

YOUR SPRING CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign County area

April-June 2023

visit **champaign** county

YOU'RE WELCOME 

yourewelcomeCU.com

MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



BONEYARD ARTS FESTIVAL

April 14-16 | boneyardartsfestival.org

Hundreds of artists showcase their talents at venues all over the county. Shop and be inspired by the many artists that call C-U home.



EBERTFEST

April 19-22 | ebertfest.com

At this annual film festival, featuring special guests like Frank Oz, movie lovers will be flocking to the Virginia Theatre for four full days of film.

CHRISTIE CLINIC ILLINOIS RACE WEEKEND

April 27-29 | illinoismarathon.com

Break out your running shoes and take part in the races, from a 1-mile and 5K on Friday night, or for the half-marathon, marathon relay, and youth run on Saturday. Don't run? Volunteer!



FARMERS MARKET SEASON KICK-OFF

urbanamarket.org & landconnection.org

With a farmers market happening every day, Tuesday-Saturday, you'll have plenty of access to local foods. Urbana's Market at the Square kicks off May 6, and the Champaign Market is set for May 16.



PEONIES AT ALLERTON

Mid-May | allerton.illinois.edu

Discover dozens of varieties of peonies when they bloom at Allerton Park & Retreat Center. Blooms typically happen in mid-May, so plan to attend their Picnic with the Peonies May 20-21.



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

June 2-August 25 | 40north.org

Downtown Champaign comes alive every Friday this summer with local bands at 3 locations. Dance and sing along as you dine al fresco!



MAHOMET SODA FEST

June 10 | visitmahomet.com

From root beers to cream sodas and all the unique flavors in between, this fun festival will get you sipping sodas from around the country with food trucks and fun entertainment to balance the sugar high.



Did you know?

- Frederick Douglass visited Champaign on February 15, 1869, at Barrett Hall, located above what was Henry Swannell's Drug Store, now One Main Plaza. It was reported that, "His wit was keen and sparkling, his humor dry and effective, and his logic and argument as clear as that of the most polished orator in the land." Learn more about the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail at ccafricanamericanheritage.org.
- The new Champaign-Urbana job board features all job openings available in Champaign County in all industries and job functions. You can set up alerts to get notified of any applicable jobs to be delivered to your inbox. Learn more at yourewelcomecu.com/jobs.



COMMUNITY RANKINGS

- The Champaign Public Library Awarded 4 Stars and is in the top 3% nationwide (*Library Journal*)
- Champaign County ranked #16 on "40 Places Young People are Moving." (*USA Today*)
- The graduate program in library and information science at the School of Information Sciences (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) is ranked 1st in the nation. (*U.S. News & World Report Rankings*)
- Parkland College has been recognized as the #2 Precision Agriculture community college in the country. (*PrecisionAg.com*)

Want more ideas for events & activities?
visitchampaigncounty.org

Learn more about community rankings & innovations
+ search for jobs:
yourewelcomecu.com

TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

NAYA Indian Cuisine

212 E. Green St., Champaign

This re-imagined space on Green St. is highlighting traditional Indian flavors through curries, breads, samosas, vindaloo, as well as teas and other traditional beverages.

Fiesta Café

216 S. First St., Champaign | facebook.com/fiestacafechampaign

Often cited by guests as a favorite on the Chambana Proud podcast, Fiesta Café serves up both authentic and delicious Mexican cuisine, but also a welcoming atmosphere to all.

Ye Olde Donut Shoppe

1401 S. Neil St., Champaign | facebook.com/yeoldedonutshoppe

Everyone needs some donuts in their life. This shop is the original handmade donut in Champaign-Urbana dating back to 1956.

Smoky's House BBQ

1333 Savoy Plaza Ln., Savoy | smokysbbqsavoy.com

A hidden gem, this BBQ spot hickory smokes brisket, chicken, polish sausage, turkey, and burnt ends. Try it on a horseshoe over Texas Toast for a real treat.

Seven Saints

32 E. Chester St. | sevensaintsbar.com

It's patio season and there's no more cozy spot than Seven Saints in downtown Champaign. Sit outside with a cocktail while you enjoy their signature salads and sliders.

Sun Singer Restaurant

1115 W. Windsor Rd., Champaign | sunsingerwines.com

A glass of wine on the patio with friends is the best way to end the work day. Check out this classic spot for brunch, lunch, or dinner and shop their impressive wine collection while there.

83 Vietnamese

2502 Village Green Pl., Champaign | 83viet.com

Mother and son run this tasty spot, highlighting their own recipes for Pho, Banh-Mi, Wonton Noodle Soup and more. Once you go, you'll go back over and over again.

ET's Downtown

107 E. Sangamon Ave., Rantoul | etsdowntownrantoul.com

Spending time at the Rantoul Family Sports Complex this spring? You'll surely need to stop at ET's Downtown to refuel with elevated tavern fare, perfect for the whole family.

Bunny's Tavern

119 W. Water St., Urbana | bunnystavern.com

Their burgers get rave reviews, but the fried pickles are a special treat. Enjoy a day at this long-time tavern in the heart of downtown Urbana any time of day.

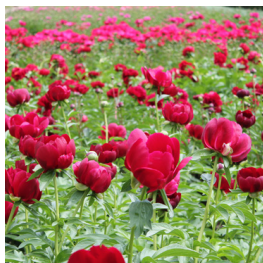
The Main Scoop

403 E. Main St., Mahomet | themainscoopmahomet.com

As the days warm up the treats get cooler. Get your ice cream fix at The Main Scoop in Mahomet with handmade waffle cones and a rotating list of flavors to keep you coming back.

Spring Photo Spots

Check out these spots, or any on our checklist, and share on Instagram with #outsideofordinary and #yourewelcomecu!



Clockwise from top left

1. Japan House & Arboretum
2. Wolly Mammoth at Natural History Building
3. Campus mural along Boneyard Creek
4. Allerton Park & Retreat Center

THE SUMMER NEW TO CU MIXER *At Riggs Beer Company*

New to the greater Champaign-Urbana area since 2020? Join us to meet and network with other newcomers for live music and networking at Riggs Beer Company on July 10 from 5:00-7:00pm, sponsored by Think Urbana. The Chambana Welcome Crew will be on hand to answer your community questions, as well as some special guests to help welcome you. *Food is on us!*



RSVP

STAY ACTIVE

Get some fresh air with many opportunities to get outdoors and check out our parks and preserves. Here's our top spots to get rejuvenated this spring.

Crystal Lake Park Boathouse | urbanaparks.org

Paddle boats and canoe rentals open Memorial Day Weekend

Mountain Bike in Sullivan | mtbproject.com/trail/4416102/camp-camfield

Check out Camp Camfield with over 8 miles of trails perfect for mountain biking.

Hike at Homer Lake | ccfpd.org

Numerous trails wind through Homer Lake to explore. Kids can play at the Natural Playscape!