

YOUR SPRING CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign County area

April-June 2022

visit **champaign** county

YOU'RE WELCOME 

yourewelcomeCU.com

MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



1 BONEYARD ARTS FESTIVAL

April 1-3 | 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.



2 EBERTFEST

April 20-23 | ebertfest.com

With guests Guillermo del Toro, Terry Zwigoff, and Ramin Bahrani at this annual film festival, movie lovers will be flocking to the Virginia Theatre for four-full days of film.

CHRISTIE CLINIC ILLINOIS RACE WEEKEND

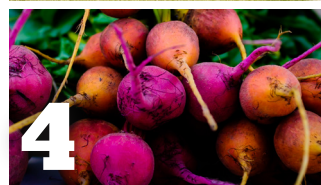
April 28-30 | illinoismarathon.com

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!



MARKET SEASON BEGINS!

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 on May 6, and the Champaign Market is set for May 18.



5 EXPLORE CAMPUSTOWN

May 26-August 18 | champaigncenter.com

Every Thursday explore Campustown with 13 Thursdays. Discover new restaurants, shop in the local boutiques, and spend some time on the Quad.



6

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

June 3-August 26 | 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!

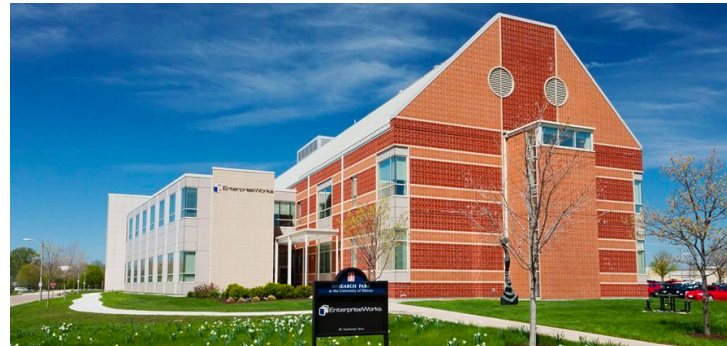
STREETFEST

June 11 | champaignparks.com

Returning to downtown Champaign twice this summer, the first installment of Streetfest will takeover Neil & Main St. with live music and plenty of ways to enjoy our local eateries.



7



Did you know?

- The University of Illinois Research Park is home to 120+ companies, from startup to Fortune 500, employing over 2,100 people in high-technology careers. Multinational and/or publicly traded corporations in the Research Park include ADM, Capital One, Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, NVIDIA, P&G, State Farm, and Verizon Media Group/Yahoo.
- Champaign County has a Welcoming Plan that provides a framework to pursue a more equitable and inclusive future. It serves as a guide for all of Champaign County to take actionable steps forward in building community of belonging, where all of us—no matter where we come from—have equal opportunity to thrive. 25,552 immigrants live in Champaign County, roughly 12% of the population.
- University of Illinois Willard Airport (CMI) is serviced by American Airlines and offers daily flight to Chicago O'Hare (ORD) and Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW).

COMMUNITY RANKINGS

- Champaign Public Library was awarded 3 stars and is in the top 4.5% of libraries nationwide (*Library Journal*)
- Champaign-Urbana metro ranked #17 in Creative Class (*Heartland Forward*)
- The Champaign County History Museum was named the 2022 Small Museum of the Year by the Illinois Association of Museums

Want more ideas for events & activities?

Check out visitchampaigncounty.org.

Learn more about community rankings & innovations:

yourewelcomecu.com

TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

La Bahia Grill

132 W. Church St., Champaign | sites.google.com/view/labahiagrill
Specializing in Nayarit-style seafood, this new Mexican spot in downtown Champaign will surprise and delight you with these authentic flavors.

Mama Meta Canteen

2302 W. John St., Champaign | mmetascanteencu.com
This new Congolese spot operates out of a Ghost Kitchen at the Refinery in Champaign. They work with local farmers to ensure the freshest flavors in their African-inspired dishes.

Sakura Japanese Cuisine

132 W. Main St., Urbana | sakurajapanesecuisineil.com
Another new spot, Sakura offers authentic Japanese cuisine from sushi and sashimi to ramen and bento all in a beautiful space in downtown Urbana.

Ott's Drive In

400 N. Century Blvd., Rantoul | otts-drive-in.square.site
Everyone loves a good diner, and this is a good diner. Located in Rantoul this breakfast and lunch spot can get you on the stools at the counter to enjoy a Haystack or Fish Sandwich that won't leave you hungry.

Paris Super Crepes

601 S. 6th St., Champaign | parissupercrepes.com
Whether you're craving sweet or savory, this campustown spot has a treat for you. Don't miss their Milk Tea beverages to top off the experience.



Homegrown

2600 S. Stone Creek Blvd., Urbana | eatathomegrown.com
From the owners of The Wheelhouse, Homegrown is a new farm-to-table restaurant located at the Atkins Golf Course in Urbana. Take advantage of a regularly rotating menu featuring seasonal ingredients!

Collective Pour + Weird Meat Boyz Kitchen

340 N. Neil St., Champaign | collectivepour.com
When you need a happy hour, check out Collective Pour in downtown Champaign with 40 beers on tap. Check out the food from Weird Meat Boyz who took over their kitchen with sandwiches utilizing their signature sauces.

Smith Burger Co. Food Truck

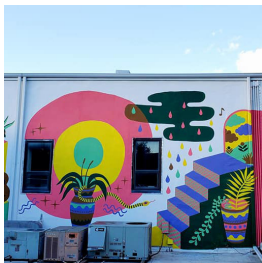
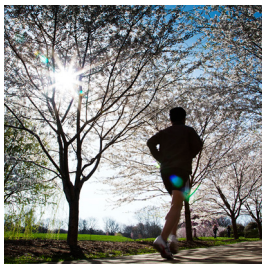
smithburgerco.com
Moving all around Champaign County, this popular food truck treats their fans to their smash burgers like the Bacon Mac Attack and the Spicy Greenga. Track them down stat and learn why they have so many dedicated followers.

Watson's Chicken Food Truck

watsonschicken.com
Bringing their popular fried-chicken to a food truck, you'll now be able to enjoy their menu on campus and at Rose Bowl Tavern every week. Check their schedule to make your plans!

Selfie Spots

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



Clockwise from top left

1. Cherry blossoms at the Japan House
2. Allerton Park Peony Garden
3. CDUZO Mural at Downtown Urbana Parking Deck
4. Block I at Willard Airport

STAY ACTIVE & INVOLVED

Weather is warming so it's time to get outdoors through the many parks & preserves. Also, check out the many volunteer opportunities throughout the community.

Outdoor Activities

Allerton Park & Retreat Center

515 Old Timber Rd., Monticello | allerton.illinois.edu

Lake of the Woods & Mabery Botanical Gardens

109 S. Lake of the Woods Rd., Mahomet | ccfpd.org

Arboretum & Japan House

2001 S. Lincoln Ave., Urbana | arboretum.illinois.edu

Volunteer Opportunities

Chrisite Clinic Illinois Race Weekend

illinoismarathon.com

Not running? Volunteer to help with the many needs of this large, community event.

University of Illinois Office of Volunteer Programs

union.illinois.edu/get-involved/office-of-volunteer-programs