

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & SUMMER FUN



ROCHELLE
News-Leader
Sunday, May 25, 2025 • Section 3

OGLE COUNTY
LIFE
ROCK VALLEY SHOPPER
Monday, May 26, 2025 • Section C

FAIRS & FESTIVALS



2025 Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival scheduled for Aug. 15-17 at Rochelle's Atwood Park

The 2025 Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival is scheduled for Aug. 15-17 at Atwood Park in Rochelle. The event will include a raffle, food court, Kids Zone, local talent and entertainment, amusements and a beer garden. More events and activities are listed in the advertisement below. (News-Leader file photos)

Friday, Aug. 15
Saturday, Aug. 16
Sunday, Aug. 17

FUN IN
THE PARK

Atwood Park
in Rochelle

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

- *FOOD COURT 4-10 P.M.
- *AMUSEMENTS 4-10 P.M.
- *BEER GARDEN 4-10 P.M.
- SPONSORED BY LISA'S PUB
- *LITTLE MISS PEANUT 6-7 P.M.
- *ROLLIN' WHISKEY 8-10 P.M.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

- *CAR SHOW 8 A.M.-3 P.M.
- *CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW 10 A.M.-5 P.M.
- *CORNHOLE TOURNNEY 11 A.M.-?
- *KIDS ZONE 11 A.M.-3 P.M.
- *MAGIC MATT'S FAMILY FUN SHOW 11 A.M.-8 P.M.
- *FOOD COURT 11 A.M.-10 P.M.
- *AMUSEMENTS 11 A.M.-10 P.M.
- *BEER GARDEN 11 A.M.-10 P.M.
- SPONSORED BY LISA'S PUB
- *BLUE STEAM NOON-1 P.M.
- *BALLET FOLKLORICO XOCHIQUETZAL 1-1:45 P.M.
- *VANGUARDIA 2-4 P.M.
- *STUDIO C DANCE 4-4:45 P.M.
- *THE BEAUX BAND 5-7 P.M.
- *HI INFIDELITY 8-10 P.M.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

- *CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW 10 A.M.-4 P.M.
- *MAGIC MATT'S FAMILY FUN SHOW 11 A.M.-6 P.M.
- *BEER GARDEN NOON-6 P.M.
- SPONSORED BY LISA'S PUB
- *PARADE 1 P.M.
- *NEAL WOOLBRIGHT 11:30 A.M.-12:15 P.M.
- *3 GOOD MEN 1-3 P.M.
- *MEMBERS ONLY 80'S BAND 4-6 P.M.

50/50 RAFFLE
TICKETS
PLUS OTHER
PRIZES

lhhfest.com

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

34th Annual Amboy Depot Days set for Aug. 21-24

AMBOY — Depot Days, since 1982, is a celebration of our town's rich history and multicultural traditions. A lawyer for the Illinois Central Railroad, Abraham Lincoln once stopped in Amboy long enough to get a haircut, and later campaigned here on his way to Freeport for one of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. The 2025 Amboy Depot Days are Aug. 21-24.

A memorial stone at the Amboy Depot Museum shows where he gave

that speech. We hope you will enjoy your time here during our celebration! If you have any questions about Depot Days events and activities, or about the town or area in general, please contact us at 815.857.3814.

Since 1990, cars, trucks and motorcycles have filled the streets of downtown Amboy on the Sunday of Depot Days Weekend. Awards are given for Best Engine, Best Paint, Best Interior, Best GM, Best Ford, Best Mopar, Best of Show and Best of Show Motorcycle, along with

Mayor's Choice, Miss Amboy Award & a Special Prize for Longest Distance.

Be sure to purchase your tickets for Amboy's FAMOUS 50/50 raffle, with the drawing held on the Sunday of Depot Days Weekend. Since 2014, winnings have topped \$100,000 almost every year! Will you be the big winner of half the pot? Four more lucky winners will take home \$2,500 each! Tickets are available starting July 1 for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Need not be present to win.



2025 ByronFest is July 11-13

BYRON — ByronFest, one of the finest family festivals in Northern Illinois, is held annually during the second full weekend in July. The 2025 ByronFest is scheduled for July 11-13.

The festival is located in Byron's downtown area. Additional events are held in other venues throughout the city, including athletic events at the Jarrett Prairie Center and quilt show at the Byron Museum of History.

ByronFest is a venture of the Byron Chamber of Commerce designed to encourage and promote tourism in the Byron area and to showcase the Byron community to the

many visitors who travel to Byron for the three-day event. In addition, the festival provides an opportunity for many not-for-profit organizations to raise funds for various projects. During the past thirty-seven years, ByronFest has returned more than \$830,000 to local charitable groups. These organizations have in turn used the funds for community improvements and programs throughout the area.

Some local organizations that have taken advantage of this opportunity throughout the years include Byron Lions Club, Byron Kiwanis Club, Byron Key Club, Byron

Firemen's Association, Boy Scouts, Byron High School Cross Country, Byron High School Volleyball, Stillman Valley Boys Basketball, Dakota Cheerleaders, and many others.

Want to Help? Planning and operating an event of this size requires not only the work of the Chamber staff and ByronFest Steering Committee but also the efforts of over 400 dedicated local volunteers. If you are interested in donating a few hours of your time to assist with this worthwhile community festival, please contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 815.234.5500.

34th Annual Amboy Depot Days Amboy, Illinois August 21, 22, 23 & 24



**50/50 Raffle • 5k Run • Car/Motorcycle/Truck Show
Carnival • Community Wide Garage Sales
Craft & Vendor Fair • Food Stands • Free Live Music
K.C. Beer Garden • Kids Character Meet & Greet
Miss Amboy Pageant • Pancake Breakfast • Parade**

**Stay through Sunday for the
Car/Motorcycle/Truck Show Awards & the
Announcement of the 50/50 Drawing Winner**

**Last Year's
Winner Received
\$117,985.50**

**Ticket Sales Begin on July 1st • \$1 per Ticket or 6 Tickets for \$5
Find Daily Events Schedule at DepotDays.com
For More Information: Call 815-857-3814**

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

King's Camp returns for summer fun

ROCHELLE — King's Camp has been in the Rochelle area for over 50 years. It has been enjoyed by families for generations. Alcohol and drugs are not permitted on the property, so parents feel safe bringing children of all ages here.

The lake is open for swimming Thursday through Sunday. We have kayaks and paddle boats. We have catch and release fishing. There are wagon rides Saturday afternoons.

There are trails through the woods to explore. We have Gaga Ball.

Different activities are scheduled throughout the summer including group games, crafts, and potlucks. Plan to come for a day, a weekend, or a week! We offer tent sites, RV sites, Family Cabins, and Group Cabins. We guarantee you'll love the beautiful, peaceful surroundings and you'll want to come back. Come check us out this summer!

Mt. Morris Porchfest scheduled for June 14

MT. MORRIS — The 2025 PorchFest will be held on Saturday, June 14 from 1–5 p.m. PorchFest is a community music festival where all genres of musicians perform in one hour slots on porches within the boundaries of the event. The audience moves from location to location as the event progresses.

Porchfest began in Ithaca, New York in 2007, inspired by some outdoor ukulele playing and a conversation between neighbors Gretchen Hildreth and Lesley Greene. They came up with the idea for it that day and gathered 20 bands to make it happen



Porchfest is the ultimate grassroots music festival and has grown not

just in Ithaca but around the continent. Communities and neighborhoods all

around the country have taken the model and run with it.



JUNE
Royal Rangers - POWWOW
6/6-8
Father's Day Weekend
6/14 "Lighting a Fire"
Courageous Girls
6/20-22
Ladies Paint and Snack
6/28
Camp Open
April 12 - October 11



JULY
"Finding your Way"
7/18-20
Royal Rangers - JLD
7/23-26

Welcome Campfires every
Friday and Saturday evenings
at our Canteen Snackshop!

AUGUST
"Setting Sail"
8/2
"Pushkart Competition"
8/9
ICHE Family Camp
CAMP - CLOSED
8/21-24
Labor Day Weekend
8/29-9/1



SEPTEMBER
"Woodcraft and Harvest"
9/13
Royal Rangers - Roundup
9/26-27

Trails to Explore, Fellowship
to be had and Church Services
every Sunday at our Family-
Friendly Camp!

Camping and Activities with a Focus on Family and Christ.

Fishing Dawn to Dusk



Cabins • Tent Sites • RV Sites
• Nightly Camping • Seasonal Camping



Wagon Rides on Saturdays!
Swimming and Boating on
Weekends

— LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON —
FACEBOOK



779-247-0064
9560 E. Lindenwood Road
Chana, IL 61015

Check the Website for the Summer Event
Schedule and Facilities & Pricing Information
kings-camp.org

Office Open Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-8PM | Office Closed Monday

FAIRS & FESTIVALS



2025 Town & Country Days are June 26-29

POLO — Polo Town & Country Days was first organized in 1966 by the Polo Jaycees as a way to raise money for the construction of a city pool. The first festival was a three day celebration which included such events as a carnival, kiddie parade, drum and bugle

corps exhibition, and a large community parade to finish out the weekend.

Now—six decades later, the festival has expanded into a four day event that is kicked off with one of the most amazing fireworks displays in the area! The annual parade still closes out the celebration, and

sandwiched in between are four days filled with fun for young and old.

Make plans to visit Polo during Town & Country Days the third weekend in June — you'll be glad you did! The 2025 Polo Town & Country Days are scheduled for June 26-29.

Gate admission to Stephenson County Fair now includes grandstand access

FREEPORT — Starting this year, admission to the Stephenson County Fair is \$10 per person, and here's the best part: your ticket now includes general admission to all grandstand events—at no extra cost!

For the first time in over 30 years, you can enjoy exciting events like the Tractor & Truck Pulls, Tough Truck Challenge, Concerts, and Demolition Derby without additional ticket fees. This change means more value and more reasons to bring the whole family or meet up with friends for an unforgettable fair week.

Stay tuned for more



announcements about our grandstand lineup and ways to save with season passes and family packs.

Nat's on Maple



Our restaurant features trendy comfort food where food and friends come together.

Join us for lunch, dinner and private parties and try out our distinct menu.

Catering Services / Wedding Packages

Open:

Tuesday: 11am to 9pm | Wednesday: 11am to 9pm

Thursday: 11am to 9pm | Friday: 11am to 10pm

Saturday: 4pm to 10pm

112 S. Maple Street

Sycamore

815-895-4243

eventscoordinator.nats@gmail.com

natsonmaple.com

Find Us on Facebook



March

8 - ELECTRONICS, APPLIANCES &
BULK TRASH DROP-OFF EVENT
13 - HIRING EXPO

April

5 - FIREMEN'S BALL
19 - EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA
26 - CAN FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

May

3 - CINCO DE MAYO
17 - LETS GET LIT MARKET
31 - RAILROAD DAYS

June

1 - RAILROAD DAYS
20 - MOVIE IN THE PARK
21 - FORD FEST
28 - OUTDOOR MARKET

July

4 - FLIGHT DECK FIREWORKS
5 - INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION & FIREWORKS
12 - HOT DOG DAY
12 - ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
DROP-OFF EVENT
12 - FREE SWIM NIGHT
26 - OUTDOOR MARKET

August

5 - NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
10 - FLY-IN DRIVE-IN
15-17 - HERITAGE FESTIVAL
30 - OUTDOOR MARKET



September

13 - FIESTA HISPANA
20 - LETS GET LIT MARKET
27 - OUTDOOR MARKET

October

ALL MONTH - HAYBALE TRAIL
18 - CAN FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL
23 - TRICK OR TREAT SAFE HOUSE
24 - RACF DONUT DRIVE THRU
25 - OUTDOOR MARKET
31 - TRICK OR TREAT

November

8 - VETERAN'S DAY BREAKFAST
8 - ELECTRONICS, APPLIANCES &
BULK TRASH DROP-OFF EVENT
20 - TWO TON FOOD DRIVE
29 - SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

December

2 - GIVING TUESDAY
5 - OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS WALK

WWW.CITYOFROCHELLE.NET

FAIRS & FESTIVALS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The 2025 Creston Booster Days will be held this year on Sept. 13-14. Saturday's program will include the craft and vendor show, the annual auction, bingo, Skinner's Amusements, the beer garden, music on stage by The Silver Creek Band, and our spectacular fireworks show.

2025 Creston Booster Days to be held Sept. 13-14

CRESTON — The 2025 Creston Booster Days will be held this year on Sept. 13-14.

Saturday's program will include the craft and vendor show, the annual auction, bingo, Skinner's Amuse-

ments, the beer garden, music on stage by The Silver Creek Band, and our spectacular fireworks show.

On Sunday, there will be an antique tractor pull, Main Street parade, Skinner's Amusements, craft and

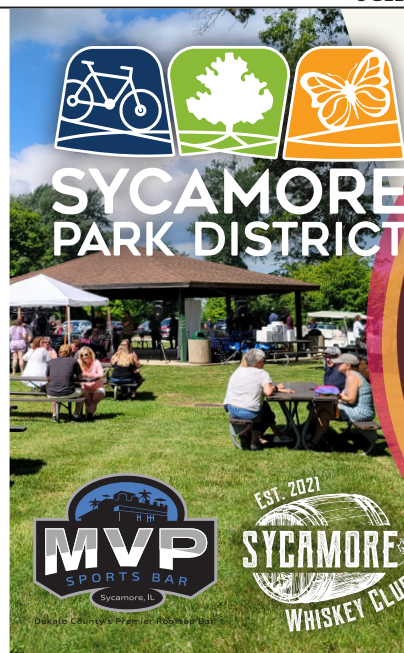
vendor show, bingo, music on stage by The Missing Links, Heaton's pork chop BBQ, and a vintage baseball game. More details to follow as we get closer. Follow us on Facebook at Creston Booster Days.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS



2025 Lee County Fair set for July 24-27

The 2025 Lee County Fair is scheduled for July 24-27. A full schedule of events can be found at www.leecountyfairgrounds.com.



*Taste your way
through the park
while enjoying
live music &
vendors.*



SATURDAY
July 26
1-5pm

Sycamore Community Park
940 E. State St., Sycamore

Tasting Ticket

Presale by July 21.....\$25
On-site.....\$30

Ages 21+ | Includes 10 drink samples, commemorative glass, water, and lemonade. Proceeds support the Sycamore Parks Foundation.



Free Admission

to food and craft vendors
and live music!

Generously sponsored by:



FAIRS & FESTIVALS

2025 Sauerkraut Days to be held from July 31-Aug. 3

FORRESTON — Make plans now to attend Forreston Sauerkraut Days July 31 through Aug. 3. This event has something for everyone – from the very young to the very young at heart.

We have a few exciting changes that start on Thursday night. The Forreston Sports Boosters will again have the concession stand open at 5pm with hamburger and/or hot dog meals. The Kids Fun Run and 5K Race will now be on Thursday night. The registration for both races starts at 5:30. The Kids Fun Run will be around the high school track and start at 5:30. The

5K race will start and end, at the track and traverse through the streets of Forreston. The 5K starts at 7pm. Celebrate your race victory with the area's best fireworks display.

Friday is Family Fun night with the spaghetti eating contest, musical chairs, and Simon Says. Rock Valley Pub Trivia is back to test your trivia knowledge. Also back this year is The Ice Cream Bar; a great place to get ice cream with your favorite toppings! So grab some ice cream and try your hand and Bingo. There will also be "Paint the Park", face painting, inflatables for the young kids and a

65-foot obstacle course for the older kids. The outdoor movie this year is Despicable Me 4 and starts at approximately 9 pm.

Saturday kicks off with the American Legion car show and the Drew Crase Memorial 3v3 basketball tournament at 8 a.m. Other Saturday events include a bags tournament, vendor/craft show, bake sale, Bingo, American Legion Sauerkraut lunch, Forreston Lions Club Pork Chop Dinner. Food vendors this year will be Hot Diggity Dog, The Waffle Wagon, Brother's BBQ, and Just 4 Fun ice cream. The annual parade will step off Saturday at 4pm. After



the parade grab a pork chop meal served by the Forreston Lions Club.

The beer garden entertainment is the Killer B's. The activities wrap up on

Sunday with the community church service and the Fireman's breakfast. This is a partial description of the events. More details can be found on

the Forreston Sauerkraut Days Facebook page and on our website Krautdays.com. All event forms and registrations will be on the website.

BRING ON

THE KRAUT

Join us for SKD25 in Forreston, IL

Thursday, July 31 - Sunday, August 3

Fireworks! - Family Fun Night - Live Music
Bags Tournament - Craft Show - Trivia
Bingo - Beer Garden - Parade - & More!

**Everyone Welcome. Come for a Good Time & Bring a Friend.
Follow Forreston Sauerkraut Days on Facebook.**

JULY 22-26, 2025

GRANDSTAND FREE WITH ADMISSION

ENTERTAINMENT

RACING PIGS

PRETTY BIRD PARADISE

FOAM PARTIES

SO MUCH MORE

TRACTOR PULLS

TRUCK CHALLENGE

FRIDAY FAIR MUSIC FEST

DEMOLITION DERBY

GRANDSTANDS

GET YOUR DISCOUNTED TICKETS ONLINE AND CHECK OUT THE ENTIRE SCHEDULE!

WWW.STEPHENSONCOUNTYFAIR.ORG

STEPHENSON COUNTY FAIR

Freeport, Illinois



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CBC: \$28 vs. \$165

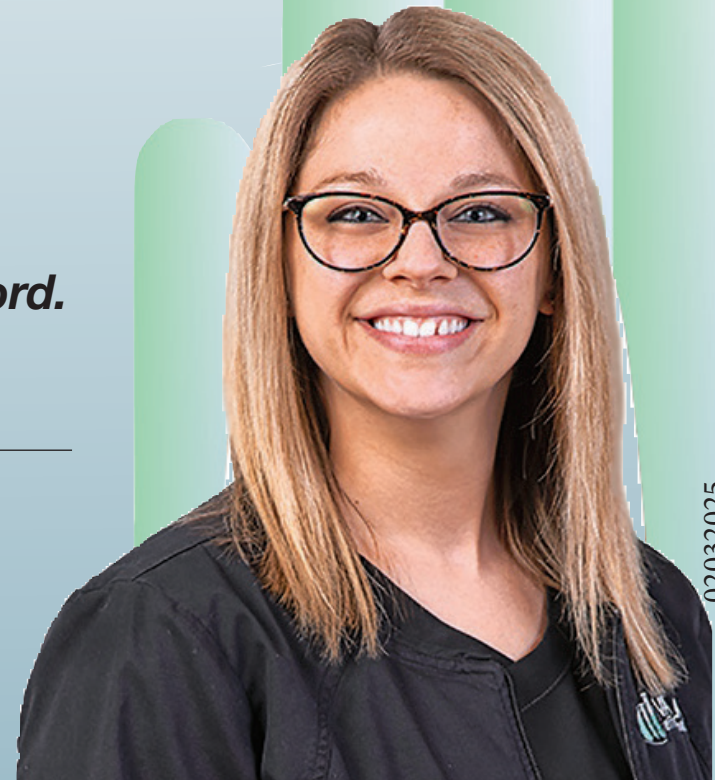
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815-677-9384 | www.valuelab-dixon.com

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Let Freedom Ring set for July 2-5

MT. MORRIS—During the Let Freedom Ring festival the campus square comes alive with music, family activities, a patriotic program at the bandshell, food and fun – and of course, ringing the Freedom Bell of Illinois at 1 p.m. simultaneously with ringing the famous Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

On July 4 the streets of Mt. Morris are lined with spectators for the Let Freedom Ring parade. And thousands come from miles around for spectacular fireworks.

It's a multiple-day event for all ages with activities like the Little Miss and Mister Firecracker contest,



Kid's Parade, craft and food vendors, silent auction and bake sale, classic car show, Mt. Morris Jamboree concert, and our own Kable Concert Band — just to name a few fun activities. Local businesses join in the celebrations. And, our

July 4th breakfasts are legendary: Fill 'er up at the Fireman's Breakfast at the fire station or the Fly-in / Drive-in Breakfast at the Ogle County Airport on the east edge of Mt. Morris.

There's something new and different every year!



LEAF RIVER SUMMER DAZE June 6 - 8, 2025



Friday - June 6

(all at RVC/Library Grounds)

12pm - Dusk	Antique Tractor/Engine Show	11:30am	Antique Tractor Parade/RVC
5pm	Tractor Rodeo	12:00 - Close	FFA Alumni Tractor Pulls (Antique/Farm Classes) (Illini State Pullers)
6pm - 9pm	Lions Club Food Stand		
6pm - 9pm	Busy Beavers 4H Ice Cream	8pm	Downtown Block Party
	Kona Ice		Problem Child Band
6:30pm - 9p	Music		
7pm	Citizen of the Year by Leaf River Fire		
Dusk	Fireworks		

Saturday - June 7

9am - 2pm	Car Show (Downtown)		
9am - 4pm	Museum Bake Sale & Coffee	12:30pm	K9 Demonstration @ Bertolet Park presented by the Ogle County Sheriff's Dept.
9am - Dusk	Antique Tractor/Engine Show (RVC/Library Grounds)	11am - 4pm	Vendor Fair & Food Vendors (Bertolet Park)
11am - Close	Food Vendors (RVC/Library Grounds)	11:30am	Antique Tractor Parade
11am - 2pm	Sparky's Kidz Zone/games/inflatables (Bertolet Park)	2pm	Grand Parade
11am - 4pm	Vendor Fair/Food Vendors/Dunk Tank (Bertolet Park)	3pm	Bingo (Fibbers Bar & Grill)
		4pm	Raffle Drawing

Sunday - June 8

8am Church Service in the Park (Bertolet Park)

9am - 4pm Museum Open

11am Cornbag Registration/Tourney (Fibbers Bar & Grill)

12:30pm K9 Demonstration @ Bertolet Park presented by the Ogle County Sheriff's Dept.

11am - 4pm Vendor Fair & Food Vendors (Bertolet Park)

11:30am Antique Tractor Parade

2pm Grand Parade

3pm Bingo (Fibbers Bar & Grill)

4pm Raffle Drawing



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Boone County Fair Association is proudly presenting multi-platinum hitmaker Justin Moore to be headlining the 2025 Boone County Fair on Saturday evening, Aug. 9 with special guest Noah Hicks at 7 p.m.

Boone County Fair announces grandstand lineup for 2025

BELVIDERE — The Boone County Fair Association is proudly presenting multi-platinum hitmaker Justin Moore to be headlining the 2025 Boone County Fair on Saturday evening, Aug. 9 with special guest Noah Hicks at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the concert are on sale now online at boonecountyfair.com. Ticket prices range from \$30 to \$50. Tickets purchased online will be held in Will Call at the Fairgrounds ticket office at Gate 1 and will be available for pickup beginning Sat-

urday, July 12 through Saturday, Aug. 9. ID required. Ticket office hours will be posted on the fair's website and Facebook page.

The 2025 Fair will also feature in the evenings the Miss Boone County Fair Queen and Little Miss Pageant Tuesday, the Monster Truck Show Wednesday, Truck and Tractor Pulls Thursday, Next Level Professional Bull Riding Friday, and Two Demo Derbies on Sunday. The 2024 fair recorded a record attendance of 242,072 fairgoers.

The 2025 Boone County Fair, 8847 Illinois 76, will run from 8-11 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 5 through Sunday, Aug. 10. Daily admission is \$10 ages 11 and up. 10 and under free. Seniors 65+ Free on Thursday. Free parking. Season passes \$25 in advance.

All tickets for all shows go on sale at the Fairgrounds ticket office beginning Saturday, July 12 8 a.m. to noon. Hours, schedule and more will be posted as they are available at www.boonecountyfair.com.

Kids 10 & under FREE EVERYDAY! * Seniors 65+ Free on Thursday!
Free Parking * Scooter Rental Available in advance - see website

it's not just fun... it's fairtastic!

August 5-10



Featuring ...Live! In Concert!

JUSTIN MOORE

with special guest... *NOAH HICKS*



Saturday, Aug 9 * 7pm



**Pro Bull
Riding
Friday**



**Demolition
Derbies
Sunday**



**Monster
Trucks
Wednesday**



**Truck &
Tractor Pulls
Thursday**



**Queen
Pageant
Tuesday**



**8847 Rt 76
Belvidere * IL**

**Tickets for Justin Moore
on sale online now.**

**All Grandstand Show Tickets
on sale at the Fairgrounds
Ticket Office at Gate 1
starting Saturday, July 12 * 8-12
Season Tickets only \$25
in advance**

www.boonecountyfair.com



#1 Family Event

Featuring:

3000+ head of champion livestock
including draft horses, dairy, beef,
sheep, swine, ponies, goats, rabbits,
poultry, alpacas and oxen.

5000+ non-livestock exhibits from
cakes to quilts, flowers to photographs.

Acres of vendors including 3 packed
commercial exhibit halls.

Free displays include a
one-room schoolhouse and a 200+
antique tractors plus more.

An Entertainment Pavilion with local
musicians 12noon to 8pm .

Other free shows on the grounds
including Ready Go Dog Show,
& Timberworks Lumberjack Show.
plus several other free shows.

Giant exciting Midway featuring
Skinner's amazing carnival with
games & rides big and small.

And of course, tons of delicious fair
food of all types throughout the
grounds.



FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Stillman Valley Fall Festival scheduled for Sept. 27-28

STILLMAN VALLEY — In September, Stillman Valley invites all to come and enjoy a wonderful, entertaining few days in our quaint town. Our festival offers a variety of things to do.

Enjoy shopping at the Indoor Craft Show, see the Car Show, Tractor Show, or Horticulture Show. Watch a parade, eat some food and listen to live music. What more could you want? This is a FREE festival, no charge for entry.

Stillman Valley in its early days was very community-oriented and had many activities for all ages. Among them were:

an opera house in the early 1900's, the Grange, S.V. Woman's Club (founded by Julia Hull around 1915), quilting bees, school plays, church programs, dances, community band, pool hall, a nationally renowned recreation park (founded in 1921), village Christmas Tree (1935) and even a bowling alley (1946).

The fall festival most certainly is a circulation of these events from our past, but it seems there were several significant occasions that played a key role in forming today's festival.

The Chatauqua organization, founded in 1876

at Chatauqua Lake was a Christian-based group that provided towns and communities with various educational, spiritual programs and entertainment for all age groups. Families would drop everything to come and attend Chatauqua Days.

The Stillman Valley Citizens and merchants sponsored Chatauqua Days in the late summer of 1920. Unfortunately, due to the high cost of operation, it appears that this was the only occurrence for the Stillman Valley community.

The need for a recreation area to accommodate area youths was realized

around 1920 and through tremendous effort and extraordinary participation by local citizens and merchants, the town built a fabulous playground. On Sept. 23, 1921, Stillman Valley had the ground opening of the park. A program of speakers, including the state senator, shows by school children, and free sandwiches, frankfurters and coffee attracted over 500 people to the ceremony.

The park was so well equipped, that in 1926 it received a recognition award for being the best-equipped park in the U.S.A. for a town under 10,000. The park was



so popular it attracted families from many surrounding communities. Stillman Valley's park apparently incorporated and-or spawned several smaller festivities.

The high school had an annual "weenie roast" sometimes in the fall. All

Hallows Fete, held on Oct. 31, was a gala affair; there was a parade of masked individuals, a huge bonfire, one-act plays, music, stunts and other entertainment. The park closing ceremony was also held at this time to store the equipment for the winter.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
EVERY WEDNESDAY • STARTING AT 5:30 PM

FOOD, Rochelle, IL
MOVIES, & GAMES

LIGHTHOUSE LOUNGE

Tentative Schedule 14409 E HEMSTOCK RD.

Arcade & Gaming Center • Art Cafe • Indoor Play Village • Retro Movie Theater

May 28	Smash Burgers, Fries, Fruit Cups <i>The Sandlot</i>
June 4	Hot Dog Bar (toppings, chips, pickles) <i>Honey, I Shrunk the Kids</i>
June 11	Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Rolls <i>Night at the Museum</i>
June 18	Gourmet Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup <i>Ratatouille</i>
June 25	Chicken Tenders, Mac & Cheese, Corn <i>Little Giants</i>
July 2	Sloppy Joes & Watermelon <i>National Treasure</i>

Find us on Facebook

For more information, call Josh Horvath at 815-562-7701

at LighthouseLoungeRochelle

Stillman Valley Fall Festival

Sept. 27 - 28

Presented by Stillman BANK

CAR SHOW • INDOOR CRAFT BOOTHS
FOOD • PARADE • LIVE MUSIC
PICKLE BALL TOURNAMENT
TRACTOR SHOW • KID ZONE
FIREWORKS

Registration forms and more information online at:
www.stillmanvalleyfallfestival.com

FAIRS & FESTIVALS



2025 Ogle County Fair is July 30-Aug. 3

OREGON—The first Ogle County Fair was held in October of 1853 on the lawn of the Ogle County Court House. In the early years, it was held at several places and on one occasion, in Byron. The 2025 Ogle County Fair will be held on July 30.

In 1856 a group of citizens purchased 10 acres of land in the north section of Oregon along Illinois Route #2. An additional 10 acres was purchased in 1858 followed by the acquisition of 6 acres from Mr. E.S. Potter in 1901. Ten more acres were later purchased from the estate of James H. Cartwright. The grandstand was constructed in 1925 followed by the horse barn in 1927. The fair encompassed approximately 40 acres by 1968.

Moving forward to more current times the Ogle County Fair decided to discontinue operation and the last fair at the fair-

grounds on the north edge of Oregon was 1991. The city of Rockford invented a festival called "On the Waterfront" and the attendance had dropped extremely and was no longer viable. Since the Ogle County Fairground was privately owned it was put up for sale. Twenty three acres were purchased by Grant and Janice Landis of Oregon and the remainder by the Oregon Park District. The Ogle County Fair needed to find a new home.

Since the fairgrounds were used for the Ogle County 4-H show each year a group of 4-H parents and concerned citizens was formed to find new fairgrounds. This was a daunting task, but was achieved in 1993. There was a minimal fair held by the 4-H in 1992 at St. Mary Learning Center located West of Oregon, just off of Illinois Route 64.

With the help of the

Ogle County Farm Bureau 20 acres of land was purchased from the Estate of Marian and Homer St. Clair in April 1993. This property became the home of the Current Ogle County Fair. Since the buildings on the old fairground were not in the best of shape they were donated to the New Ogle County Fair and were razed and moved by a large group of volunteers to the new site. In early 1993 a fair board was created and the new organization was chartered as a 501-C-3 Not for Profit Organization.

It was determined very quickly that the 20 acre purchase would not be large enough to provide for the needs of the fairgrounds. The Ogle County Farm Bureau then purchased the remaining 18.3 acres in May of 1994. This parcel was quickly turned into the track and grandstand area of the fair grounds.



www.oglecountyfair.com

2025 OGLE COUNTY FAIR

Wed. July 30 – Sun. Aug. 3

1440 Limekiln Rd. • Oregon, IL 61061

815-732-6962

Regular Gate Admission Prices (includes carnival rides):

1-Day Admission = \$10

Age 4 and under = Free Gate Admission

(\$5 carnival wristband may be purchased separately)

5-Day Admission Pass = \$45

Regular Grandstand Prices (after gate admission):

1-Day Grandstand = \$15

Age 4 and under = Free

1-Day Pit Pass (Wed - Sat) = \$20



Scan for tickets

Reduced Price Preseason Entrance Tickets can be purchased online or at most Casey's in Ogle County until 11:59 pm Tuesday July 29th, see fair website for exact Casey's locations.

Entrance, grandstand, and pit pass tickets may be purchased by visiting the website or scan the QR code. All online Grandstand Tickets Sales stop at 3:00 pm day of event. Grandstand gates open 1 hour prior to the event. Grandstand tickets may be purchased at gate depending on availability.

GRANDSTAND EVENTS

- Wed 6:30 pm Illini Stock & Sanctioned Tractor Pulls
- Thur 6:30 pm Illini Sanctioned Truck & Tractor Pulls
- Fri 7:00 pm T & A Bucking Bulls
- Sat 6:30 pm Robbo's Extreme Demo Derby



FREE ENTERTAINMENT

(With Paid Admission)

- **ALL CARNIVAL RIDES**
- Queen Contest (Wed)
- Live Music on County Stage (Thurs – Sat TBA)
- Ready Go Dog Show
- The Rhinestone Roper
- Animal Shows & Exhibits
- Benefit Horse Show (Sun)
- Chain Saw Artist & Auction
- Brian Holt Magic Show (Fri & Sat)
- Sunday Church Service
- Kids Pedal Pull (Sat)
- Antique Tractor Display & Parade
- Commercial Exhibits
- 4-H Children's Farm
- 4-H Dodgeball Tournament (Fri)



Wednesday, July 2 - Saturday, July 5

Wednesday, July 2

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm Genesis Dance Company (Wesley St)
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Silent Auction Open (The Hall Kable News Building)
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm Little Miss & Mister Firecracker Registration (Bandshell)
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm Little Miss & Mister Firecracker Contest (Bandshell)
6:15 pm – 6:30 pm Golden Court Contest (Bandshell)
6:45 pm – 7:00 pm Royal Court Coronation (Bandshell)
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Regional Showcase of Area Artists (Sandstone Gallery)
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Kable Band (Bandshell)
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Ice Cream Social by Let Freedom Ring Committee (Campus Yard)

Friday, July 4

7:00 am – 11:00 am Firemen's Breakfast (Fire Station)
7:00 am – 11:00 am Fly-in / Drive-in Breakfast (Mt Morris Airport)
8:00 am – 2:00 pm Silent Auction (The Hall Kable News Building)
11:30 am – 1:30 pm Regional Showcase of Area Artists (Sandstone Gallery)
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm Patrotic Program (Bandshell)
1:00 pm SHARP Bell Ringing (The Bell)
Noon - 3:00 pm Food Vendors (Bandshell)
2:00 pm Parade (Parade Route)
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Food Vendors (DLR)
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Bounce Houses (DLR)
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Shindig Band (DLR)
8:00 pm Kable Band (DLR)
DUSK Fireworks (DLR)

Saturday, July 5

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Silent Auction Closes - Pick up July 6 (The Hall Kable News Building)
4:00 pm – 8:30 pm Regional Showcase of Area Artists (Sandstone Gallery)
4:30 pm Car Show Registration \$10 (Bandshell / Wesley Ave)
4:30 pm – 8:00 pm Car Show (Wesley Ave)
4:30 pm – 8:00 pm Crafters/Vendors Fair (Campus Yard)
4:30 pm – 8:00 pm Bounce Houses (Campus Yard)
4:30 pm – 8:00 pm Pork Producers (Campus Yard)
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Root Beer Floats supporting Let Freedom Ring thanks to ice cream donation from Jay's (Campus Yard)
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm Kiddie Parade Registration (Wesley & Main St)
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Bag Shot Row (Bandshell)
6:00 pm Kiddie Parade (Main St)
6:30 pm Waterfights with Firemen Registration (Wesley & Main St)
6:45 pm Waterfights with Firemen (Main St)
9:00 pm 50/50 Winner Pulled (Bandshell)

*All events are subject to change.
Thank you to all of our donors
All event information as updated can be found...
Website <https://lfrmtmorris.com> OR
Facebook Let Freedom Ring - a Family Fun Festival*



Donations are always welcome to continue to make this a successful event can be sent to:
Let Freedom Ring, Attn: Jen Robinson, PO Box 95, Mt. Morris, IL 61054

WWW.LFRMTMORRIS.COM

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Autumn on Parade set for Oct. 4-5

OREGON— Since its creation in 1970, the heart of Autumn on Parade has always been the Market. From humble beginnings of a seven-vendor market on Third Street to more than 200 booths now located on and surrounding the Ogle County Courthouse Square, one detail has remained steadfast: our vendors sell homegrown, handmade, homemade items. A stroll through the market will reveal a wide variety of shopping options ranging from children's clothing, fashion accessories, casual wear, and quilts, to bittersweet, baked goods, produce, soap, jewelry, home décor, and unique artisan items.

A Fun Zone for the kids, located on Fifth Street behind the coliseum, will feature a petting zoo, inflatables, specialty entertainment, and more. These outdoor interactive options are sure to keep the young ones happy, occupied, and engaged!

Local not-for-profit organizations, as well as a few small businesses from the area who support NFP's, fill our Food Court. Vendors offer up everything from pork chop sandwiches, Mexican cuisine, and Thai, to hotdogs, brats, burgers, kettle corn, and more! Tempting aromas will lead you south of the square to Jefferson Street (opposite the stage). Most are open both days from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Every booth is staffed with volunteers



whose goal is to raise money to give back to the community at large, creating a win-win for all!

The Car Show (coordinated by Focus House, Rochelle) and an Antique Tractor Show (brought to you by longtime local farming families) are two of our Saturday Only special features held just across the Rock River at Oregon Park East. It's a Vintage Automobile, Farmalls and Olivers, John Deere-loving dream come true! There will be food truck(s) on site to fill the tummy and quench the thirst while walking amongst the selection of cars and tractors. Chana School, the centerpiece of this Park East scenic setting, is a historic and completely restored two-room schoolhouse, which is also open for touring on Saturday Only.

Our Entertainment HotSpot, which includes live music and a beer gar-

den, is another Saturday Only festival attraction. Stay tuned for information on performance schedules and band lineup.

*This is a 21+ fenced area. An entry fee and ID are required.

Catch our Harvest Time Parade, which steps off on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. sharp, & winds its way from 9th and Adams Street through downtown Oregon. Loaded with nonstop specialty performances, marching bands, youth groups, and a few surprises, our parade boasts of being the largest in Northern Illinois!

Remember to support the festival by purchasing a 6 pack of 60/40 tickets. Your \$5 might just buy the winning ticket!

Our Schedule of Events, shared late September, will reflect times and additional details as we approach the festival weekend. The 2025 Autumn on Parade festival will be held from Oct. 4-5.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

78th Annual Sweet Corn Festival scheduled for Aug. 7-10

MENDOTA — Tons of free, hot, buttered, delicious sweet corn will be the highlight of the 78th annual Sweet Corn Festival to be held in Mendota on Aug. 7-10, 2025.

The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce is preparing for the gigantic undertaking of hosting over 40,000 visitors, who consume over 50 tons of sweet corn during the festival weekend.

Don't miss the excitement because the festival offers a variety of entertainment events for the entire family. The events take place primarily in the downtown area, and there are no admission fees or parking fees. There is a fee for the Beer Garden.

Free musical entertainment is in abundance. The Crafters Marketplace and flea market features over 200 dealers in hand



made crafts and unique merchandise. There is a Queen Pageant, beer garden with live bands, grand parade and a brand new carnival with more rides and games for both adults and children, plus much more.

The midways are lined with food booths, featuring a multitude of ethnic, regional and festival foods, but the "BIG

EVENT" is the serving of the free Sweet Corn on Sunday afternoon. For over 70 years, it has been cooked to its golden goodness with the help of a vintage steam engine.

The good times are waiting, the welcome mat is out, come to Mendota for one of the Midwest's oldest and largest harvest festivals, the 78th annual Sweet Corn Festival.

Leaf River Summer Daze June 6-8

LEAF RIVER — The Leaf River Lions Club started Leaf River Daze. The 2025 Leaf River Summer Daze will be held from June 6-8 and will include a car show, fireworks, an antique tractor and engine show, bingo and FFA alumni tractor and truck pulls.

During the summertime, our community organizes an annual event to bring together people and families of all ages with something for everyone to enjoy. The event features a grand

parade, tractor pulls, and a spectacular fireworks display that's not to be missed. If you're an agriculture enthusiast, you'll love the antique tractor shows and pulls that are part of the event. Families with kids can look forward to plenty of family-friendly activities to keep the little ones entertained.

Leaf River is a tributary of the Rock River and runs about 31 miles. Approximately 450 people call Leaf River home. Leaf River has supported a premier

fire protection district since 1951 and features a library built in 1981. Leaf River has a United States post office and is located in the Forrester school district. Leaf River Communications is offered for phone and internet service. Leaf River has two community churches, a locally-owned restaurant, a locally-owned gas station & quick stop, active community organizations such as American Legion, Grange & Lions and an active Historical Society & Museum.



2025 DeKalb Corn Fest will be Aug. 21-24

DEKALB — DeKalb Corn Fest Inc. is a not-for-profit organization run entirely by volunteers. Corn Fest has provided great food, family fun, and free entertainment since 1977. People from all over the state come to enjoy the food and listen to the music at Corn Fest each year. Your Sponsorship provides DeKalb Corn Fest the resources necessary to produce this amazing free music and food festival.

DeKalb Corn Fest started out as a corn boil by Delmonte in 1957 to give away free corn to the citizens as they began the harvest. The modern-day Corn Fest, as we know it now with music and vendor booths, began in 1977. At that time, the sound stage and beer garden were located in the alleyway between the Hillside Restaurant and The Egyptian Theatre. There used to be a permanent 12 foot by 12-foot concrete

slab that was used as the stage. By the late 1970s, the stage made its way out of the alleyway and the Two Brothers Staging Co. was hired to erect a new platform stage. Its new location was right in front of the Egyptian Theatre. Palmer Court was then officially designated as the Corn Fest Beer Garden.

From the mid-1970s until the mid-1980s the sound stage was operated by the CAB Concert Committee at NIU. In 1986 when NIU stopped being involved, the Corn Fest Committee brought in Dave Bavido, a local radio personality, to help organize and run the sound stage. At that time the stage was moved again to a new location, the Northeast corner of the parking lot next to National Bank & Trust Company, formerly LNB. It was at this time that bigger music acts began to appear at the festival.

As the sound stage

became more popular, more space was needed to be found, so once again, the stage was moved to its present location, in the middle of Locust Street, between 2nd & 3rd street. This opened up the entire parking lot to help accommodate the thousands of people that regularly attended. The parking lot was split down the middle, with the East half and Palmer Court as the beer garden, and the west half designated as the "free admission" section.

Over the years, musicians and bands like Phil Vassar, Lady Antebellum, Travis Tritt, Joan Jett, Survivor, Night Ranger, Blue Oyster Cult, .38 Special, The Marshall Tucker Band, Leon Russell, Koko Taylor, Jefferson Starship, Greg Kihn, The Smithereens, Junior Wells, Lonnie Brooks, Eddie Money, and The Grass Roots have graced the Corn Fest sound stage.

SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY



309 Oak Street
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

After-hours Concert: Duo Dahlia
Saturday, June 21
@ 6:30 p.m.

JUNE

Balloon Show
Thursday, June 26
@ 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Robin's Dog Stars
Thursday, July 24
@ 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.,
and 1:00 p.m.

JULY

In Time: A Live
History Experience
Saturday, July 26
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

French Creole Tunes and Tales
from The Illinois Country
Saturday, August 16
@ 6:30 p.m.

AUGUST

International Cheese
Tasting
Saturday, August 30
@ 2:00 p.m.



Our events are always free and open
to the public.

Questions? Please feel free to contact us
at (815) 756-9568 or reference@dkpl.org.