

YOUR WINTER CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign-Urbana area

January—March 2026

MAKE IT
CHAMPAIGN
URBANA

MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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WINTER FARMERS MARKET

Every Saturday / thelandconnection.org

Why sleep in when you can head over to Lincoln Square Mall every Saturday morning? From 8am until noon, you can stock up on meat, poultry, eggs, veggies, fruit, microgreens, baked goods, flowers, herbal products, dog treats, handcrafted goods, and so much more.



MLK JR. COUNTYWIDE CELEBRATION

January 18 / champaignil.gov

Honor the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by celebrating our community members who embody his vision of equality, justice, and service.

FIGHTING ILLINI BASKETBALL

January-March / fightingillini.com

The women's and men's teams are back on the court at State Farm Center. Cheer them on from now through March as they make a run at a Big Ten title!



SEE A SHOW

thevirginia.org / krannertcenter.org

Whether it's Neko Case, the Robert Cray Band, Carnaval!, or the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the stages at the Virginia Theatre and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts are totally lit this winter. Check their websites for ticket info.



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CHAMPAIGN-URBANA RESTAURANT WEEK

January 30—February 7 / curestaurantweek.org

Expand your culinary horizons—explore 60+ local restaurants whose flavors span the world during this 9-day celebration! From global cuisine to farm-to-table favorites, Restaurant Week showcases the C-U area's award-winning food scene. Check out the menus and start planning!

AGTECH WEEK

March 9-13 / cuagtechweek.com

Champaign-Urbana AgTech Week celebrates Champaign-Urbana's robust AgTech ecosystem, including the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Parkland College, corporate innovation partners, startups, state-of-the-art facilities, student organizations, local ag companies, the iFAB Tech Hub, and more.



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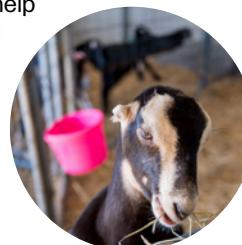


Did you know?

■ The **Champaign County African American Heritage Trail** features five murals across the Champaign-Urbana area, created from artists across the country. The murals bring to life stories of resilience, excellence, and cultural legacies that have long deserved center stage. Find these murals and more about the Trail at ccaficanamericanheritage.org.



■ The **City of Champaign** has once again achieved a perfect score—100—on the **Human Rights Campaign's 2025 Municipal Equality Index (MEI)** for inclusive LGBTQ+ laws, policies, and services. A nationwide evaluation, the MEI rates cities on nondiscrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and leadership on LGBTQ+ equality.



■ Champaign's **Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery** was selected for support through the **Illinois Department of Agriculture's Dairy Business Innovation Alliance Business Builders Program**. This will help the goat dairy—which prioritizes animal care, craftsmanship, and place-based flavor—to expand, boosting production capacity and creating new jobs. It's a win for everyone who supports local food and small-scale ag right here in C-U!

■ If you're looking for a job in the community, the **Make It Champaign-Urbana Job Board** provides the most comprehensive look at all openings available in the county. You can sign up for alerts based on your desired job search, or get all jobs sent directly to your email.

Want more ideas for events & activities?

experiencecucu.org

Learn more about the community + search for jobs:

makeitcu.com



TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

FEATURING 2026 RESTAURANT WEEK PARTICIPANTS



83 Vietnamese Cuisine | Champaign | 83viet.com

Analog Wine Bar | Urbana | analogwines.square.site

BakeLab | Champaign & Urbana | bakelab.coffee

Baldarotta's | Urbana | baldarottas.com

BBQ Chicken | Urbana
bbqchicken.com

Big Grove Tavern | Champaign
biggrovetavern.com

Billy Barooz | Champaign
billybarooz.com

Blind Pig Brewpub | Champaign
blindpigbrewery.com

BrewLab | Champaign | brewlab.coffee

Briks Pizzeria | Mahomet | briksizzeria.com

The Burrito Lab | Champaign | getburritolab.com

Caffe Bene | Champaign
caffe-bene-green.menu-world.com

Caprae | Champaign | prairiefruits.com

Forage Kitchen | Champaign | eatforage.com

Good Judys Bagels | Urbana | goodjudyscu.com



Hacienda Rebello | Mahomet

Hamilton Walker's | Champaign | hamiltonwalkers.com

Hopscotch Market | Champaign | hopscotchmarket.com

Houlihan's | Champaign | houlihans.com

Jupiter's Pizza | Champaign | jupiterspizza.com

Kohinoor Indian | Champaign | kohinoorchampaign.com

Kung Fu Tea | Champaign | kungfutea.com

La Paloma Food Truck | facebook.com/
LaPalomaMexicanDelicacies

Lazy Daisy Diner & Cafe | Urbana
lazydaisydiner.com

The Literary | Champaign
literarybookbar.com

Los Zarapes | Mahomet
facebook.com/loszarapesrestaurant

The Main Scoop | Mahomet,
Monticello, Paxton, & Urbana
themainscoopicecream.com

Maize at the Station | Champaign
maizemexicangrill.com

Martinelli's Market | Champaign | martinellismarket.com

Naya Indian Cuisine | Champaign
nayaindiancuisineil.com



Neil St. Blues | Champaign | neilstblues.com

Pekara Bakery & Bistro | Champaign | pekarabistro.com

Po'Boys | Urbana | poboyurbana.com

Pokelab | Champaign | facebook.com/pokelabCU

Project 47 Smokehouse | Mahomet
project47smokehouse.com

Punch! Bar & Lounge | Champaign
punchbarchampaign.com

The Ribeye | Champaign | theribeyerestaurant.com

Seven Saints | Champaign | sevensaintsbar.com

SGD DUBU | Champaign | sgdrestaurant.com

Silvercreek | Urbana | silvercreekrestaurant.com

The Space | Champaign | thespacecu.com

Stango Cuisine & Wood N' Hog Barbecue | Champaign
stangocu.com & woodnhogbarbecue.com

Sun Singer | Champaign | sunsingerwines.com

Susuru Ramen | Champaign | susururamenuiuc.com

Tenkyu | Champaign | tenkyu.cafe

Watson's Shack & Rail | Champaign
watsonschicken.com

Selfie Spots

Check out these spots and share on Instagram or Bluesky with #experienceceu!



Clockwise from top left

1. Greetings from Urbana mural, Lincoln Square Mall (artist: Leslie Kimble)

2. Winter hike at Sangamon River Forest Preserve

3. Eternal Flame for Valentine's Day, University of Illinois Quad

4. Dining out during Restaurant Week

Stay Active & Involved

Recreational Activities

Bouldering | Horizon Climbing

1914 Round Barn Rd, Champaign | climbhorizon.com

Challenge yourself with indoor rock climbing for all ages & abilities.

OUTside in Champaign Forests | Jan 10, Feb 14, Mar 14

Various forest preserves | champaignforests.org

Enjoy inclusive, welcoming, & themed hikes throughout our forest preserves.

Volunteer Opportunities

FRESH Crew Volunteer Days | Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 21

Various Urbana parks | Email cjross@urbanaparks.org

Teens only! Make friends, improve the community, learn skills, & earn service hours!

IHSA Boys Basketball Tournament | March 12-14

State Farm Center, Champaign | Email markb@experienceceu.org

Assist with KidZone activities & serve as community ambassadors.

PLUG INTO

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

makeitcu.com