directed by Tiffany Williams. themuni.org. \$12-\$30. The Muni, 815 E. Lake Dr., 217-793-6864.

Hairspray!

Fri., Aug. 21, 7:30pm, Sat., Aug. 22, 7:30pm, Sun., Aug. 23, 2pm, Fri., Aug. 28, 7:30pm, Sat., Aug. 29, 7:30pm and Sun., Aug. 30, 2pm. It's 1962 in Baltimore, and the lovable plus-size teen, Tracy Turnblad, has only one desire - to dance on the popular "Corny Collins Show." When her dream comes true, Tracy is transformed from social outcast to sudden star. She must use her newfound power to dethrone the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob, Link Larkin, and integrate a TV network... all without denting her 'do! Winner of eight Tony Awards including best musical. hcfta.org. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Ella Langley

Fri., Aug. 21, 8pm. Ella Langley is a multi-platinum, chart-topping and award-winning country artist whose unmistakable

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Edwards Place Fine Art Fair

Sat., Sep. 19, 10am-5pm and Sun., Sep. 20, 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! Expect live music, art demonstrations, food trucks, used book sale, self-guided tours of historic Edwards Place, kids' activities, and more! Free admission. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Chatham Jaycees Oktoberfest

Sat., Sep. 19, 11am-9pm. Traditional(ish) celebration with food, fun and German and American music. Veterans Memorial Square, Chatham, 101 N. Main St.

International Route 66 Mother Road Festival

Sep. 25-27. It's the centennial of Route 66! 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. Free for spectators. Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, 217-553-5271.

Annual Artisan Market

Sat., Sep. 26, 9am-4pm. This annual curated event hosts regional artisans chosen based on their original and handcrafted works. Skilled craftspeople and creators attend to sell their handmade, one-of-a-kind items directly to the public. Artisans who create original artwork, written works, bath/body products, apparel, food products, jewelry, candles and more are welcome. In lieu of an admission fee, non-perishable items will be accepted for the local food pantries in Sangamon and Menard counties. Free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-306-3394.

Night Glow Festival

Tue., Sept. 29, 6-9 p.m. 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. Southwind Park, 4965 S. Second St., 217-585-2941.

Bourbon Done Wright

Wed., Sep. 30, 5:30-8pm. Experience the sweet, smooth flavors of bourbon (Frank Lloyd Wright's favorite drink) while learning more about it. Sample fine foods, visit with fellow bourbon aficionados and support the Dana-Thomas House. Route 66 MotorHeads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-788-9452.

Edwards Place Fine Art Fair

Sangamon Valley Woodcarvers 35th Annual Show, Sale and Competition

Sat., Sep. 5, 10am-4pm. Woodcarvers will display their carvings and will be working on new ones. Some carvings will be available for purchase. Event includes people's choice voting for best carving competition, signup for a beginning carving class, door prize drawings and vendors selling woodcarving supplies and tools. Free admission. Williamsville Community Center, Williamsville, 141 W. Main St., 217-691-5943.

Traditional Music Festival

Sat., Sep. 5, 10am-4pm and Sun., Sep. 6, 10am-4pm. This popular annual event showcases 19th-century instruments and folk music. dnrhistoric.illinois.gov. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Military Vehicle Show

Sat., Sep. 12, 10am-4pm. See old and

newer military vehicles and equipment and then check out the museum. Free, donations accepted. Illinois State Military Museum, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd., 217-761-3910.

Rockballet

Sat., Sep. 12. Rockballet is an electrifying fusion of classical ballet and iconic rock music, taking audiences on a thrilling journey. This innovative production showcases the dynamic versatility of Copper Coin Ballet Company dancers as they perform to the timeless hits of Prince. Set in an outdoor theatre, Rockballet combines the raw energy of a live concert with the grace and precision of ballet, creating a unique and unforgettable experience that appeals to a broad audience. The Muni, 815 E. Lake Dr., 217-793-MUNI.

Art Spectacular

Sat., Sept. 12 and Sun., Sept. 13. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave. A popular, professionally juried fine art and craft show featuring collector and museum-quality works. Food trucks and activities for kids. Free admission.

Rock and Run for Mental Health

Sun., Sep. 13, 9am-12pm. Fourth annual

event includes 5k and 1-mile fun run/walk, live music by The 66 Ramblers and vendors. Cendor lineup includes a food truck, coffee bar, massage therapists, chiropractors, physical therapists, counselors, community organizations and more. Partial proceeds provide counseling services to uninsured individuals and those in need. Register at rock4mentalhealth.org. 10. Rochester Community Park, Rochester, 90 Wild Rose Lane.

Ride to Remember

Sun., Sept. 14, 9am. Starting site TBA. Vehicles line up at 9am. After a short ceremony, the procession will leave at 10am and proceed to Illinois State Capitol grounds to the 9/11 Memorial site. Free.

Capital City Century

Sat., Sept. 19, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Five distances from which to choose including the "100-mile Century." Curated routes and low-traffic roads for seasoned cyclists and beginners alike. Hosted by the Springfield Bicycle Club. All routes begin and end at the Sherman Athletic Club. Each route features a rest stop with drinks and snacks to keep riders fueled and supported. Register online.

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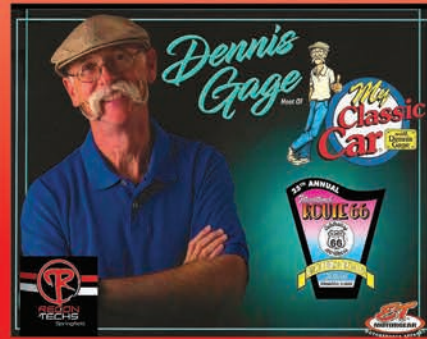
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OCTOBER

Candlelight Walks

Oct. 2-10. A wonderful opportunity to experience village life at night. Period-clothed interpreters will be inside many of the log homes and shops to talk about life in 19th century Illinois. lincolnsnewsalem.com. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show

Sat., Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun., Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Features gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry dealers, exhibits, silent auction, concessions, demonstrations and children's activities. Presented by Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society. Adults \$3, seniors \$2, children 12 and younger and Scouts in uniform free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-414-0033.

Blessing of the Animals

Mon., Oct. 5. This longtime APL tradition marks the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. All animals are welcome and must be on a leash or in a size-appropriate carrier throughout the entire event for the safety of the animals and people attending. For more information visit www.apl-shelter.org

or call. Animal Protective League, 1001 Taintor Road, 217-544-7387.

APL Boo Bark Party

Sat., Oct. 10, 11am-2pm. Trick or treat. Springfield's only Halloween party for dogs. We invite dog owners to grab their pets and join APL for a spooky, fun dog party. Boo Bark features pet-themed vendors, activities for kids and dogs, pumpkin painting, demonstrations and a canine contest with prizes for winners. \$3 for one dog. \$5 for two dogs. Animal Protective League, 1001 Taintor Road, 217-361-6212.

Illinois Product Farmers Fall Market

Sat., Oct. 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Features Illinois meats, produce, baked goods and wine. Includes children's events and live music. illinoisproductsfarmersmarket.com. Illinois State Fairgrounds, The Shed, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-524-9129.

Carve for the Carillon

Fri., Oct. 10, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 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'Lantern Spectacular. Rain or shine and while supplies last. Free. carillon-rees.org.

Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular

Fri., Oct. 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 17, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Enjoy the sparkling splendor of hundreds of illuminated, carved pumpkins surrounding the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon and Botanical Garden at Washington Park. Admission fee. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-4116

Highland Games & Celtic Festival

Sat., Oct. 17, 10am-7pm. A day of bagpiping, dancing, athletics, Gaelic lessons, vendors, live entertainment and more. centralillinoiscelts.com. \$15 for adults, \$8 for seniors, children free. Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, 316 W. Birch St., 219-899-3359.

The UNusual Suspects - Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

Sat., Oct. 17, 6:30pm and Sun., Oct. 18, 4:30pm. At Edwards Place Murder Mystery dinner theater, guests will help to solve a dastardly murder. They will interact with a motley crew of suspects to discover which of them committed the crime all while enjoying a themed, catered meal. The show is written in-house and includes a dozen community members as actors. This year's

theme is "The UNusual Suspects," in which detectives from classic mystery novels and movies become the suspects in a murder themselves. edwardsplace.org. \$65. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Come From Away

Fri., Oct. 23, 7:30pm, Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30pm, Sun., Oct. 25, 2pm, Mon., Oct. 26, 7:30pm, Tue., Oct. 27, 7:30pm and Sat., Oct. 31, 2pm. Based on true events surrounding 9-11, it tells the story of the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, whose residents unexpectedly welcomed the world on Sept. 11, 2001. When 38 planes were diverted to their town, the people of Gander opened their homes, shared meals, offered music and laughter, and forged lasting connections with 7,000 stranded travelers. hcfta.org. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Zoolie Ghoulie

Oct. 23-24. 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. Costume contest each night. \$5, 2 and younger are free. springfieldparks.org. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821.

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PEORIA RIVERFRONT MUSEUM

Fall Festival

Sat., Oct. 24, 10am-5pm. Period clothed interpreters will demonstrate daily tasks such as candle dipping, soap making, blacksmithing, spinning wool, gardening and natural dyeing. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

NOVEMBER

World War I living history

Sat., Nov. 7, 10am-4pm. Speak to historians and re-enactors of the Great War that went on from 1914 to 1918. Then check out the museum. Illinois State Military Museum, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd., 217-761-3910.

Statewide Conference and Centennial Celebration

Wed., Nov. 11, 8am. A future, grand celebration of Route 66's 100th anniversary featuring live entertainment in the Motordome at Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, special guests, classic cars and networking opportunities. The Centennial Celebration will be a ticketed event. Discounts will be available exclusively for Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway members. See the Facebook page or website for more info. Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, 600 Toronto Road, 217-670-1805.

Girls on the Run 5K Celebration

Sat., Nov. 14, 9-11am. Support Girls on the Run of Central Illinois participants by joining them at the fall 5K. Celebrate and honor their season of growth, connection and confidence. Event begins at 9am with family-friendly activities followed by the 5K at 10am. Register to run/walk as a 5K participant or to volunteer. Early pricing before 10/26, adults \$30 and children ages 3-12 \$20. Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, 217-726-9808.

Art Synergy

Sat., Nov. 14, 5:30-11pm. This creative, collaborative event will culminate in an exciting evening at Paul Tree Farms filled with food, drinks, bartending battle, silent auction, raffles and a live auction of the finished pieces. More details TBA. \$75. Paul's Paradise, Pleasant Plains, 12430 State Route 125, 217-544-2787.

Route 66 Film Festival

Fri, Nov. 20 and Sat., Nov. 21. Celebrating 25 years of independent, international films and featuring films of all lengths and genres. Trophies will be awarded Saturday night for judges' choice in various categories. Suggested donation at the door is \$10 for each session. Food and drinks available for purchase. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Annie

Opens Friday, Nov. 20. Believe it or not, Annie is 50! Join The Legacy Theatre for its 50th anniversary celebration of this beloved musical. More details TBA. The Legacy Theatre, 101 E. Lawrence Ave., 217-528-9760.

Light Up The Gables

Fri., Nov. 27. Parade and tree lighting at 5pm featuring Santa & Mrs. Claus, Abraham and Mary Lincoln and more. Includes children's events from 3 to 5pm. Free. The Gables, 2800 Plaza Dr., 793-3344.

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A Springfield favorite, where the Spirit of "Aloha" and the Hawaiian Islands greet you at the door. At Hawaiian BBQ you'll find a curated blend of Thai and Hawaiian Island favorites that are seasoned to perfection. Featuring Pad Thai, Musubi, Korean Bulgogi, and the favorite "Hawaiian BBQ Mixed Plate" (a Hawaiian Staple).

Lunch and Dinner - Dine-in or Carry Out.

Springfield's locally owned Fair Trade Store, committed to sustainability, a healthy planet, and healthy people. Here you'll find great gifts, home decor, fashion, fair trade coffee and Springfield's "refillery" for all of your home and bodycare needs. Come see what the world of Simply Fair has to offer.

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2357 WEST MONROE ST. SPRINGFIELD



Holiday Zoo Lights

Fridays-Sundays, Nov. 27-Dec. 22, 5-9 p.m. Stroll through the zoo and enjoy thousands of lights and themed lighted display. Enjoy a hot chocolate or hang out under the tent to enjoy a s'more after roasting a marshmallow over the fire pit. Admission fee. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-585-1821

DECEMBER

Holiday Open House

Sat., Dec. 5, 1-4pm. See Edwards Place in holiday finery while listening (and singing!) carols around a piano once heard by Abraham Lincoln and meeting a Civil War-era Santa Claus. Refreshments provided. edwardsplace.org. Free. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

The Nutcracker

Sat., Dec. 5 and Sun., Dec. 6. The timeless holiday classic that has enchanted Springfield-area audiences for generations, now under the banner of the Copper Coin Ballet Company. Created by Julie Ratz, Ronda Brinkman, Gina Russell and Grace Navavati, and performed by a talented company of more than 100 local dancers. Experience Clara's magical dream, and create beautiful holiday memories for the young and young-at-heart. UIS Performing Arts Center, One University Plaza, 217-206-6160.

Caroling at the Carillon

Sun., Dec. 13, 3-5:30pm. Gather around a roaring bonfire and sing Christmas carols accompanied by the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon. Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

Winter Holiday Floral Show

Dec. 5-20. Step into a world of enchantment and immerse yourself in the beauty of over 500 radiant poinsettias carefully nestled among lush fresh evergreens and vibrant tropical foliage. Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-4116.

Santa Claus Holiday Tea

Sat., Dec. 12, 1pm. Learn about popular tea customs while participating in a special program based on The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus by L. Frank Baum. Includes tea, tea foods, gifts, and original programming. edwardsplace.org. \$30-\$35. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

Dual Piano Christmas

Fri., Dec. 18, 7pm, Sat., Dec. 19, 7pm and Sun., Dec. 20, 2pm. The duo that Illinois Times called "improvisational and strategically comedic" is back for more mischief and music. Comedy runs amuck throughout their programs and no one knows what is going to happen next - including Mark Gifford and Damien Kaplan. hcfta.org. \$21-\$23. Hoogland Center for the Arts LRS Theatre 1, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

First Night Springfield

Thu., Dec. 31, 12-8:30 p.m. Look for children's activities, live performances and special around-the-world midnight countdown with confetti cannons at ALPLM, ice skating at Union Square Park, live performances and arts activities at the Hoogland and a fireworks spectacular. 16 and older \$25, 15 and younger free. springfieldartsco.org/first-night. Downtown, 217-753-3519.



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An advertisement for Jellystone Park Bear's Camp-Resort. It features the mascot 'Yogi B's' (a bear in a suit) and a collage of resort amenities including a swimming pool, jumping pillow, laser tag, and hay rides. The text 'JELLYSTONE PARK Bear's ILLINOIS' and 'NEW DOUGLAS CAMP-RESORT' is visible. A red banner at the bottom says 'Enjoy Rustic Acres Jellystone Park™ Today!' with contact information: 217-456-1122 • 12246 Binney Rd. • New Douglas, IL.

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DISCOVER ILLINOIS' BEST-KEPT SECRETS

The experiences awaiting in Jacksonville, IL, are more than just mundane errands – they're emblematic of the timeless memories revealed amid the comfort of a small, Central Illinois community. See how young, gastronomic experts put modern spins on traditional recipes sourced from local ingredients, resulting in eclectic menus bursting with flavor. Mixologists concoct a variety of cocktails and beverages bound to become your new favorites. Shops and boutiques lining a historic city square occupy storefronts that have stood for generations and offer a chance to track down handcrafted, one-of-a-kind items and reclaimed treasures. No matter what your idea of a good time is, see how creating brand-new experiences comes just as easily as discovering a bit of the past in Jacksonville.

JACKSONVILLEIL.ORG

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Experience the **Springfield**
WALKS & TOURS

The Lincoln's Ghost Walk: Legends & Lore

This 90-minute, lantern-lit, 10-block walking tour uses the Lincoln sites as the backdrop for the strange and unusual stories surrounding Lincoln's life and death.

- Lincoln's Funeral
- Lincoln's Bizarre Dreams
- Mary's White House Seances
- Lincoln's & Spiritualism
- The Phantom Carriage
- Lincoln's White House Ghost
- The Funeral Train
- Skullduggery at the Tomb

A factual history tour filled with the unusual, the eerie, and the ghostly stories of Lincoln.

Easy walking, places to sit, ADA, suitable for kids.



Tour Begins: Corner of 6th and Adams St. in front of the Visitor's Center at Lincoln statues

When: March 11th - September 26th, Tuesday through Saturday nights | October, Friday & Saturday nights only

Cost: \$20 adults, \$15 seniors/military, \$10 kids 7-17, free under 7

Time: 7:30 pm, please arrive by 7:20 pm



ALL ticket sales are done online, scan QR code now.

6 pm is cut-off time ticket sales each day of tours.

Tickets cannot be sold on scene at tour time unless a tour is already operating for the night.



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