

YOUR SUMMER CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign County area

July-September 2020

visit **champaign** county

YOU'RE WELCOME 

yourewelcomeCU.com

MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



SHOP THE FARMERS MARKETS

urbanamarket.org & landconnection.org

Utilizing safety precautions, our area farmers markets are open! Pick up the freshest seasonal produce, flowers, bread, meat, cheese and more at Urbana's Market at the Square every Saturday from 7am-noon, and Champaign's Farmers Market on Tuesdays from 3-6pm.

CAMP UNDER THE STARS

Middle Fork River Campground | ccfpd.org

Middle Fork River Forest Preserve in Penfield is Illinois' only International Dark Sky Park. As the best place in the state to glimpse the night sky, you can camp under the stars in their campground.



HIT THE LINKS

visitchampaigncounty.org

Seven public golf courses around the greater Champaign County area are ready to welcome your group. From the scenic course at Willow Pond in Rantoul to the University of Illinois Golf Course, you'll be sure to find a challenge.

PICK SOME APPLES

Opens July 20 | curtisorchard.com

This local favorite for apples and pumpkins makes a safe return on July 20. Follow their guidelines for picking apples, which peaks in August & September.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING

visitchampaigncounty.org

We're all ready to go back to school and to the office. Spruce up your wardrobe in our many locally-owned boutiques around the area. Staying home? Make it homier with plenty of shops to help you decorate.



PYGMALION

September 24-26 | thisispygmalion.com

Moving virtual for year 15, this popular event shifts towards interactive Q&A, immersive virtual theatre, while featuring a virtual makers fair, and keeping their popular hackathon.



HOT ROD POWER TOUR

August 27 | hotrod.com

For the fourth time, the Hot Rod Power Tour will stop in Champaign. Check out over 2,000 hot rods on display at the State Farm Center!



Did you know?

- Discover the many businesses around Champaign County that have committed to the safety of employees and customers by taking the Champaign County Safe Pledge at ChampaignCountySafe.org.
- Buy Black Chambana provides an excellent resource for supporting local black-owned businesses at buyblackchambana.com.
- It's easy to support local businesses during COVID-19. Check out the Facebook Group, Champaign County Rallies Around Restaurants, Retailers, Small Businesses!
- Show your pride in Champaign-Urbana with this new tote bag design available at ChambanaProud.com. Designed by local artist, David Michael Moore, the map design features our favorite spots around C-U!



COMMUNITY RANKINGS

- Champaign-Urbana named #5 best place to live in America post-pandemic (*Business Insider*)
- Farren's Pub & Eatery named Top Burger Restaurant in Illinois (*TripAdvisor*)
- Champaign County ranked #16 on "40 Places Young People are Moving" list (*USA Today*)
- Champaign-Urbana ranked #2 Startup City for startup and entrepreneurial activity (*Silicon Prairie News*)



Want more ideas for events & activities?
visitchampaigncounty.org

Learn more about community rankings & innovations:
yourewelcomecu.com

TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

Featuring Black-Owned Restaurants

Caribbean Grill | 2135 S. Neil St., Champaign
caribbeangrill.net | 217-960-5375

What originally started as a food truck, charmed the community with their authentic island style cuisine, they opened a brick and mortar restaurant, serving up their popular jerk-spiced dishes.

Stango Cuisine | 140 Lincoln Sq. Mall, Urbana
stangocu.com | 217-600-7949

The only Zambian restaurant in the United States, this new favorite serves up savory oxtail, alongside Nshima, a polenta-like side dish, an African staple.

Neil St. Blues | 301 N. Neil St., Champaign
neilstblues.com | 217-531-1150

Serving up soul food with a side of blues, this stop in downtown Champaign will impress you with their perfectly executed dishes from Chef Curtis McGhee.

Wood N' Hog Barbecue | 500 N. Walnut, Champaign & 101 W. University Ave., Urbana
woodnhogbarbecue.com | 217-607-0120 & 217-367-1018

This brother and sister team brought their Chicago flavors to this stop. What started as a small neighborhood BBQ spot now has two locations thanks to strong community support.



Brien's Bistro
briensbistro.com | 217-331-6334

This new food truck will bring you some comfort. Their loaded mac n' cheese, pot roast sandwich and yum yum chicken sandwich are must-haves!

Rumberger's Wings | 2502 Village Green Pl., Champaign | 217-354-6190 | rumbergerswings.com

These hand-seasoned wings are cooked to perfection. Champaign is the third location in Central Illinois for this family-owned business.

Cool Bliss Popped Bliss | 1506 S. Neil St., Champaign | 217-607-5397 | facebook.com/CBPBPopcornShop

The only popcorn shop in Champaign, CBPB will leave you craving their flavored popcorns. Pick up their caramel apples while there, or order a gift basket for a friend or colleague!

Selfie Spots

Check out these spots, or any on our summer checklist, and share on Instagram with #outsideofordinary and #yourewelcomecu for a chance to win a \$100 gift card to a local restaurant + a Chambana Proud t-shirt!



Clockwise from top left

1. Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch
2. Prairie Gardens
3. Fountain at Alice Campbell Alumni Center
4. Block I at Grange Grove

STAY ACTIVE & INVOLVED

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous volunteering opportunities have arisen, in addition to those organizations that continue to have needs. Check out our recommendations!

Volunteer Opportunities

CU Better Together
cuvolunteer.org

Volunteers need to pack food for area school children.

CU One-to-One Mentoring
cu1to1.org

Provide support, encouragement, and guidance to students in Champaign-Urbana.

Project READ
parkland.edu/projectread

Help adults improve their basic reading, math and English as a second language.

CU Young Professionals
ypofcu.com

Connect with area young professions for social connection, networking, and skill development.