



2025

Visitors Guide



Kids 10 & under FREE EVERYDAY! * Seniors 65+ Free on Thursday!
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it's not just fun... it's fairtastic!

August 5-10



Featuring ...Live! In Concert!

JUSTIN MOORE

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Saturday, Aug 9 * 7pm



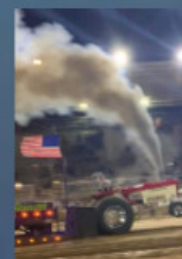
**Pro Bull
Riding
Friday**



**Demolition
Derbies
Sunday**



**Monster
Trucks
Wednesday**



**Truck &
Tractor Pulls
Thursday**



**Queen
Pageant
Tuesday**



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in advance**

www.boonecountyfair.com



Details on the history of the Fair: The Granges of Boone County have been operating it since 1957

From past to present . . .

County Fairs are agricultural expositions first established in this country in 1841 when agricultural groups organized the first fairs in Syracuse, NY and Naperville, Ill. Food, both its production and enjoyment, has been the centerpiece of fairs since the beginning.

These local exhibitions promoted modern farming which included livestock judging; judging of produce, fruits, flowers, grains and dairy products; exhibits of new agricultural implements and techniques and various contests such as plowing which would eventually become tractor pulling competitions. Harness races would become a very popular part of agricultural fairs from about 1875 and on through the mid 1900s. We still feature harness races at the Boone County Fair.

The first county fair in Belvidere was held in 1855 in Big Thunder Park. In 1867 the fair was relocated to what is now Spencer Park, which happened to be the same year the National Grange was founded.

The Grange (or Patrons of Husbandry) is the oldest agricultural organization in the United States being founded in 1867 to help organize the farmers after the Civil War. The Grange today is a family community service organization advocating for agriculture and rural America. There are seven local chapters of the National Grange in Boone County with more than 400 members.

Some members of the seven local chapters meet on a county level bi-monthly at what is known as the Boone County Pomona Grange. The Pomona Grange (or County Grange) has its own set of officers and committees. The Pomona Grange took over the operation of the Boone County Fair at what is now Spencer Park and formed the Boone County Fair Association in 1957.

After six years of operation the Pomona Grange found itself with a fair that needed new buildings and more land if it were to grow and succeed. With no prospects or money for either in November of 1962 the Pomona Grange members voted to make the 1963 fair their last one. But a month or two later and the Taylor sisters came forward with a reasonable offer to sell the Pomona Grange 84 acres on Route 76 about a mile north of Belvidere. A few Grange members came forward and offered their farms as collateral so the



Boone County Fair Director Lyle Lee (shown here) accepting the 'Friend of the Fair' recognition award in behalf of Debbie White. After twelve years serving as Administrative Assistant for the Boone County Fair, Debbie is retiring at the end of January. Debbie had been an invaluable asset for the Fair performing a wide variety of tasks throughout each year with absolute perfection, professionalism and an unbeatable smile with a good dose of charm. We'll miss you Deb!

BOONE COUNTY FAIR PHOTO Area Visitors Guide

purchase of the land could be made.

Flash forward to 2014 and we have 153 acres with many buildings, barns and arenas making up Boone County Fairgrounds Park owned and operated by the Granges of Boone County. The four executive officers of the Boone County Fair Association (a 501(c)(3) organization) are elected by the members of the Pomona Grange and each of the 7 local chapters selects four members to be on the fair board.

It's easy to see the Boone County Fair has been a big part of the county for a long time. I can't speak for all fairs but at Boone County we are still a good place to do business with vendors of

all types of equipment and supplies for agricultural purposes. But even urbanites can do business such as buy a car; buy landscaping services, water softeners, a new hat, or whatever.

The fair serves as a large community fundraiser. Nearly every civic organization has a booth or provides a service at the fair to raise money. The 4-H clubs, The Lions, Cosmos, Boy Scouts, Church groups, County Fire departments, and yes, even the Granges are all here raising money for their various projects for the community.

But the centerpiece is still the livestock and non-livestock (home arts, fruits, vegetables, flowers, grains). We will have about 3,000 head of livestock, everything

from rabbits to draft horses and 6,000 non-livestock entries, everything from quilts to corn to cakes to photos. Our superintendents do an outstanding job promoting participation in their various departments.

For the 4-H members it's a chance to show their talents, to learn to carry through on a project, to learn to raise and care for an animal and to show that animal and have the animal and themselves judged for their showmanship abilities.

Plus it's a place where people from the city can learn about agriculture. They can see a cow being milked, a chick being hatched, a sheep being sheared, and a team of six draft horses being hitched to a wagon. It's all up close and personal and they can ask the farmer or rancher questions. And the farmer or rancher will be more than happy to answer. It's probably more important than ever that people understand where their food comes from and how it's raised. A place where you can see agriculture in action, firsthand.

The Boone County Fair is also a grand social event, a once a year six day community family reunion. Where you can just go and sit and see old friends and make new ones.

And of course we like to have some fun too. There is plenty of free entertainment all through the park all day long and some thrill rides and games if that's your thing. Plus some great grandstand shows for a night out with your friends.

We've been very fortunate in Boone County to have such a successful county fair and the fairgrounds is a great asset to the community as a venue for almost any event from weddings, to concerts, to flea markets and swap meets, to auctions and a place to store your boat or camper for the winter.

The fairgrounds has something going on almost every weekend April to November.

1. This fair exists because of the hard work, the sweat and sacrifice of hundreds upon hundreds of volunteers who were dedicated since 1957 to make the Boone County Fair the best in Illinois.

A fair we can all be proud of. The bottom line is you don't have to be a farmer or rancher to be interested in agriculture or county fairs or to even be a member of The Grange.

As long as we all eat food we are. all

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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2025 Visitors Guide

A publication of Rock Valley Publishing LLC
1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115 • (262) 763-3511

Editor in Chief: Heather Ruenz
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The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County offer an abundance of beautiful campgrounds.

COURTESY PHOTO Area Visitors Guide

Winnebago County Forest Preserves offer camping fun

Sugar River

10127 Forest Preserve Road, Durand, Ill., 61024
All 82 sites in the main campground at Sugar River may be reserved online. Reservations must be made 7 days in advance.
Primitive sites are on a first-come first-served basis.
Please register at the attendant building, or in the absence of attendant, please use the self-registration station.

Seward Bluffs

16999 Comly Road, Seward, Ill., 61077
All 47 sites at Seward Bluffs may be reserved online. Online reservations must be made seven days in advance.
Please register with the campground host or in the absence of a host, please use the self-registration station.

Hononegah

#80 Hononegah Road, Rockton, Ill. 61072
No reservations available for sites at

Hononegah, sites are on a first-come first-served basis. The host will register campers on a per unit basis after the units are established.
Please register with the campground host or in the absence of a host, please use the self-registration station.

Fees

Resident/Non-resident

Sugar River

\$17 residents/\$27 non-residents
Senior (62+) & disabled \$15 residents/\$25 non-residents
Electric hookup (additional) \$10
Primitive \$15 residents/\$25 non-residents
Primitive-Senior (62+) and disabled \$13 residents/\$23 non-residents

Seward Bluffs and Hononegah

\$15 residents/\$25 non-residents
Senior (62+) & disabled \$13 residents/\$35 non-residents
Electric hookup (additional) \$10

HISTORY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

interested in agriculture and a good place to eat food is the county fair or a Grange potluck.

Celebrating our journey

1855 Boone County Agricultural Society formed to organize the first Boone County Fair. Allen C Fuller was principal organizer,. Area of flat land north of the courthouse was purchased First fair was held October 25 and 26. Stock was exhibited and admission was free.
Domestic articles & manufactured wares were to be exhibited at Union Hall
Thursdays attendance was approx. 3,000 and Friday was approx. 5,000. Fifty horse entries in addition to mares and colts Local talent performed in the evening at Union

Hall
1863-1865 No fairs were held during the Civil War
1867 Old fairgrounds was sold (by courthouse) for \$675. Land purchased at west end of Lincoln Avenue for \$1,200 (now Spencer Park) Racetrack and judges stand were built
1877 Fair had 1,048 entries
1906 Belvidere Amphitheater Company formed to erect the amphitheater as fair association felt they couldn't pay to have it built. A group of men paid \$1,200.
1911 Fair association now owns grandstand
1913 A season pass cost \$1.25 and covered husband and wife; a season pass for children 6-12 was .25

Visit Rockford's historic Tinker Swiss Cottage

Robert Tinker's inspiration for the Cottage came during his tour of Europe in 1862, where he fell in love with the architecture of Switzerland. In 1865, Robert began building his Swiss Cottage on the limestone bluff overlooking Kent Creek.

Robert surrounded his Swiss Cottage with over 27 acres of trees, vines, winding pathways, flowerbeds, and gardens. A three-story Swiss inspired barn was added to the property which housed cows, chickens, and horses.

On the side of the Cottage, Robert constructed a suspension bridge crossing the Kent Creek. This bridge linked the Cottage with his wife's, Mary Dorr Manny Tinker, limestone mansion and grounds.

In 1906, the railroad bought the remainder of Mary's estate. At the end of Robert's suspension bridge, he planted elaborate gardens deemed the Railroad Gardens where passengers could stroll as they waited for the train.

The Tinker family, the sole occupants of the Swiss Cottage, left their home to the Rockford Park District and their household belongings to trustees after seventy-five years of residence.

Filled with original furnishings, artwork, diaries, clothing and household items, the Cottage is a rich time capsule of life during the Victorian Era. The Cottage is also one of only a handful of Swiss-style homes remaining in the United States.

In 1943, Tinker Swiss Cottage opened to the public as a Museum and is supported in part, by the Rockford Park District.

Pre-Columbian Native American Mound

We have a Pre-Columbian conical mound on the museum grounds.
A conical mound is a round mound typically associated with Native American burials.
Other types of Native mounds include effigy mounds (shaped to represent animals and ideological iconography) and linear mounds (typically a straight line).The mound on the museum grounds has been archaeologically dated between 1000-1300ACE.

1925 New entrance complete-located about 1,000 feet east of the former gate
1931 Adams Rodeo added to lineup and replaced harness racing
1945 Fair canceled in an effort to reduce infantile paralysis epidemic
1957 Granges took over fair operations under the management of Pomona Grange
1963 Last fair to be held at old fairgrounds (Spencer Park); 84 acres purchased on Route 76 for new fairgrounds
1964 First fair to be held at current location
1965 Cattle barn and grandstand (minus the roof) were added
1966 Dairy barn was added
1967 Hog barn was added
1968 Sheep barn was added



In 1865, Robert Tinker began building his Swiss Cottage on the limestone bluff overlooking Kent Creek in Rockford.

TINKER SWISS COTTAGE PHOTO Area Visitors Guide

The Pioneer Period

Rockford was founded in 1834, by Germanicus Kent, Thatcher Blake, and Kent's former-slave, Lewis Lemon. Kent built a sawmill and grinding mill that drew its energy from the water power in the creek. The sawmill attracted many others to the area for manufacturing ventures, thus developing the Rockford Water Power District.

The Tinker Railroad Gardens and Prairie are now located on the original Kent property. The Railroad Garden ponds were developed as retention ponds used by Germanicus Kent for his grinding mill and are still located on the site. The population steadily grew and Rockford was incorporated as a city in 1852.

The Manny Reaper Trial

Rockford's nickname at one point was the "Reaper City", thanks to the innovative creation by John H. Manny. The invention won many awards throughout the county and overseas.

Due to the attention and competition, Cyrus McCormick, the other big reaper giant, sued John Manny for over \$400,000 of patent infringements in 1855.

Mr. Manny hired two famous attorneys to defend him in the case, Abraham Lincoln and Edwin M. Stanton. The case was won and upheld all the way to the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, the trial took so much of a toll on John Manny that he passed away from tuberculosis two weeks after the verdict.

The change in Illinois law allowed his widow, Mary Dorr Manny, to control and run the Manny Reaper Works, and to earn a steady paycheck beginning in 1857. Mary, the widow, was truly a woman ahead of her times, holding a position in a national company that was typically only offered to men until well into the mid 1900s. Eventually, Mary Dorr Manny married Robert H. Tinker and her legacy became part of the Tinker Cottage.

1970 Home Economics building was added
1972 Two additional buildings were added
1981 Large horse barn and grandstand roof added
1991 Seventeen additional acres were acquired for a total of 101 acres
1993 Fifty-two more acres were acquired bring the total to 153 acres
1994 Beaver Valley Grange Hall was moved to the fairground (it was founded in 1916)
1999 Goat barn was added
2005 Swine building was extended and many new cement sidewalks were added
2013 Celebrated the 50th anniversary at the Route 76 location

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens:



Tropical oasis in the city

On Oct. 29, 2011, the Rockford Park District opened the doors to a brand new facility, Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens, 1354 N. Second St., Rockford.

Situated along the banks of the beautiful Rock River in Sinnissippi Gardens, Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens brings the tropics to the Midwest.

The entire facility is the third largest conservatory in Illinois with a total of 22,000 square feet, and at the highest point will stand 52 feet.

A tropical setting includes an 11,000-square-foot plant exhibition area complete with water features, seating areas, and sculptures, all in a tropical plant setting.

In early 2004, the Rockford Park District Board of Commissioners selected Sinnissippi Park as the site for a centerpiece project for the District's 100-

year anniversary celebration. Sinnissippi Park was the first land purchased by the newly-formed Rockford Park District in 1909.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens is named after the Nicholas family, who in March 2006, announced their donation of \$2,150,000 toward the Conservatory project in honor of their parents, William and Ruby Nicholas.

Aside from the generous donation from the Nicholas family, nearly 1,600 donors contributed to the Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens Public Campaign Project.

Greenhouse vs. Conservatory
What's the difference?

The former greenhouse was constructed in 1924 and was in need of significant repairs. A greenhouse is a building where plants are cultivated. A conservatory is used to display tropical plants and displays, and can be used for social gatherings.

The original 15-foot high Greenhouse's purpose was to grow flowers and plants that could be used throughout the Rockford Park District's parks and facilities. This purpose changed as the Park District grew, and it became impractical for the

Greenhouse plantings to support the entire District.

Over the years, the Greenhouse was used to host a variety of seasonal flower shows, but the building was not originally designed for this purpose. The former Greenhouse will be memorialized with a rendering and display incorporated into the new Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens facility.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens
Summary of Amenities

Indoor and Outdoor Gardens Open to the Public (year-round); Growing Greenhouse; Meeting Room and Classroom Space (available to rent); Tropical Destination for Small Weddings, Receptions, and Catered Events; Children's Educational and Play Area; Garden Gate Gift Shop ; Sculptures; Catering Kitchen; Outdoor Terrace

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens Fast Facts:

Large palms and tropical trees came from nurseries in Homestead, Fla.

Temperature inside the Conservatory is anywhere between 70° and 105°

Every plant or tree has a label with the common and Latin name

Farthest Traveling Object: Aneityum palm from Vanuatu Islands of the Pacific
Heaviest Tree: Bismark Palm weighing over 6000 lbs (3 tons)

Longest Installation of a Tree: Bismark Palm – 8 hours, 3 machines, and a dozen workers

Regular Admission

Adults: \$10
Seniors (62+): \$8
Veterans \$8
Ages 5-17 \$8
Ages 3-4 \$5
Ages 2 and younger, free

Hours:

Monday: closed
Tuesday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$4 (resident), \$5 (non-resident)
Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday/Sunday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Rockford Park District opened the doors to Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens, 1354 N. Second St., Rockford on Oct. 29, 2011.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Area Visitors Guide



Visit Hard Rock Rockford

Hard Rock Casino Rockford's permanent facility opened Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024 with a star-studded Guitar Smash, in Hard Rock tradition.

COURTESY PHOTO
Area Visitors Guide



Wolf Hollow Golf Course

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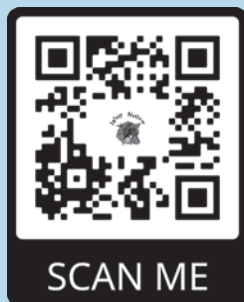
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Expires end of 2025 season



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Wolf Hollow Golf: 18-hole course founded in 1928

Founded in 1928, the Wolf Hollow Golf Course has prided itself in offering a quality golf experience for everyone.

Our Wolf Hollow 18-Hole Championship course provides just the variety of course layouts to suit every level of golfer. Set among the rolling hills of Northwest Illinois, just 3 1/2 miles North of Route 20, near the Village of Lena our course is easy to get to and ready for your enjoyment.

A demanding challenge awaits you at the 6,408 yard Wolf Hollow Championship course. It's just what the doctor ordered if you like beautiful elevation, large bent grass greens, and multiple teeing areas. Wolf Hollow will test your shot making skills with a fantastic risk-reward design that will often entice you.

When your round is over you can relax in our comfortable lounge and take advantage of our short-order menu while watching television from virtually any seating location. Our banquet hall is available for wedding parties, reunions, lunch meetings, dances, and more. Simply contact the Wolf Hollow Clubhouse at 815-369-5513 to book your event.

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff is waiting to welcome you at Wolf Hollow – "Where golf is a breath of fresh air."

RATES

Current Golf Specials

Weekday Golf Specials

\$32 Per Person

18 holes, cart and lunch

Mondays, Tuesdays –

Thursdays, Fridays only

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. only

\$22 Wednesdays

\$22 for 18 holes including cart

\$12 for 9 holes including cart

\$2.50 Domestic beer every

Wednesday

Weekday Green Fees

(Monday through Friday)

9-holes: \$16 • 18-holes: \$25

Twilight after 4 p.m., 9-holes: \$23

Twilight after 4 p.m., 18-holes: \$35

Weekend Green Fees

(Friday, Saturday,

Sunday and holidays)

9-holes: \$18 • 18-holes: \$30

Twilight after 4 p.m., 9-holes: \$26

Twilight after 4 p.m., 18-holes: \$40

Junior Green Fees

9-holes: \$12 • 18-holes: \$18

Motor Cart Rental

(Price per person)

9-holes: \$14 • 18-holes: \$18

Mini Membership / Discount Card

(12) 9-holes: \$200

Driving Range Ball Buckets

Range annual: \$100 per person

Small: \$4 • Large: \$6

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MAY 30	STATE LINE PLAY BOYS RIVERSIDE CATERING	JULY 04	HOLIDAY - NO MUSIC	AUG 08	ALWAYS LATE THE BELOIT CLUB
JUNE 06	JESTIN JAY TRIO GRAND AVENUE PUB	JULY 11	JESTIN JAY TRIO MERRILL & HOUSTON'S STEAK JOINT	AUG 15	FRANK & CO MERRILL & HOUSTON'S STEAK JOINT
JUNE 13	ECLECTIC RED LUCY'S #7 BURGER BAR	JULY 18	NICK & FRIENDS STORMY'S GRILLED CHEESE	AUG 22	SOFT SHOE SHUFFLERS BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH
JUNE 20	DETOUR BAND PLATINUM GRILL	JULY 25	FRED & GINGER HATLEY'S PUB	AUG 29	FRANK & CO VELVET BUFFALO

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Historic Midway Village: Rockford's history museum

Our mission

Midway Village Museum, collects, preserves and interprets the diverse history of the Rockford region and is committed to educating and enriching our community by providing high quality exhibits, programs and events.

Vision

Midway Village Museum will be the primary institution where Rockford's diverse citizens gather to understand their community's past and to discuss the challenges of the future.

Important museum dates

In 1968, Midway Village Museum was organized by the Swedish, Harlem and Rockford Historical Societies for the purpose of collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of the Rockford area. It began with a donation of land by the Severin Family and has grown dramatically since.

1972 – The original museum site was located on 11 acres donated by the Severin Family; today the site is 137 acres.

1974 – The development of Midway Village opened to represent a typical rural town in Northern Illinois during the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century.

1974 – The original 10,000 square foot Museum Center facility opened.

1976 – The Industrial Gallery opened.

1988 – The Old Doll's House Museum opened along with additional galleries including the Aviation Gallery and the Carlson Education Gallery.

Our history

Midway Village Museum was organized in 1968 by the Swedish, Harlem and Rockford Historical Societies for the purpose of collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of the Rockford area. It began with a donation of land by the Severin Family and has grown dramatically since.

In 1972, the original museum site was located on eleven



World War II Days takes place in late September at Midway Village with re-enactors to entertain the huge audiences the event attracts.

MIDWAY VILLAGE PHOTO
Area Visitors Guide

acres donated by the Severin family. Today the site is 137 acres. The original 10,000 sq. ft. Museum Center facility opened in 1974.

The Industrial Gallery opened in 1976. In 1986 the building was built to link the previous two buildings together. In 1988, more galleries were opened, including the Aviation Gallery and the Carlson Education Gallery.

Across the parking lot, the Old Dolls' House Museum was opened that same year. Today, the 52,700 sq. ft. Museum Center houses seven exhibition galleries, collections storage, classrooms, workrooms, administrative offices, library, audio-visual room, and the Museum Store.

The 2000 renovation of the History Building made the facility handicap accessible and made the Museum Center more visitor friendly. The collections have grown to over 110,000 objects, including three-dimensional pieces, structures, textiles, and archival material.

The development of Midway Village began in 1974. The Village is representative of a typical rural town in Northern Illinois at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

Midway Village features 26 historical structures, including a general store, hardware store, print shop, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, town hall, police station, plumbing shop, bank, hotel, hospital, fire station, church, barber shop, law office, two barns and four farm houses.

Plan your special event at the ROTARY RIVER CENTER in beautiful Riverside Park, Beloit, Wisconsin



The Rotary River Center is a beautiful 3,000 sq. ft. structure that overlooks the scenic Rock River. It is the perfect setting for events of all kinds and is provided at an incredibly low rate! The center is equipped to seat 120, but has a maximum capacity of 266. You are welcome to bring in additional chairs and tables to accommodate your needs. There is a serving kitchen with a coffee maker, large refrigeration unit and sinks, two restrooms, central air conditioning, storage closets and furniture including: 120 chairs, 3 round tables, 9 oval tables and 8 banquet tables. The building is also equipped with a public address system, floor lectern, and a screen for overheads, slide shows or films.

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Dinner on the Dock: Rockford's favorite summer tradition



Join Prairie Street Brewing Co., located at 200 Prairie Street in Rockford, every Thursday for Dinner on the Dock (DOD), where great food, cold beer, and live music come together on the riverfront. Set against the backdrop of the Rock River, this weekly event is all about community, good vibes, and summer nights done right.

There are plenty of options to soak up the DOD atmosphere, whether you're sitting down for dinner, relaxing in the lounge, finding a spot on the lower dock, or pulling up by boat – there's no better place to be on a Thursday night.

Event details

- Seating begins: 4 p.m.
- Live music: 6 to 9 p.m.
- Kitchen open until 10 p.m.
- Sizz N Fizz open 5 to 9 p.m.
- Drinks flow until: 11 p.m. or later

DOD Schedule

- Thursdays, 5 to 1 p.m.
- May 15 – Sept. 11
- Live Music, 6 to 9 p.m.

JUNE 2025

June 12 @ 5 to 10 p.m. Dinner on the Dock featuring Danielle Juhre

Danielle Juhre is a Nashville-based multi-genre songwriter and vocal powerhouse, known for her instantly recognizable voice and remarkable three-octave range – delivered without a drop of autotune.

Her ability to craft hook-driven songs with deeply vulnerable lyrics led to a publishing

deal in 2023 with Beach Wave Sound, the production group behind Bruno Mars.

She has collaborated with industry giants like Timbaland, Ryan Tedder, Hunter Hayes, and Tommy Brown, among others. Juhre's music has been featured on Love Island US and UK (CBS, 2021) and has charted independently, landing multiple songs in the Top 100 on U.S. adult contemporary radio.

She has also ranked in the Top 50 on pop charts across platforms like Shazam, Spotify, and iTunes, while earning recognition on the 60th, 62nd, and 63rd GRAMMY Ballots. Featured by American Songwriter Magazine, The Chicago Tribune, ABC 7 Windy City Live, and more, Juhre has performed at Soulfest Chicago, Summerfest, Evanston SPACE, and 101.9 The Mix's New Music Club, solidifying her status as a rising force in contemporary music.

June 19 @ 5 to 10 p.m. Dinner on the Dock featuring STEREOtype

STEREOtype is a high-energy pop-punk and rock band hailing from Rockford, Illinois. Since forming in 2019, they've been injecting hits from every decade with their own secret blend of energy and attitude – while delivering the pop-punk and rock anthems that defined the '90s and 2000s. Their electrifying performances create the perfect recipe for a night of dancing, nostalgia, and unforgettable fun with friends.

June 26 @ 5 to 10 p.m. Dinner on the Dock featuring Boom Boom Room

The Boom Boom Room isn't your average bar band. Bringing a powerhouse mix of rock, blues, funk, and soul, they deliver the music you know and love from the '70s to today with energy that keeps the crowd moving all night long.

JULY 2025

July 3 @ 5 to 10 p.m. Dinner on the Dock featuring Blue Steel

Blue Steel was forged from the fusion of country and rock, creating a flawless blend of music with an undeniable edge.

Formed in the fall of 2017, this high-energy band has set the standard for the state-line music scene. With their powerful male and female lead vocals, 3-part harmonies, and exceptional musicianship, Blue Steel has earned multiple accolades, including the Rockford Area Music Industry (RAMI) Artist of the Year in 2019 and Best Country Cover Band for five consecutive years.

Their induction into the RAMI Hall of Fame in 2025 proves Blue Steel is a must-see act, delivering an unforgettable show every time.

July 10 @ 5 to 10 p.m. Dinner on the Dock featuring Petty Cash

PettyCash is the ultimate celebration of two iconic legends, Tom Petty and Johnny

Cash, brought to life by five musicians who share a passion for amazing tunes and good times.

Whether you're sipping a cold brew at your favorite festival or dancing in the aisles, PettyCash delivers a high-energy stage show that brings all the hits you know and love.

With a combined 1,000 years of musical experience, this band guarantees a performance full of shredding, sing-alongs, and unforgettable moments. So don't be Petty – give 'em some Cash and get ready to fall in love with this rocking.

July 17 @ 5 to 10 p.m. Dinner on the Dock featuring Sunset Strip

Sunset Strip, the ultimate '80s Hairband Tribute from Rockford, Illinois, brings the glory days of big hair, leather, and rock 'n' roll back to life. Known for electrifying performances across the Midwest, they've played everything from colossal festivals to intimate clubs, earning rave reviews for their high-energy shows. Along their journey, they've shared the stage with 80s legends like Bret Michaels, L.A. Guns, Vince Neil, and Kip Winger, solidifying their place in the rock scene. A multi-year recipient of the prestigious Rockford Area Music Industry (RAMI) Awards, including a 2019 induction into the RAMI Hall of Fame, Sunset Strip's commitment to authenticity and showmanship is undeniable. With their flamboyant stage presence, killer riffs, and nostalgic anthems, Sunset Strip stands as a tribute to the enduring spirit of 80s rock, unleashing the grit, glam, and irresistible energy of a bygone era.

July 24 @ 5 to 10 p.m. Dinner on the Dock featuring Indika

Indika Reggae Band, formed in 1990, is one of the Midwest's most influential reggae bands, blending reggae, soca, calypso, R&B, jazz, and more. Led by the dynamic Uroy Mushla, the band's diverse lineup and energetic performances have earned them numerous awards.

After expanding in 2010, Indika became the premier backing band for artists like Bushman, Gregory Isaacs, and Lady Saw.

They've played iconic venues such as The Wild Hare and Navy Pier and performed at festivals across the Midwest and southern U.S.

July 31 @ 5 to 10 p.m. Dinner on the Dock featuring Harlan Jefferson

Harlan Jefferson is a versatile saxophonist, flutist, vocalist, composer, and actor known for his soulful artistry and heartfelt performances. Blending jazz, hip hop, and funk, Harlan creates soothing music that combines melody with spontaneous expression. Recently, he has made his mark on the Chicago scene with his neo-soul group So So Tight, performing at venues like Anthony's Jazz Club, the Cotton Club, and The Back Room.

Harlan's 2004 appearance on BET's The Bobby Jones Show launched his career, and he continues to grow with upcoming college tours and corporate gigs.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Whether you're sitting down for dinner, relaxing in the lounge, finding a spot on the lower dock, or pulling up by boat, there's no better place to be on a Thursday night than Dinner on the Dock.

DINNER ON THE DOCK • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9**AUGUST 2025****Aug. 7 @ 5 to 10 p.m.
Dinner on the Dock
featuring The Tree Dogs**

Formed in 2016, The Tree Dogs are dedicated to preserving the art of Rock and Roll. Hailing from Rockford, IL, the hometown of pop/rock legends Cheap Trick, the band blends a mix of everything they've heard on the radio to create their own unique brand of rock.

**Aug. 14 @ 5 to 10 p.m.
Dinner on the Dock
featuring Miles Nilesen
& The Rusted Hearts**

Rockford-based Miles Nielsen has spent nearly a decade captivating audiences with music that blends Western-influenced rock and classic '60s soul. Drawing influences from Otis Redding's soul and Jellyfish's power pop, Nielsen has released two critically acclaimed albums – his 2009 solo debut and 2012's Miles Nielsen and the Rusted Hearts.

The band's chemistry has grown over the years, featuring Nielsen's past solo songs into vivid, full-band anthems.

Raised in a musical family, Miles' background in classical voice and recording engineering shines through in his heartfelt vocals and pristine production. His work is a testament to his talent as both a musician and songwriter.

**Aug. 21 @ 5 to 10 p.m.
Dinner on the Dock
featuring Lola Blu**

Lola Blu, a rising country singer-songwriter from Rockford, is quickly making

a name for herself with her striking voice, effortless elegance, and captivating stage presence.

Drawing inspiration from artists like Lainey Wilson, Miranda Lambert, and Whiskey Myers, she blends country and southern rock with her own unique flair. Known for transforming personal stories into relatable anthems, Lola's lyrics explore love, heartbreak, and self-discovery, resonating with listeners across genres. With accolades from The Josie Music Awards and growing recognition in the industry, Lola has already shared the stage with artists like Terri Clark and Mackenzie Carpenter. Her debut singles, "Better Believe" and "3," along with her highly anticipated EP Good Ole Days, have earned attention from over 60 radio stations. With her band backing her, Lola Blu's electrifying performances and mesmerizing presence make her an artist to watch.

**Aug. 28 @ 5 to 10 p.m.
Dinner on the Dock
featuring Random AF**

Random AF is a high-energy cover band from Rockford, Illinois, known for their electrifying performances that blend Funk, Classic Rock, and Pop. With a dynamic mix of favorites and hidden gems from the 1970s to today, the band creates an atmosphere of pure fun and excitement, keeping the crowd moving all night long.

As the 2024 People's Choice and Funk/R&B RAMI award winners, Random AF has made their mark in the local music scene, bringing infectious energy and diverse sounds to every show. With a nomination for Female Vocalist in the 2025 RAMI awards, they're set to continue their journey of musical success

and high-energy performances.

SEPTEMBER 2025**Sept. 4 @ 5 to 10 p.m.
Dinner on the Dock
featuring Flannel Daze**

FLANNEL DAZE is a Rock-Alternative and Grunge cover band from Rockford, Illinois, specializing in the hits of the 1990s. With decades of combined experience, the band brings a high-energy performance with a repertoire of over 60 songs, making it easy to fill a four-hour show.

Known for their passion for learning new music, Flannel Daze delivers top-notch sound by partnering with professional sound engineers and using high-quality gear for every performance.

The band has earned recognition by winning the Tribute (Genre) category at the Rockford Area Music Industry (RAMI) Awards for four consecutive years, from 2020 to 2023.

**Sept. 11 @ 5 to 10 p.m.
Docktoberfest
featuring Die Musikmeisters**

Die Musikmeisters is a lively German band performing traditional instrumental and vocal songs in the Chicago area and available to travel throughout the Midwest and U.S.

They perform at Oktoberfest events, corporate functions, weddings, festivals, and more. Offering a range of sizes from a three-piece to a nine-piece band, Die Musikmeisters delivers an entertaining blend of German polkas, waltzes, marches, dance music, and American favorites.

With over 500 songs in their repertoire, including classics like "Edelweiss," "Beer Barrel Polka," and "Ein Prosit," the band



sings in both German and English, and can incorporate dixieland and American tunes upon request.

What if it rains?

Sometimes weather happens! If needed, we'll move the party inside. If the event is canceled, we'll post an update as soon as possible.

Come as you are, stay as long as you like!

Dinner on the Dock is all about good people, good times, and good vibes on the river. Whether you're coming straight from work, meeting friends for a night out, or just looking for a place to soak up summer, you're in the right place.



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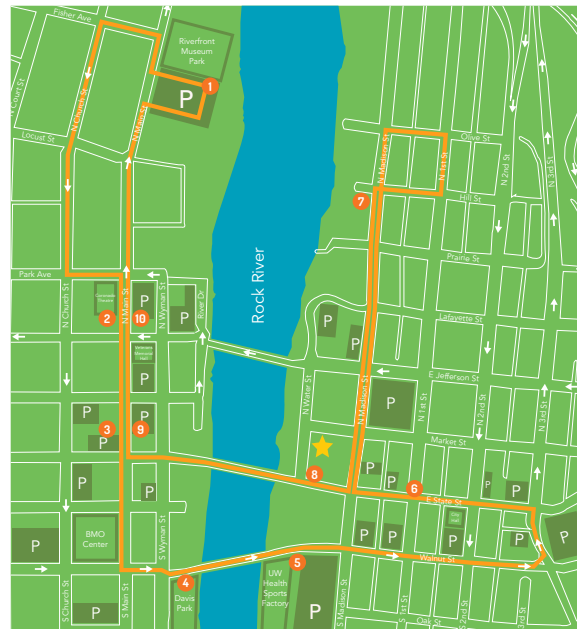
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Rockford City Market FREE RMTD Shuttle Schedule

rockfordcitymarket.com



Shuttle Route Dates
Fridays from May 16 -
Sept 5, 2025

Service Time
4:00 - 9:22 p.m.

Purpose
To serve Rockford
City Market, Museum
Campus, Davis Park, and
Downtown businesses.

MAP KEY

- Shuttle route
- P Shuttle stop
- ★ Rockford City Market location
- P Public parking
- Parks/Attractions
- One way street

1 Riverfront Museum Campus	4:00	4:25	4:50	5:15	5:40	6:05	6:30	6:55	7:20	7:45	8:10	8:35	9:00
2 Coronado Theatre	4:04	4:29	4:54	5:19	5:44	6:09	6:34	6:59	7:24	7:49	8:14	8:39	9:04
3 RPL Nordif Center	4:08	4:31	4:56	5:21	5:46	6:11	6:36	7:01	7:26	7:51	8:16	8:41	9:06
4 Davis Park	4:10	4:35	5:00	5:25	5:50	6:15	6:40	7:05	7:30	7:55	8:20	8:45	9:10
5 UH Health Sports Factory	4:11	4:36	5:01	5:26	5:51	6:16	6:41	7:06	7:31	7:56	8:21	8:46	9:11
6 E. State & 2nd St.	4:15	4:40	5:05	5:30	5:55	6:20	6:45	7:10	7:35	8:00	8:25	8:50	9:15
7 Madison & Hill St.	4:17	4:42	5:07	5:32	5:57	6:22	6:47	7:12	7:37	8:02	8:27	8:52	9:17
8 Rockford City Market	4:19	4:44	5:09	5:34	5:59	6:24	6:49	7:14	7:39	8:04	8:29	8:54	9:19
9 RPL Nordif Center	4:20	4:45	5:10	5:35	6:00	6:25	6:50	7:15	7:40	8:05	8:30	8:55	9:20
10 Coronado Theatre	4:22	4:47	5:12	5:37	6:02	6:27	6:52	7:17	7:42	8:07	8:32	8:57	9:22

Presented by



Rockford City Market open for the season

The Rockford City Market outdoor season began on May 16 and runs weekly through Friday, Sept. 5 this summer (excluding July 4).

The market takes place in downtown Rockford in the Rockford City Market pavilion, 100 N. Water St., and the adjacent area, from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The 16th season of the market opened with 55 vendors, 18 of them new to the event, selling local goods, food and drinks. Live music at two stages, weekly rotating activities by the Rockford Park District, local food, beer and wine are part of the fun.

RMTD is running its free trolley in a route around the downtown area to provide easy transportation to local businesses and the Market. Please see attached map.

"We are thrilled to be back celebrating another season of local business and people coming together in the heart of our community. Market goers will be able to check out 18 new vendors, along with many returning favorites. We encourage everyone to once again Meet us at the Market," said Cathy McDermott, Interim Executive Director.

A complete list of vendors can be found by

visiting: <https://www.rockfordcitymarket.com/vendor-list>.

For more information on the market, visit <https://www.rockfordcitymarket.com/rockford-city-market-fridays>

The Rockford City Market was founded and is operated by The Rock River Development Partnership, a 501c3 organization, which works to bring vibrancy to downtown Rockford with a weekly market tradition that draws people in the heart of the city, increases business at downtown shops and restaurants, and serves as an incubator for new businesses.



The 16th season of the Rockford City Market opened with 55 vendors, 18 of them new to the market this year. The vendors sell local goods, eats and drinks. Live music takes place on two stages.

CITY MARKET PHOTO
Area Visitors Guide

Sculpted On an Ancient Prairie



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RESERVE YOUR BAY TODAY!

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



Atwood Park in Rochelle

FRIDAY, AUG. 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, AUG. 16

- Car Show 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Craft & Vendor Show 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Cornhole Tourney 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, AUG. 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.

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