

YOUR SPRING CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign County area

April-June 2021

visit **champaign** county

YOU'RE WELCOME 

yourewelcomeCU.com

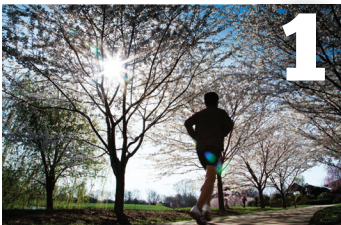
MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

1

CHERRY BLOSSOMS AT THE JAPAN HOUSE

April | japanhouse.illinois.edu

Each spring, the Japan House goes on Sakura Watch, waiting for the cherry blossoms to bloom in their gardens adjacent to the Arboretum.

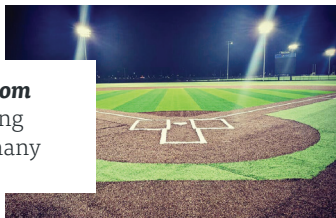


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RANTOUL FAMILY SPORTS COMPLEX

Grand Opening | rantoulsportscomplex.com

Check out the state-of-the-art facility during their opening weekend on April 17, with many amenities for families to enjoy!



3

DINING AL FRESCO

Warmer weather means the return of outdoor dining. With safety standards in place, you can dine outdoors in our downtown districts and through the community to support our local, award-winning culinary scene.



4

GARDEN WALKS AT ALLERTON PARK

allerton.illinois.edu

As the peonies bloom in May at Allerton Park, stroll these gardens or take part in their scheduled Third Saturday Garden Tours from April-October.



5

BONEYARD ARTS FESTIVAL

June 17-20 | boneyardartsfestival.org

This spring event moves to June for 2021 to allow for safety precautions. Discover over 100 local artists and over 80 venues across Champaign County. Shop and admire our own talented artists.



LIVE MUSIC

Live music makes a return to the outdoors this summer! Stay tuned for updates for concert series in our parks, Friday Night Live, and at our live music venues.

6

GO FOR A BIKE RIDE

Break out your bike, or hop on a rental, and check out area trails including the Kickapoo Rail Trail, Boulware Trail in Champaign, and the Mahomet Trail.

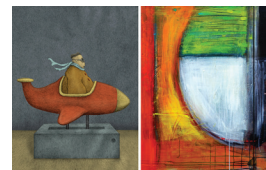


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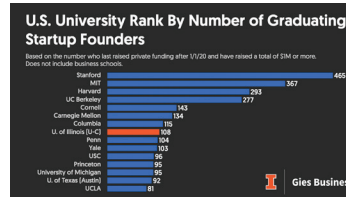
Did you know?

- Art Mart in Champaign is the second-oldest women-owned business in Illinois. With a bakery, deli, vast wine selection, toys and games, housewares, and boutique shopping, it's a one-stop shop for many!
- In the Midwest, we go from heat to air-conditioning pretty quickly, and you can thank University of Illinois faculty member, Dr. Seichi Konzo. His research focused on forced-air heating and the loss of air pressure flowing through sheet-metal ducts, pre-dating the commercial release of air-conditioning by 20 years.
- 40 North and Willard Airport collaborated to showcase local art. Check out Art on the Fly, featuring the work of two local artists, EKAH and Hua Nian, as you head through security.
- The New American Welcome Center was designated an Illinois Welcoming Center by the Illinois Department of Human Services for advocating for expanded funding to benefit immigrant communities outside the Chicago area.



COMMUNITY RANKINGS

- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign was ranked #8 in the U.S. for Graduating Startup Founders (Crunchbase)
- Thrillist named the historic downtown district in Urbana as one of their most beautiful places in Illinois to visit (February 2021)



Want more ideas for events & activities?
visitchampaigncounty.org

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

TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

KoFusion

1 E. Main St., Champaign | kofusion.com

With a location in downtown Champaign and in campustown, KoFusion serves up fresh sushi and Asian dishes. Check out dollar sushi on Sunday & Monday nights!

25 O'Clock Brewery

208 W. Griggs St., Urbana | 25oclock.net

The newest brewery in the area, 25 O'Clock Brewing Company is off the Boneyard Creek in Urbana. Like the community they serve, they offer a diverse line-up of local beers from Blondie Johnson, a Belgian-style blonde, to Wee Heavy, a Scottish-style strong ale.

Murphy's Pub

604 E. Green St., Champaign | murphyspubuofi.com

Since 1969, Murphy's Pub has been a mainstay on Green St. in campustown. Students and alumni alike gather to watch Illini games, or just grab a pint with their popular burgers.

Legacy Pizzeria

2501 Village Green Pl., Champaign | legacypizzeria.com

This new deep-dish pizza stop in the Crossing in Southwest Champaign has gained many new fans. Their gluten free pizza is also a huge hit!



Silvercreek

402 N. Race St., Urbana
couriersilvercreek.com

This fine dining restaurant in Urbana utilizes fresh ingredients from their garden. A popular brunch spot, Silvercreek also hosts private parties in their beautiful greenhouse.



Analog Wine Bar

129 N. Race St., Urbana | analogurbana.com

Wine lovers will love this chill space, combining the aesthetics of a library with a wine bar. You can also pick up a bottle or two to bring home.

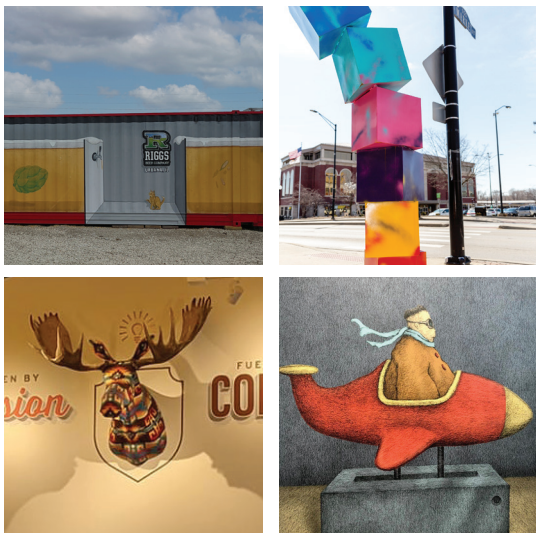
Aroma Café

6 Taylor St., Champaign | aroma-cafe.com

This popular café combined spaces with Cowboy Monkey during the pandemic, but still serves up their broad array of coffee drinks, soups, salads, and sandwiches.

Selfie Spots

Check out these spots, or any on our spring checklist, and share on Instagram with #outsideofordinary and #yourewelcomecu for a chance to win a Champaign Proud t-shirt!



Clockwise from top left

1. Riggs Beer Company
2. Tip-See outside Pour Bros. Taproom
3. Lodgic Everyday Community
4. Willard Airport (Art on the Fly)

STAY ACTIVE & INVOLVED

With COVID-19 continuing to be a presence in the community, there are many volunteer needs across the county.

Volunteer Opportunities

CU One-to-One Mentoring

The C-U One-to-One Mentoring is the school-based mentoring program of the Champaign Unit 4 and Urbana District #116 Schools. It is about building relationships of trust between a young person and an adult for the purpose of providing support, encouragement and guidance. [Learn more at cu1to1.org](http://cu1to1.org).

iRead • iCount

The iRead • iCount program puts volunteers in the classroom working directly with students to help close the achievement gap. Community members spend one hour a week going into primary schools to help early learners with their basic reading and math skills. All volunteers are trained using a specially designed curriculum. A weekly, one-hour commitment by the volunteers can make a world of difference to children who are having difficulties with their early learning competencies. [Learn more at champaigncounty.org/iread-icount](http://champaigncounty.org/iread-icount).