

# ILLINOIS INSITES

June/July 2001

There are 93 days of summer, so pack your bags and explore Illinois. To keep you updated on Illinois' latest news, the Illinois Bureau of Tourism has compiled a list of amazing sites and events to visit this season.

If you have any questions, require further information or would like slides to accompany your stories, please call the Illinois News Bureau at 312/729-1710 or contact us via e-mail at [rebecca.olchawa@edelman.com](mailto:rebecca.olchawa@edelman.com).

Visitors requiring additional information should call the Illinois Travel Information Center at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit the Illinois Travel Web site at [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

## CHICAGO

### **Puppetropolis - June 14-24**

- Puppetropolis, Chicago's newest summer festival, will take over the city for 10 days in June as dozens of lovable puppets come to life. Enjoy over 30 plays, a late-night cabaret, children's workshops and exhibitions by local, national and international puppetry artists. Bring the kids on Thursday and join the free kick-off celebration on the Field Museum's north lawn where the festivities include a performance by the Redmoon Theater, shows by professional Chicago puppeteers and free admission to the Field Museum. 312/744-3315

### **Chicago Venetian Night - July 28**

- Don't miss the chance to see beautifully decorated boats cruise Lake Michigan's shoreline at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Venetian Night. The celebration begins with a free Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert at the Petrillo Music Shell in Grant Park, followed by a procession of over 35 boats decorated with twinkling lights. Immediately after the parade is a spectacular fireworks display that illuminates the sky, offering stunning views of Chicago's magnificent skyline and lakefront. As the city's longest-running celebrated nautical event, Chicago's Venetian Night is sure to entertain the whole family. 312/744-3315

## CHICAGOLAND

### **Long Grove Strawberry Festival - June 22-24**

- Strawberry pie, strawberry jam, strawberries galore! If you love strawberries, head to Long Grove for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Strawberry Festival and indulge in everything strawberry. Kids can enjoy pony rides and coloring contests while parents admire shiny classic cars at the car show. Have dinner at one of the five restaurants in town and return to the fair for the perfect strawberry dessert. Next, find a cozy spot on the lawn and relax while live entertainment ends the evening on yet another “sweet” note. 847/634-0888

### **Prairie State Festival - June 23**

- Grab the sunscreen and come to the racetrack for the Second Annual Prairie State Festival at Arlington Park Raceway. This festival celebrates Illinois as a unique destination with a distinct heritage. Cheer on the thoroughbred races then walk around and visit Illinois destination booths and gather information for your next summer getaway. Come celebrate your homestate and learn about its many hidden treasures! 847/255-4300

### **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Suparossa Lisle Eyes to the Skies Balloon Festival - June 30-July 4**

- The sky will be ablaze with color during the Eyes to the Skies Balloon Festival. This fun family outing will showcase dozens of hot air balloons, music concerts, a carnival, food vendors and craft booths. Kids can enjoy the petting zoo and the exotic animal show while parents can participate in the lawn mower race. Visitors of all ages will love the festival’s grand finale, a spectacular July 4th fireworks display. 630/963-4281

### **Annual Ethnic Festival - July 14-15**

- Spend a day at Evanston’s annual Ethnic Festival in Dawes Park on the lakefront. Known as one of the Midwest’s most successful multi-cultural festivals, it offers something for everyone. The event includes art, food, music, poetry and dance representing more than 65 cultures. Stroll along the booths, view over 125 vendors and choose among a variety of beautiful artwork, crafts and jewelry to take home. 847/491-0266

### **Weekend Getaway to Evanston**

- After visiting the annual Ethnic Festival, continue your Chicagoland adventure in Evanston. Visit the Charles Gates Dawes House, a National Historic Landmark built in 1894 for U.S. Vice President Dawes. Evanston is rich in cultural diversity and offers a wealth of museums, including the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian. This museum offers a look into Native American culture with a variety of artifacts on display. Next, museum hop to the Frances E. Willard House, a National Historic Landmark built in 1865, featuring memorabilia from the women’s movement and prohibition. End the day with a swim in Lake Michigan or a quiet picnic in one of Evanston’s many beachfront parks. There are plenty of hotels and B&Bs to

accommodate your stay. To plan your weekend getaway, call an Illinois Travel Counselor at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

## **NORTHERN**

### **Harvard Milk Days - June 1-3**

- Want a milk moustache? Well, raise your glass and salute dairy farmers during Harvard Milk Days. This unique festival originated in 1942 as a tribute to the dairy farmers and dairy industry of the Midwest. The celebration is still running strong and offers something for everyone, including talent shows, arts and crafts fair, carnival, cattle show, musical entertainment, two runs (2K and 10K) and an Independence Day fireworks display. 815/943-4614

### **Dick Tracy Days - June 20-24**

- Find the classic cartoon character, Dick Tracy, alive and well and celebrated annually with the Dick Tracy Days Festival in Woodstock. Kids and parents alike will have a blast while enjoying a day of water fights, band concerts, a block party and entertainment. Stay for Sunday's grand finale, an impressive Drum and Bugle Corps competition between nationally recognized groups. This is one event you will not want to miss! 815/338-2436

### **Belvidere Wheels Festival - July 21**

- Polish the car and cruise to the Belvidere Wheels Festival. Join the celebration as the town square comes alive to honor its rich history in the automobile industry. Events include auto shows, auto vendor fairs, street dances, children's activities and family entertainment. Come discover this charming town on the banks of the Kishwaukee River. 815/547-3740

### **Sandwich Antiques Market - July 22**

- Calling all antique shoppers to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Sandwich Antiques Market. This summer market, held at the Sandwich Fairgrounds, features over 500 exhibitors offering rare antiques dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Picnic areas offer the perfect place for lunch and rejuvenation before your search continues for that one-of-a-kind antique treasure. 773/227-4464

### **Weekend Getaway to Belvidere**

- If you are looking for a memorable weekend getaway, then visit Belvidere – “Illinois’ City of Murals.” The downtown streets have 15 historic murals that were created by artists who worked like dogs on the walls and were given the nickname, “Walldogs.” Walk along the streets, study the vibrant murals and spend the afternoon antique shopping. Belvidere is home to many wonderful specialty shops, offering an array of fine arts and crafts including glass and pottery. Spend the rest of the day enjoying the outdoors and visit Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area, where there are plenty of hiking trails and picnic areas. Next, take the kids to County Memory Trails where

everyone can take a wagon-ride down a country path and revisit pioneer life. Afterwards, pick fresh strawberries or raspberries in the fields. End the day with a tour through the Frank Lloyd Wright Pettit Memorial Chapel in Belvidere Cemetery. This beautiful chapel, designed by Wright in 1907, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. There are plenty of hotels and campgrounds to accommodate your stay. To plan your weekend getaway, call an Illinois Travel Counselor at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

## CENTRAL

### **Route 66 Association of Illinois 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Motor Tour - June 8-10**

- Rev up your engines because it's time for a road trip! Join the Route 66 Association for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Motor Tour, this year celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Mother Road." From Chicago's skyscrapers past the golden prairies of Central Illinois, this road trip includes stops in Pontiac, McLean, Atlanta, Lincoln, Springfield, Carlinville and more. You'll pass some of the most famous diners and Americana icons in the world. Drive the historic highway, learn about its legend and meet the people who keep its spirit alive. 319/893-6653

### **Balloon Classic - June 8-10**

- The Balloon Classic in Danville is one of the five biggest hot air balloon events in the world. Come out for three days of family entertainment and hot air balloon fascination! The festival will keep you on your toes with plenty to see and do, including lively performances by Circle City Sidewalk Stompers, Forklift Rodeo, Yonder Mountain String Band and country singer Terry Clark. Stay for the carnival, Familyland activities, volleyball and a fireworks extravaganza! 217/442-2096

### **National High School Finals Rodeo - July 23-29**

- Yee-ha! Put on your cowboy hat and strap on your spurs for the National High School Finals Rodeo in Springfield, the world's largest outdoor rodeo. Dating to the 1940s, this rodeo features 1,500 high school students in exciting competitions for several days. Festivities include opening ceremony celebrations, a Sawyer Brown concert, a high school queen pageant, family entertainment and an awards ceremony. Don't miss the chance to cheer on the youngsters as they compete for "Best of Rodeo!" 866/450-9895

### **Bagel Fest – The World's Biggest Bagel Breakfast - July 26-30**

- New York City may be the bagel capital of the world, but not during Mattoon's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bagel Fest. Starting on July 26, the entire town celebrates with block parties, carnivals, live entertainment and more. All leading up to the World's Biggest Bagel Breakfast on Saturday morning. Sponsored by the Lender's Bagel Company, festival-goers enjoy all the bagels they can eat. So come discover Mattoon and participate in the Fun Run and bike competitions. No matter what your preference -

chocolate chip, blueberry or good ol' plain - you're sure to find a bagel to suit your tastes. 217/258-6286

### **Weekend Getaway to Carlinville**

- Celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Route 66 with a road trip honoring the "Mother Road." While traveling, stop in Carlinville for a taste of small town America. This charming Victorian town was recently named one of the "100 Best Small Towns in America" by author Norman Crampton. Start your visit at the historic Loomis House, built by Judge Thaddeus L. Loomis, and designed by architect E.E. Meyers. The house was completed in 1870 and was opened as a hotel with 50 rooms on three floors. Today, the Loomis House has been remarkably preserved and is home to several businesses. Carlinville was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and the downtown district boasts many historic buildings including the Macoupin County Historical Museum. Dubbed the "Million Dollar Courthouse," it was once the largest courthouse in the U.S. As the afternoon winds down, take a tour through the Standard Addition, the nation's largest collection of Sears Roebuck catalog homes. The homes were purchased from the Sears Catalog and built in 1917 and 1918 and still exist today. Whether you choose to stroll through the shops and relax in the town gazebo or hike the trails in Beaver Dam State Park, the picturesque town of Carlinville will offer you a small town escape. There are plenty of hotels and B&Bs to accommodate your stay. To plan your weekend getaway, call an Illinois Travel Counselor at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

## **WESTERN**

### **Rhubarb Festival - June 1-2**

- When rhubarb is ripe for pickin', you know it's time for the Rhubarb Festival in Aledo. This festival started as a tasting contest and is now Aledo's largest festival attraction. Join the fun and participate in pie-throwing concerts, face painting and carnival rides. Order a slice of rhubarb pie and stroll through the arts and crafts booths in Central Park. Next, put on your running shoes for the Rhubarb Run or opt for a trolley ride around the city. Whatever you choose, you're bound to have fun! 309/582-5373

### **Railroad Days - June 23-24**

- All aboard! The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Railroad Days in Galesburg is right around the corner. Experience railroading of the early 1900s, while viewing model displays of some of the most fascinating trains and railroad equipment in the world. Walk around this historic village and check out Railroad memorabilia in Colton Park, then stroll to the antique fair sponsored by the Galesburg Historic Society. Don't forget to watch the Mud Volleyball Tournament or take a tour through the historic Browning Mansion. 309/343-2485

### **Moline Riverfest - June 29-July 1**

- The big river will be rockin' and rollin' in Moline during the Riverfest! Over a dozen musical artists will perform during the three-day fest, including Classic Rock All Stars and Fireball. Bring the kids to Mary Price's puppet performance, "Into the Rainforest," on Friday, then trek over to the Lighted Boat Parade and end the night with a colorful fireworks display. Come back on Saturday, and stroll through the arts and crafts booths and let the kids create their own art at the children's activity area. On Sunday, watch the wacky Great Quad City Duck Races and the Bass Fishing Tournament. Better rest up for this weekend of family fun!  
309/797-0462

### **Heart of Illinois Fair - July 13-21**

- Visit Peoria during the annual Heart of Illinois Fair and get a taste of the great Midwest. This nine-day festival features free top-name grandstand entertainment, daily activities, livestock competitions, demolition derbies and art exhibits. There's something for everyone, including a petting zoo for the kids. 309/691-6332

### **Weekend Getaway to Moline**

- Plan a summer weekend getaway around the Moline Riverfest and experience a weekend you won't forget. Arrive early on Friday and spend time in the great outdoors. Rent bikes and ride along the Great River Trail and see spectacular views of the grand Mississippi River. Stop and enjoy beautiful gardens along the trail or enjoy lunch at one of the many picnic sites. There are also designated areas where you can rent a boat, cast your line into the water and catch fish in the afternoon sun. If the sun gets too hot, drive into downtown and museum hop. Moline is home to several museums, including the Hauberg Indian Museum, the world's only museum devoted to the Sauk and Fox Native American tribes. Another must-see museum is the John Deere Collectors Center. Step back in time to the 1950s and view mechanics working on tractors and farmers swapping tales in this living history dealership. Also, don't forget to stop by the John Deere Pavilion where there are interactive displays on food and farming, as well as agricultural equipment exhibits. As night rolls in, enjoy a tasty meal at a dinner playhouse or hop on the paddle wheel riverboat for a romantic night cruise. End the day with a concert at the Moline Riverfest and remember, you have two more days of adventure! There are plenty of hotels to accommodate your stay. To plan your weekend getaway, call an Illinois Travel Counselor at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

## SOUTHERN

### **Great Rivers Towboat Festival - June 23-24**

- Vacation in Grafton this June and be sure to include the Great Rivers Towboat Festival on your itinerary. This festival celebrates the historic towboats that traveled America's great rivers. Tour the vessels and view Company Flags and exhibits provided by the rowing industry and the U.S. Coast Guard. Stay for refreshments and listen to the sounds of live Dixieland music with a special appearance by John Hartford. Come out and celebrate America's heritage! 618/465-6676

### **Superman Celebration - June 9-10**

- Is it a bird, a plane? No, it's Superman! Visit Metropolis, hometown of Superman, and honor the caped crusader along with his crime stopping friends as they take over the town and celebrate the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Superman Celebration – “A Super-Odyssey.” Stay for the entire weekend and enjoy two days dedicated to contests, film festivals and auctions. Everyone will enjoy the “Superman Drama,” a mock bank robbery in which Superman saves the day and triumphs over the evil villain. So put on your Superman mask and celebrate “Superman – Truth, Justice and the American Way.” 618/524-2714

### **Busch Grand National Gateway 250 - July 20-21**

- Grab your sunglasses and visit the racetracks in Madison for the Busch Grand National Gateway 250. Watch defending race and NASCAR Busch Series Grand National Division champ Dale Earnhardt Jr. and upcoming racers burn up the track for the 2001 Gateway 250 title. Cheer on the races and enjoy exciting, dare devil competitions as the next generation of NASCAR racers keep you on the edge of your seat. 888/82-SPEED

### **Southern Illinois Fair and Expo - July 22-29**

- Roll down the windows, set the cruise dial and drive to the Southern Illinois Fair and Expo this July. Mt. Vernon holds this event every year and offers fun and entertainment for everyone over the course of a week. This event features a demolition derby, an Illinois Tractor Pulling contest, and motorcycle and motor-cross races. After the races are over, join the kids at the carnival and end the night with a stick of cotton-candy! 618/242-0870

### **Weekend Getaway to Metropolis**

- Summer is the perfect time to experience the natural beauty of the Ohio River Scenic Route. Hop on the highway and drive along the meandering roads through some of the most astounding natural architecture Illinois has to offer. Once you arrive in Metropolis, stay for a weekend and discover this quaint town tucked away in Southern Illinois. Metropolis is home to Illinois' oldest state park, Fort Massac, which features a replica of the fort built in 1794. The fort overlooks the Ohio River and has displays of Native American and military artifacts from when the French occupied it. Continue your visit and view memorabilia while walking through the

fort and block-houses. Afterwards, continue to step back in time and stop by the Major Elijah P. Curtis Home and Museum. Examine the unique woodwork featured in Major Curtis' home, built in 1870, when he returned home after the Civil War. Did you know that Metropolis is also home to the famous comic book hero, Superman? Visit the Super Museum and view a rare Superman collection including, the original costume worn by the original superman, George Reeves, in the 1950s. There are plenty of hotels to accommodate your stay. To plan your weekend getaway, call an Illinois Travel Counselor at 1-800-2CONNECT or visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

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The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA), Bureau of Tourism works to promote Illinois as a travel destination, thereby enhancing the state's economic development climate and improving the quality of life for the citizens of Illinois.

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