

The News-Gazette®



SUMMER FUN GUIDE

2026



CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS



Join the PARTY! SUMMER READING 2026

Summer Fun for Kids & Families!

- May 23** **BIG Bang Bubbles Show!** 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm
- May 30** **Bedazzling Butterfly Tents** 12–4 pm
- June 6** **Wendy & DB | Live Music for Kids** 3 pm
- June 13** **Juneteenth Emancipation Day Celebration!**
12–3 pm, Douglass Park
- June 20** **Yo-Yo Champion Mark Hayward**
11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm
- June 27** **The Rope Warrior** 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm
- July 11** **Little Miss Ann | Live Music for Kids** 3 pm
- July 18** **Hands-On Science & Discovery Stations**
1–4 pm
- July 25** **The Magic Show with Kayleigh Rodgers**
11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm
- Aug 1** **Dino Academy** 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm
- Aug 2** **Join the Party! Summer Reading Celebration**
12–3 pm



Sign up!

Sign up to read—and win prizes—with the Join the Party! Summer Reading Challenge (May 15–Aug 15) for all ages. champaign.org/read

Questions? We can help! 217.403.2000

Main Library | 200 W. Green St.
Douglass Branch | 504. E. Grove St.
champaign.org

Champaign Public
LIBRARY

SUMMER FUN GUIDE



Robin Scholz/The News-Gazette

Timothy Brinson, 2, of Texas is stoic as he rides the kiddie Ferris wheel for the first time during opening night of the 2025 Champaign County Fair in Urbana. He was there with his grandparents. This year's event is set for July 25-Aug. 1.

ABOUT THIS SECTION: NIKO DUGAN

A WORD ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

We are happy to present the following calendar of events happening around East Central Illinois this summer.

This year, we relied on the public to submit events to our online portal. Thank you to those who sent in information.

As you can imagine, this calendar is nowhere near a definitive guide to everything happening throughout all the counties we serve. This is merely a starting point.

In many cases, these events were submitted weeks or months in advance. Please know that the times may change or events may be altered or even canceled.

That's why, when possible, we have included contact information. If you have questions about a particular event, please reach out to the provided phone number or email, or check the provided website.

We hope you have a great summer!

SUMMER FUN GUIDE



Robin Scholz/The News-Gazette

Balloons Over Vermilion

- **When:** 3 to 10 p.m. June 5; 6:30 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 10 p.m. June 6
- **Where:** Kennekuk County Park, Danville
- **What:** Up and Away 5K, Yoga on the Go, evening hot-air balloon flights and glows, tethered balloon rides and balloon school; a huge kids zone; continuous live entertainment; a beer tent and 20-plus food vendors. Admission is \$10 and free for those 12 and under with adult admission. Parking is free. Full details are available at balloonsoververmilion.com.
- **Information:** balloonsoververmilion@gmail.com or 217-474-7770.



Jennifer Bailey/The News-Gazette

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JUNE

RED MASK TEENS



HARRY'S HOTTER at twilight by jonathan dorf

Live Theater: Red Mask Teens present
'Harry's Hotter at Twilight,' by Jonathan Dorf

- **When:** 7 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays June 5-7
- **Where:** Kathryn Randolph Theater, Danville
- **What:** In this crazy, funny mash-up of "Harry Potter" and "Twilight," everyone's favorite wizards, vampires and werewolves battle to save the gloomy town of Spork.
- **Information:** Lisa Lovelace at redmaskplayersboard@gmail.com or 773-771-5909.

Cultural Crafts: Calling Cards

- **When:** 2 to 3:30 p.m. June 1
- **Where:** Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** Before modern inboxes and DMs, people used calling cards to introduce and express themselves. Come learn about the history behind these and craft one for yourself. This event is for younger audiences. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Danville First Fridays: Artisan Summer Luau

- **When:** 5 to 8 p.m. June 5
- **Where:** Temple Plaza, downtown
- **What:** Escape to a tropical downtown oasis and experience a tropical multi-course meal, curated mocktails, live music and beachy activities!
- **Information:** Macy Davis at mdavis@cityofdanville.org or 217-431-2317.

Youth Nature and History Guide Training

- **When:** 6 to 7:30 p.m. June 5
- **Where:** Champaign Public Library
- **What:** Designed for curious and motivated youth ages 8-15 who enjoy sharing knowledge about nature or history. This launches a partnership with forest preserve staff to build confidence, connect with nature and history, and develop volunteer youth guides. Caregivers must attend training and volunteer programs.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Summer Reading Kick-Off: Family Musician Mrs. Kate

- **When:** 10 a.m. June 6
- **Where:** Rantoul Public Library
- **What:** Children's recording artist "Mrs. Kate" Carpenter will share her original folk songs. All ages are welcome and admission is free. Come early to get a good seat.
- **Information:** rantoullib@gmail.com or 217-893-3955.

Above & Beyond

BALLOONS OVER VERMILION 2026

HOT AIR BALLOONS • KITE DISPLAYS • DRONE SHOWS

FRIDAY, JUNE 05 | SATURDAY, JUNE 06 | 3-10PM DAILY

- 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Tour Historical Buildings at Kennekuk
- New!* 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. - Kite Display
- 3 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Kids Zone
- 3 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Beer Tent Featuring LIVE Entertainment
- 3 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Food Truck Frenzy
- 6:30 p.m. - Balloon Launch
- 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Tethered Balloon Rides
- 8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. - Balloon Glow
- New!* 9:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. - Drone Show

Plan your visit!



BALLOONSOVERVERMILION.COM

New!

UP & AWAY
50K

Balloons Over Vermilion
Kennekuk County Park

SATURDAY, JUNE 06

Registration at 6:30 AM.
Race starts at 7:30 AM.
\$40 registration



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Years
ABOVE & BEYOND

KENNEKUK COUNTY PARK

SUMMER FUN GUIDE



Provided by T. Miller Brown Photography

Summer Concert Series: Candy Foster and Shades of Blue

- **When:** 5 to 7 p.m. June 6
- **Where:** Peninsula, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** Candy Foster merges his talents with one of the best blues bands this area has to offer in providing a one-of-a-kind performance! Enjoy the beautiful lake scenery and kick off summer with a concert you won't want to miss! Food and alcohol from local food trucks will be available for purchase.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Growing up in the Preserves

- **When:** 10 to 11 a.m. June 9
- **Where:** Natural Playscape, Homer Lake Forest Preserves, Homer
- **What:** This program is designed for preschoolers ages 3-6 along with their grown-ups to learn as we play outside in nature together. We will explore hands-on activity stations focused on wetland ecology, and we will hop like frogs over to the nearby wetland with Master Naturalist and dragonfly expert Doug Mills!
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Live Theater: Twin City Theatre Company presents 'Songs for a New World'

- **When:** 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays June 12-14, 19-21
- **Where:** Second Stage Theatre, Parkland College, Champaign
- **What:** A contemporary song cycle weaves characters and history together. From the deck of a sailing ship to 57 stories above Fifth Avenue in New York, we meet a startling array of characters exploring life, love and the choices we make.
- **Information:** Diane Pritchard at twincitytheatreco@gmail.com or 217-714-2596.

Fun with Fossils

- **When:** 1 to 2 p.m. June 13
- **Where:** Interpretive Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield
- **What:** Did you know that in 2018, a 400-year-old bison skull was discovered in Middle Fork River Forest Preserve? Come learn about the bison skull and fossils that can be found in Illinois and participate in a mock-dig activity. Fossils from the mock-dig can be taken home! Recommended for younger audiences.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.



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3215 N Vermilion St.
Danville, IL 61832
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SUMMER FUN GUIDE



Disney/Pixar

Dark Sky Film Series: 'Elio'

- **When:** 8 to 10 p.m. June 13
- **Where:** Campground, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield
- **What:** Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets for a movie under the stars. Park at the Interpretive Center and gather on the lawn near the shower house. A presentation about celestial objects to look for in the sky will begin at 8 p.m., while the film will start at 8:40.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Garden Speaker Series: Pollinator Pockets

- **When:** 4 to 5:30 p.m. June 23
- **Where:** Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** Celebrate Pollinator Week with a presentation about landscaping that supports ecosystem health. We will learn how to design pollinator-friendly spaces for whatever scale you have to work with. Then, take a guided walk through the Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden to catch a glimpse of some plant-pollinator interactions.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

College for Kids

- **When:** 12:45 to 5 p.m. June 15-25
- **Where:** Parkland College, Champaign
- **What:** College for Kids offers engaging two-week enrichment camps for children ages 6-13 where they can explore, create and imagine in a fun, collaborative environment! Kids will experience innovative learning, make new friends and dive into exciting STEAM-based topics!
- **Information:** Kathy Buyze at kbuyze@parkland.edu or 217-351-2545.

Young Adult Paint & Snack

- **When:** 3:30 p.m. June 18
- **Where:** Rantoul Public Library
- **What:** Join us for snacks and a guided canvas painting session! We'll be exploring mixed media and taking inspiration from our summer reading theme, "Plant A Seed, Read." This event is free and tailored to ages 13-21.
- **Information:** rantoullib@gmail.com or 217-893-3955.

Welcome Summer Guided Trail Ride

- **When:** 6 to 8:30 p.m. June 21
- **Where:** Kickapoo Rail Trail, Urbana Walmart Access Point
- **What:** Join us for an engaging 6.7-mile bicycle tour of the Kickapoo Rail Trail as we stop along the way to discuss local natural and cultural history. The tour will begin at the access point at the northwestern end of the Urbana Walmart's parking lot and end near Kolb Park.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Fishing for Beginners

- **When:** 9 to 11 a.m. June 20
- **Where:** Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer
- **What:** Gain a greater appreciation and respect for our underwater neighbors and their unique ecosystem as we practice good angling techniques. Cane poles and bait are available to use, but you are welcome to bring your own. The program begins with a brief presentation and demonstration followed by hands-on fishing.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Ignite Your Potential

Summer 2025

Beginner Yoga Classes

Easy Pace Tues 10:30a

Ignite Wednesday 7:30a

Men's Essentials Wed 7p

Ignite Thursday 7:30p

Community/Donation Sunday 2:30p

Ignite Sunday 4p

Easy Pace Sat 3p

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SUMMER FUN GUIDE



Summer Concert Series: Carrie Sue and the Wood Burners

- **When:** 5 to 7 p.m. June 28
- **Where:** Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer
- **What:** Carrie Sue and The Wood Burners hail from Urbana and reside at the intersection of songwriting, storytelling and harmonizing, where they create a unique blend of folk, bluegrass, country and Americana music. Food and alcohol from local food trucks will be available for purchase.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT JAZZ IN THE PARK FREE CONCERT SERIES

Thurs, May, 21, 6-8pm
Clark Park

Thurs, July 23, 6-8pm
Noel Park

Thurs, August 20, 6-8:30pm
Sunset Ridge Park

Sunset Yoga: Gently Flow Yoga

- **When:** 7 to 8 p.m. June 25
- **Where:** Peninsula, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** This is your space to slow down, breathe and come back home to yourself. We'll move gently and intentionally, releasing tension while creating a sense of ease in the body and mind. No pressure, just soft movement, deep breaths and time to reset.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Wetland Hoppers

- **When:** 4 p.m. June 26
- **Where:** Rantoul Public Library
- **What:** This family-friendly program is for lovers of frogs, toads and other amphibians! The Champaign County Forest Preserve District will teach us about Illinois' local hoppers and give us an up-close look at their resident frogs. This event is free and open to people of all ages.
- **Information:** at rantoullib@gmail.com or 217-893-3955.

Mead at the Museum

- **When:** 5 to 8 p.m. June 27
- **Where:** Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** See honeybees working in an enclosed hive, sample honey from The Hive Honey Beetique, buy mead from TreeHive

Meadery, enjoy storytelling rooted in local history, and tour pollinator gardens. This immersive experience celebrates bees, nature and tradition, and is specially designed for adults seeking a unique outing.

- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Sunset Guided Hike

- **When:** 7 to 8:30 p.m. June 30
- **Where:** Possibility Pier, River Bend Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** Learn about the history and ecology of Champaign County's largest lake by canoe or kayak. Equipment and basic instruction are provided. Bring drinking water. Shore lockers are available for belongings. Ages 8+ may participate; those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Visit the registration page for full details.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

America 250 'Jeopardy' for Kids

- **When:** 3:30 p.m. June 30
- **Where:** Rantoul Public Library
- **What:** Celebrate America's 250th birthday with us by playing history trivia! Kids can play individually, or your whole family can team up and play together. This event is free and open to the public.
- **Information:** rantoullib@gmail.com or 217-893-3955.

SUMMER FUN GUIDE

Robin Sxholz/The News-Gazette

AMERICA
250



Champaign County Freedom Celebration: America's 250th on the Fourth of July

- **When:** Youth run at 8:30 a.m.; 5K at 9 a.m.; parade at 11 a.m.; evening program starting at 6 p.m.; fireworks at 9:15 p.m. July 4
- **Where:** Stadium Terrace (Lot 31) near Gies Memorial Stadium, Champaign
- **What:** Volunteers have been coordinating a patriotic party on the Fourth of July since 1949. The evening program includes food, kids' activities and music by Captain Rat and the Blind Rivets.
- **Information:** info@july4th.net or 217-372-1487.

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Sibley Area Fourth of July Celebration

- **When:** 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 4
- **Where:** Downtown Sibley and Sibley Lake Park
- **What:** Breakfast, fishing derby, cars and coffee, vendors, parade at noon, inflatables, bingo, Funbelievable balloons, bingo, Monticello Model Airplanes and Boat Show, face-painting, games for all ages. All events free. Food available throughout the day. Amazing fireworks at dusk. Full schedule at Facebook; search "Sibley 4th of July."
- **Information:** Kathy Eagleson at eagleson@cawi.org or 217-249-2548.

SUMMER FUN GUIDE

JULY



Summer Concert Series: Ian Shepherd & Friends

- **When:** Noon to 2 p.m. July 25
- **Where:** Peninsula, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** Hear Ian Shepherd & Friends during Summer Splash! Enjoy the New Orleans-style music while enjoying the other activities at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Cultural Crafts: Red, White and Blue Daisies

- **When:** 2 to 3 p.m. July 1
- **Where:** Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** With Independence Day right around the corner, one is sure to see a lot of red, white, and blue! But what do these colors mean? What do they symbolize? Come participate in a fun flower-dye activity and learn the history behind America's highly recognized colors! Recommended for younger audiences.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

College for Kids

- **When:** 12:45 to 5 p.m. July 6-16
- **Where:** Parkland College, Champaign
- **What:** College for Kids offers engaging two-week enrichments camps for children ages 6-13 where they can explore, create and imagine in a fun, collaborative environment! Kids will experience innovative learning, make new friends and dive into exciting STEAM-based topics!
- **Information:** Kathy Buyze at kbuyze@parkland.edu or 217-351-2545.

Paint It, Plant It

- **When:** 2 p.m. July 11
- **Where:** Rantoul Public Library
- **What:** Paint a small flower pot and then plant a succulent inside it! All materials will be provided. This event is free and open to all ages.
- **Information:** at rantoullib@gmail.com or 217-893-3955.

Urbana Park District Summer 2026

You belong here.

MAY

- 22 - Candlelight Serenade-Jazz Edition
- 23 - Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center Opening
- 29 - Sensory Free/Toddler Time Fridays Begin (Weekly)

JUNE

- 3 - Neighborhood Nights Begin (Weekly)
- 5 - Folk & Roots Fridays Begin (Bi-Weekly)
- 6 - Yoga-Outdoor Summer Fitness Begins (Weekly)
- 6 & 17 - Non-Resident Days @ the Aquatic Center
- 6 & 20 - Zumba-Outdoor Summer Fitness
- 9 & 23 - Tai Chi-Outdoor Summer Fitness
- 11 - Play Day in the Park @ Victory Park
- 17 - Juneteenth Celebration @ Neighborhood Night
- 19 - Juneteenth Celebration @ the Aquatic Center
- 25 - Play Day in the Park @ Blair Park
- 27 - MLK-Jettie Rhodes Neighborhood Day

JULY

- 4 - Fourth of July Celebration @ the Aquatic Center
- 9 - Play Day in the Park @ King Park
- 11 - Power of Parks 5K
- 11 & 18 - Zumba-Outdoor Summer Fitness
- 14 & 28 - Tai Chi-Outdoor Summer Fitness
- 17-19 - Youth Summer Theatre Presents Frozen
- 18 & 29 - Non-Resident Days @ the Aquatic Center
- 23 - Play Day in the Park @ Larson Park
- 29 - USA 250th Celebration @ Neighborhood Night

AUGUST

- 1-2 - 8th Annual Crystal Lake Park Art Fair
- 5 & 22 - Non-Resident Days @ the Aquatic Center
- 6 - Play Day in the Park @ Crestview Park
- 8 - Mermaid Party @ the Aquatic Center



See all of our summer activities at www.urbanaparks.org.

SUMMER FUN GUIDE

Provided



Untold story of the Potawatomi Trail of Death: It Happened Right Here!

- **When:** 2 to 3:30 p.m. July 18
- **Where:** Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** George Godfrey, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, presents a look at Potawatomi life in Illinois. He will also emphasize the continued presence of the Potawatomi people today. The one-hour presentation will be followed by a Q&A. Ages 15 and up
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Potawatomi Storytelling with George Godfrey

- **When:** 2 to 3:30 p.m. July 19
- **Where:** Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** As a traditional powwow dancer and storyteller, George Godfrey shares stories from his Potawatomi heritage. He brings history and tradition to life for audiences of all ages. This program features "The Blue Rose" and "The Woods Cry." The latter is his imagining of a first-person account of experiences.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Bead Art Creations

- **When:** Noon July 25
- **Where:** Rantoul Public Library
- **What:** The wildly charismatic artists of Do Art Productions will lead kids and people of all ages in a beaded-art workshop with a dinosaur theme. All ages are welcome! This event is free and all materials will be provided.
- **Information:** rantoullib@gmail.com or 217-893-3955.

Full Moon Guided Hike

- **When:** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. July 29
- **Where:** Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer
- **What:** Partake in stunning nighttime views across Homer Lake as we walk the trails while daylight turns into darkness. Gentle elevation change, uneven terrain and exposed tree roots in spots. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for comfort in the weather and protection from bugs. Approximately 2 miles. This event is free, and no registration is required.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

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Provided

SJ-O 5K Run/Walk

- **When:** 7:30 a.m. July 25
- **Where:** Downtown St. Joseph
- **What:** Enjoy a leisurely walk or brisk, competitive run through our flat, fast and beautiful city streets, perfect for a personal record! Register online at sjo5k.net or in person by 7:10 a.m. on race day. Proceeds support the high school and middle school cross country and track teams. Please join us!
- **Information:** John Farney at sjo5krace@gmail.com or 217-637-5468.

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5K
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Flamazing Race | August 14, 5-7pm
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Robin Scholz photos/The News-Gazette



**FREE OUTDOOR
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FOR ALL AGES!**

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view full



schedule



Illinois
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Council

Champaign County Fair

- **When:** July 25 to Aug. 1
- **Where:** Champaign County Fairgrounds, Urbana
- **What:** Demolition derby, horse show, harness racing, monster trucks, rodeo, motocross, tractor pulls, carnival rides, food vendors, beer tent. Full details at champaigncountyfair.cc.
- **Information:** Champaign County Fair Association at office@champaigncountyfair.cc or 217-367-8461.



SUMMER FUN GUIDE

Conservation in Action: Mosquito Ambassador Program

→ **When:** 6 to 7:30 p.m. July 23

→ **Where:** Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet

→ **What:** Join Kylee Noel (Illinois Natural History Survey Medical Entomology Laboratory) to learn about a bug who unfortunately sometimes prevents us from enjoying our forest preserves: mosquitoes. The Mosquito Ambassador Program is a community science initiative that allows you to contribute to mosquito research from your home.

→ **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Summer Splash

→ **When:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 25

→ **Where:** Peninsula, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet

→ **What:** Join us for an exciting and family-friendly event at Lake of the Woods. Summer Splash features a variety of activities including fishing, canoeing, kayaking, pedal boats, educational exhibits, Ian Shepherd & Friends live from noon to 2 p.m., and more! Enjoy great food from local food trucks while enjoying the day.

→ **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Sunset Yoga: Beginner Vinyasa Flow

→ **When:** 7 to 8 p.m. July 30

→ **Where:** Peninsula, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet

→ **What:** This class is all about building confidence in your flow while staying connected to your breath. We'll move at a steady, supportive pace, breaking things down so you feel strong and comfortable every step of the way. This event is free, and no registration is required.

→ **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Live Theater: Red Mask Players present 'Glengarry Glen Ross,' by David Mamet

→ **When:** 7 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, July 31-Aug. 2, Aug. 7-9

→ **Where:** Kathryn Randolph Theater, Danville

→ **What:** Red Mask Players present the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about small-time, cutthroat real-estate salesmen in Chicago trying to grind out a living by pushing plots of land onto reluctant buyers in a scramble for their share of the American dream. Debuted on Broadway in 1984, adapted into a film in 1992.

→ **Information:** Lisa Lovelace at redmaskplayersboard@gmail.com or 773-771-5909.

Live Theater: Twin City Theatre Company presents 'Emily Brontë, Teenage Necromancer'

→ **When:**

7 p.m. Fridays
and Saturdays;
2 p.m. Sundays
July 31-Aug 2;
Aug. 7-9

→ **Where:**

Second Stage
Theatre, Park-
land College,
Champaign

→ **What:**

Star pupil Em-
ily Brontë, with
sisters Anne
and Charlotte,
must discern
the true nature
of a terrifying
phantom using
their unique talents, which include
necromancy. A gothic, hilarious ride through English literature full of magic, ghosts and fog, featuring an undead goose, a lovesick spirit and a talking meat pudding.

→ **Information:** Diane Pritchard at twincitytheatreco@gmail.com or 217-714-2596.



SUMMER IS A GREAT TIME TO GET CLOSER TO NATURE AT THESE FREE PROGRAMS!

FOREST
PRESERVES
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY



Dark Sky Series: 8 - 10 PM

Saturday, June 13: Disney and Pixar's Elio
Harry L. Swartz Campground,
Middle Fork River Forest Preserve

Saturday, August 15: Space Sounds,
Harry L. Swartz Campground,
Middle Fork River Forest Preserve

Sunset Yoga: 7 - 8 PM

Thursday, June 25: Gentle Flow Yoga,
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Thursday, July 30: Beginner Vinyasa Flow,
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Thursday, August 27: Yoga & Pilates Flow,
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Fishing for Beginners: 9 - 11 AM

Saturday, May 23: Middle Fork River Forest Preserve

Saturday, June 20: Homer Lake Forest Preserve

Saturday, July 25: Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Summer Concert Series

Saturday, June 6: Candy Foster and Shades of
Blue, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 5 - 7 PM

Sunday, June 29: Carrie Sue & The Wood Burners,
Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 5 - 7 PM

Saturday, July 25: Ian Shepherd & Friends,
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 12 - 2 PM

Saturday, August 15: Two shoes Urbana Review
Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 5 - 7 PM

Saturday, July 25 Peninsula area Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve 9 AM - 2 PM

Join in the fun with a new family friendly event at Lake of the Woods! Activities throughout the day include fishing, canoeing, kayaking, educational exhibits, and more! Enjoy the sounds of the Ian Shepherd & Friends from 12 - 2 PM, along with great food from local food trucks.



Scan for all upcoming programs!

Champaignforests.org

SUMMER FUN GUIDE

AUGUST



Summer Concert Series: Two Shoes Urbana Review

- **When:** 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 15
- **Where:** Campground, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield
- **What:** Join local musicians Dave Pride, Emily McKown, Nick Stine, Jacob Croegaert and Clayton Burke for an exciting jam session! Their combined talents promise a fun and engaging musical experience. Food from local food trucks will be available for purchase. After the concert, stick around for our Dark Sky Series.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Cultural Crafts: Resourceful Art

- **When:** 1 to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 1
- **Where:** Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** As summer ends, enjoy a nature-inspired craft session using natural materials. Learn how early humans created art with sticks, twigs and reeds, and make your own painting. No experience needed. Open to all ages. Adults and children must register by July 25 to participate. Space is limited, so sign up by July 25.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Sunset Yoga: Yoga + Pilates Flow

- **When:** 7 to 8 p.m. Aug. 27
- **Where:** Peninsula, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet
- **What:** This flow blends strength and intention, combining yoga movement with Pilates-inspired core work. We'll build heat, focus on control and tap into that deep, steady strength from within. It's challenging in the best way but always with options or modification so you can make it your own.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.



JUNE 13-20 • Melvin, IL

FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS VISIT fordcountyfair.org

Saturday, June 13

7:30pm Clay Walker with Walker Montgomery
Ridgeland in the Pavilion after Concert until Midnight

Sunday, June 14

11am Jackpot Beef Show
2-5pm Home EC Entries Received
5pm Jackpot Breeding Gilt Show

Monday, June 15

8am Jr. Class Hog Show, Open Show following Jr. Show
8-10:30am Home EC Entries Received
10am All Exhibit Tags must be picked up
Noon Judging Home EC, Junior and Ag Products
6pm Rides Open
7pm Queen Pageant

Tuesday, June 16

5pm Ford County 4-H Premium Auction
5:30pm Little Mister & Miss Pageant
5:30-6pm Registration for Children's Tractor Pull
6pm Family Night
6pm Rides Open
6:30pm Children's Tractor Pull
7pm Talent Show

Wednesday, June 17

9am Jr. Rabbit Show
6pm Rides Open
6:30pm Illiana Truck & Tractor Pull

Thursday, June 18

3-5pm Showdown Lamb & Goat
Jackpot Show Weigh-In
6pm Rides Open
6pm Showdown Lamb & Goat
Jackpot Show
6:30pm Illiana Truck & Tractor Pull
Music in Pavilion after

Friday, June 19

6pm Rides Open: Included in concert ticket price
7:30pm Resurrection: A Tribute to Journey with 80's Bush
80's Bush in the Pavilion after Concert until Midnight

Saturday, June 20

9:30am Rabbit Show
10am Open Class Goat Show, Horse Show
1-2pm All Exhibits Released
6pm Rides open
6:30pm Demolition Derby
Music in Pavilion after

Tuesday, June 16 Family Night Info

\$15 Armbands for first 400.
\$25 per Armband after the first 400.
Armbands go on sale after 5pm.
For the Kids: Petting Zoo in the Commercial Building, Corn Pit on the west side of the 4-H Building, Fire Trucks on display

Monday, June 15 through Saturday, June 20
Petting Zoo is located in the Commercial Building



History of Middle Fork River Forest Preserve

- **When:** 2 to 3 p.m. Aug. 16
- **Where:** Interpretive Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield
- **What:** Join us for an informative presentation covering the history of Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. Hear about its early formation, development and present-day offerings. Ideal for those who enjoy the preserve or those unfamiliar with Middle Fork. Light refreshments will be provided. This event is free, and no registration is required.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.

Dark Sky Series: Space Sounds

- **When:** 7:45 to 11 p.m. Aug. 15
- **Where:** Campground, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield
- **What:** Discover the hidden sounds of the galaxy that can only be heard by converting the spectrum of energy produced by celestial bodies into audible sound. The two sessions of the hike begin at 7:45 and 9:30 p.m. at the Interpretive Center parking lot. The hikes are 90 minutes long.
- **Information:** Lisa Sprinkle at lsprinkle@ccfpd.org or 217-586-3360.



~Close to Everything, Far from Everyday!~

All dates are tentative and subject to change.
Please call ahead for specific information and additional activities.

- Every 3rd Saturday, April–October, Garden Tours. Allerton Park
- Most Saturdays and Sundays: Apr 26 - October 12th: Throttle Time. Monticello Railway
- Every Saturday & Sunday: May 3 - October 5: Weekend Train Rides. Monticello Railway
- Various Saturdays, 401 in Steam. Monticello Railway
- Every Thursday Afternoon, June 11 - Oct 1, Farmers' Market. Downtown Monticello
- 1st and 3rd Fridays: Bement Opry & Dinner. Monticello Township Community Building. A Meal Precedes Each
- 1st Sunday of the month, June–Aug, Sunday Funday Music in the Park. Burke Park, Monticello.

- June 5: Summer Concert Series- Love for Allerton
- June 10-13: Eli Tow. Eli Field
- June 12-14: Bement Yard Sale Weekend
- June 18-21: Camp Lost Garden. Allerton Park
- June 19-21, 25-28: The Lightning Thief. Monticello Theatre
- June 20-21: Dads Ride Free. Monticello Railway Museum
- June 23: Kids Rodeo. Piatt County Trailblazers
- June 24: Rodeo Parade. Downtown Monticello
- June 25-27: 71st Annual Rodeo. Piatt County Trailblazers
- June 27: Block Party 4-8 PM. Downtown Monticello
- July 3: Monticello Freedom Fest.
- July 4: 4th of July Celebration. Bement
- July 10: Reds, Whites & The Blues Concert. Allerton Park
- July 17: Sip and Shop. Monticello Mercantile
- July 23: Health & Wellness Fair. Kirby Medical Center
- July 11: Touch a Truck, Ride a Train. Monticello Railway
- July 25: Smoke n' Octane. Downtown Monticello
- August 7: Summer Concert Series- Irish Fest. Allerton Park
- August 8: Sage City Triathlon. Monticello Family Aquatic
- August 14-16: Finding Nemo Jr. Monticello Theatre
- August 15: Tractors and Trains. Monticello Railway Museum
- August 20-21: Apple Dumpling Festival. Atwood
- August 22: Sage City Classic.
- August 22: Market on the Prairie. Kirby Medical Center
- September 11: Summer's End Concert. Allerton Park
- September 12: Monticello Hope Festival. Forest Preserve Park
- September 13: 85th Anniversary Celebration. Kirby Medical Center
- September 13: Sage City Band Invitational. Monticello High School
- September 19-20: Railroad Days. Railway Museum
- September 17-20: Fall Garage Sale Weekend
- September 25-26: Homecoming Weekend
- October 4: Oktoberfest 12-4 PM. Downtown Monticello

Go take a
SWIM!

Monticello Family Aquatic Center

Daily admission - \$7
2 and under - Free

Full concession stand
Feature Pool
Diving Boards & Flume Water Slide

Open daily
May 25th - August 18th
12pm - 7pm



CITY OF
MONTICELLO
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