

YOUR SPRING CHECKLIST

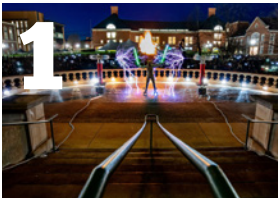
in the greater Champaign-Urbana area

April–July 2024

MAKE IT
CHAMPAIGN
URBANA



MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



ENGINEERING OPEN HOUSE

April 5–6 | eohillinois.org

Discover the latest in engineering feats at this student run event on campus. Don't miss the popular Tesla Coil concert for an awe-inspiring display.

BONEYARD ARTS FESTIVAL

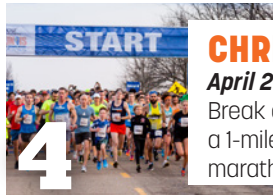
April 12–14 | boneyardartsfestival.org

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 FILM FESTIVAL

April 17–20 | 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 25–17 | 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 full or half marathon, marathon relay, 10K and youth run on Saturday. Don't run? Volunteer!

FARMERS MARKETS

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 4, and the Champaign Market is set for May 14.



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Returns May 31 | 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!



Junteenth Celebration

June 15 | champaignparks.com

Celebrate Junteenth with the entire community with this event held at Douglass Park. Live music, community vendors, food trucks, and much more will be on hand.



Did you know?

- ∴ The Champaign-Urbana area has over 200 pieces of public art. From sculpture to murals to utility box wraps, there are so many opportunities to find these in our landscape. Check out the new Art in CU pass for a guide to finding them all, with prizes! Download at experiencecu.org/experience-passes.
- ∴ Champaign-Urbana was designated as a Tech Hub in biomanufacturing by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. iFab is one of 31 newly designated Tech Hubs identified to accelerate regional innovation and growth and is poised to grow Illinois bioprocessing into a best-in-the-world hub for fermentation manufacturing.
- ∴ At Allerton Park & Retreat Center volunteers and workers plant 12,000 summer annuals, 5,000 bulbs and 500 mums each fall, and 100 trees every spring. They spread over 140 cubic yards of mulch, prune 10,250 linear feet of hedge, pull weeds in over 80,000 square feet of planting beds, and mow 45 acres of turf grass weekly. Check out their stunning peony garden in mid-May to see dozens of varieties on display.
- ∴ The Mahomet Aquifer sustains drinking water for nearly 500,000 residents and drives agricultural activities vital to the region's economy. A new technology, helicopter-based time-domain electromagnetics (HTEM) is mapping the eastern portion of the aquifer to assist in critical and equitable water management and governance.

Want more ideas for events & activities?
experiencecu.org

Learn more about the community+ search for jobs:
makeitcu.com

TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

Napoli's Italian Restaurant

107 S. Neil St., Champaign | napolisitalianchampaign.com

From pizza to pasta and everything in between, this new Italian spot in Champaign will help you carb up before a run or simply enjoy a night out.

Tenkyu Izakaya

301 N. Neil St., Champaign | tenkyu.cafe

The newest spot in downtown Champaign, Tenkyu features Japanese cuisine with an impressive list of small plates, specialty entrées featuring many delicacies.

Lucky Moon Café

703 Eastwood Dr., Mahomet | luckymoonpies.com

A longtime favorite for pies in the area, this new café now offers a dine-in experience for a sweet or savory meal, and is an ideal destination to meet friends.

Tres Nopales

114 S. Race St., Urbana | tresnopales.com

In the heart of downtown Urbana, you'll discover this authentic Mexican spot, waiting with margaritas and a wide variety of dishes to satisfy your cravings.

Just Yolkin'

2501 Village Green Pl., Champaign | justyolkin.com

Need a new breakfast spot? Look no further than Just Yolkin' in Champaign where you'll find heaping French toast covered with fruit, alongside omelets and other breakfast favorites.

Market St. Grill

125 S. Market St., Paxton | marketstreetgrillpaxton.com

This new spot in Paxton, just 30 minutes north of Champaign, offers big flavor in a small town. Check out this popular restaurant while shopping in the growing downtown.

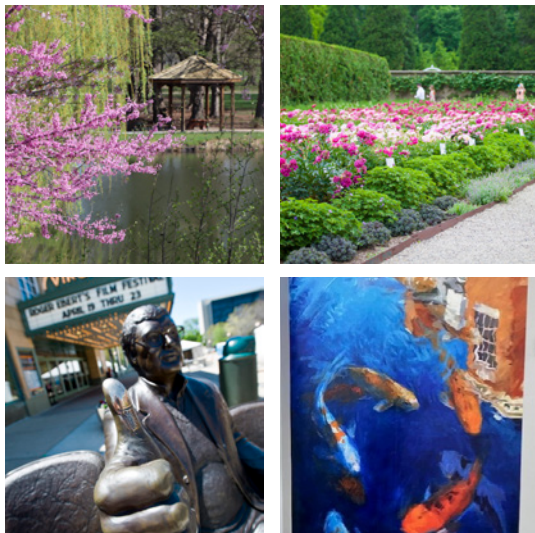
Alto Vineyards

4210 N. Duncan Rd., Champaign | altovineyards.net

With grapes grown at their vineyards in Southern Illinois, this taproom is the perfect happy hour spot and offers live music and other special events throughout the year.

Selfie Spots

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



Clockwise from top left

1. Japan House Gardens
2. Allerton Park Peony Garden
3. Ebert Statue at The Virginia Theatre
4. Art on the Fly at Willard Airport

Stay Active & Involved

Stay active and outside this winter in our recreational spots across the area. Also, check out the many volunteer opportunities throughout the community.

Recreational Activities

Kingfisher Kayak

kingfisherkayaking.com

Take a guided adventure down the Sangamon River with Kingfisher Kayak out of Mahomet.

Hike at Homer Lake

2573 S. Homer Lake Rd., Homer | ccfpd.org

With miles of hiking trails, Homer Lake is the perfect spot to enjoy the spring air and see flowers in bloom.

Swim at Sholem Aquatic Center

2205 Sangamon Dr., Champaign | champaignparks.org

Come Memorial Day, get ready to cool down and go for a swim at Champaign Park District's Sholem Aquatic Center.

Volunteer Opportunities

Illini GivePulse

Check out opportunities across the community on this new resource from the University of Illinois at illinois.givepulse.com.

United Way of Champaign County

Get a list of community organizations needing volunteers at uwayhelps.org/volunteer

PLUG INTO

Job Board + Community Job Application + Chambana Welcome Crew + New to CU Mixers + Chambana Proud Podcast + Chambana Proud Shop

makeitcu.com