

CAPITAL CITY

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# parent

Fall 2024

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# Kids and technology

## Parenting challenges in the modern digital age

PARENT | Pamela Savage

Somehow, the back-to-school season is upon us. As we prepare for another year of growing and learning in today's digital age, parents may have some concerns and questions about how to help their children utilize technological tools effectively and appropriately. I sat down with Emily Cherkin, also known as "The Screentime Consultant," to discuss how families can set intentions around screen time for the upcoming school year.

As a former teacher and a mother to two teenage children, Cherkin understands the challenges of parenting in the modern digital age. We all are learning that children's excessive screen use at home and school impacts mental health and family relationships. Cherkin understands that parents have concerns

about the amount of time children spend on devices and want to do better.

Safety concerns are one reason many parents opt into tech for their children – trackers and simple phones are a way of letting parents know children are safe. But it is also important for kids to learn from a young age who is safe to ask for help and how to find an appropriate adult if they have a problem. Cherkin deeply understands the drive to protect our children and keep them safe, but she also counters that this sort of surveillance is frankly a little weird, and that it can feed anxiety in both parents and children.

"Going to school on your own is critical for child development," Cherkin said. "The expectation that a kid can call

or text their parents to help them solve a problem in the moment takes away that child's autonomy to deal with friction situations on their own."

The flip side of this coin has to do with parents' desires to communicate important information to their children while they are at school. Cherkin recommends that if you do need to get ahold of your child during the school day, use the school's infrastructure to do so, or consider scheduling calls or texts to times that kids are not engaged in educational activities. After all, if the goal with all this tech is to help your child learn to minimize distractions, parents should refrain from distracting their children during the school day.

Another major worry of some parents



is when it seems like their kid is the only one in their grade without a phone. No parent wants their child to feel left out. Cherkin agrees that “FOMO is real,” but also points out this happens even with a phone. Just because your kid has a phone doesn’t mean they won’t occasionally still miss out or be left out of a social situation. It is a false assumption to think that your kid is more likely to be included in important social relationships just because they have a phone.

Technology is a part of many kids’ school experiences, too. Oftentimes, technology in classrooms is effective and instructive, and it prepares children for life in the modern age. However, according to Jared Cooney Horbath in *Psychology Today*, 38 minutes of every 60 minutes spent on a laptop during class is spent “off task.” Now, will kids sometimes be off task at school? Of course they will. But as parents, it’s worth understanding how much educational tech – and what forms of educational tech – our kids are using while they are at school.

If you do have concerns about the quantity, quality or scope of technology-based tools in school, Cherkin has an EdTech Toolkit that you can find on her website at [TheScreentimeConsultant.com](http://TheScreentimeConsultant.com).

So what is a concerned parent to do? First of all, take a deep breath. Consider whether or not you can answer two key questions about your children’s screen use: 1) Do I know what my kid is doing online? and 2) How is my relationship with my children?

The screen time dilemma is going to be an ongoing conversation for families for years to come. I personally found Cherkin’s approach relatable, non-judgmental, and incredibly well-researched and thoughtful. If you’d like more guidance, I’d recommend checking out her book, *The Screentime Solution: A Judgment-Free Guide to Becoming a Tech-Intentional Family*, which was published in January 2024 by Greenleaf Book Group.

*Pamela Savage is a freelance writer living in Springfield. Like many parents, she wonders about the impact of all of this screen time.*

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# Taking kids out to eat

## How to make it a good experience for everyone

PARENT | Ashley Meyer

A few years into raising my eldest daughter, I was convinced that we had it all figured out when it came to kids and mealtime. From her first days eating solid food she was a superb eater and readily tried and enjoyed all sorts of new foods, from kalamata olives to blue cheese to kale. She was a joy at mealtime and could hold her own at a nice restaurant even as a toddler. Clearly, I was a parenting genius.

Then my second child came along. COVID-19 hit not long into her toddlerhood and while my eldest daughter had gone to restaurants frequently as a little one, her younger sister's exposure to eating out and socialization was practically non-existent for more than 18 months. Once we emerged from the pandemic's fray and began to go out more frequently, it became clear that little sister was in dire need of a crash course in appropriate restaurant behavior. Manners aside, she also was only interested in eating noodles and plain meat with no sauce of any kind. Any attempts to expand her palate were fraught with conflict. Sadly, I had to accept that I was, in fact, not a parenting genius and that we needed to figure this out just like everyone else.

We've certainly had some epically stressful meals out, but we are all making progress. These tips have helped us better enjoy eating together as a family no matter what table we're gathered around, be it a fine dining restaurant or dinner at a relative's house.

### Plan ahead

Wear the kids out ahead of time, whether it's at a park or dancing along to a YouTube video at home. It's unreasonable to expect energetic kids to sit still if they haven't first had an opportunity to blow off steam. It'll also increase the likelihood that they'll actually eat their meal.



### Practice first and set expectations

Sit down to eat together and practice good table manners at home. Scores of studies have shown that regularly eating meals together as a family has a multitude of benefits for kids including better overall diet, improved self-esteem and a reduction in risky behavior. Luckily, research has also shown that it doesn't

matter when you sit down to eat together as a family, just that you do it. Having breakfast or sitting down together for a light afternoon snack before heading off to various evening activities can have the same benefit. Whenever you make time to sit down, taking the opportunity to practice good manners will pay off when it's time to go out to eat.



For little kids especially, go over restaurant expectations ahead of time, such as staying in your seat and saying please or thank you. Take a minute to look the menu up online so kids will know what their options are ahead of time.

**Time and place**

A restaurant doesn't have to serve chicken fingers and have a million screens everywhere to be kid-friendly. For nicer, fine-dining type restaurants, consider taking kids there for lunch as opposed to dinner. When planning an evening out with kids, make a reservation for the earliest possible seating and let the host know you'll have kids in your party.

**Bring snacks**

While I would generally never advise bringing your own meals to a restaurant, it's acceptable to bring a few small snacks to tide over little ones until their food arrives. This is especially true when dining at table-service restaurants with a large party. Small containers of grapes, sliced cucumbers or carrots and a few crackers can buy a lot of peace when things get busy.

**Order for kiddos first**

Order for the kiddos right away and ask the server to bring their food out first. That way the kids can eat while the adults enjoy a cocktail and order dinner. Once the kids have finished their meal, they can bust into their goodie bags.

**Goodie bag**

Have each child pack their own bag of table-appropriate games and activities. Coloring books and small puzzles that come in their own container work especially well. Single-player games such as Zoologic or portable craft toys like Wikki Stix are some of our personal favorites.

**Model behavior**

Put away your phone and engage with your kiddos. Mealtime is as much about connection as it is about nourishing our bodies.

*Ashley Meyer is a food columnist for Illinois Times, chef, caterer and mother of two who lives in Springfield.*

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# Get ready for a new school year

## Back-to-school prep essentials

PARENT | Kimberly Blaker

The start of a new school year with a new routine that takes over most of the kids' waking hours is a significant transition from the long, lazy days of the summer. Whether your child is just beginning school for the first time or a seasoned student, a new grade level or school with new teachers, classes and expectations requires an adjustment. Students and parents alike may feel a range of emotions as the back-to-school season quickly approaches. So ease your family's anxieties by adequately preparing for and setting the tone for the new school year.

### Establish rules and routines

A new school year means a fresh start and transition from your schedule over the break. Even from one school year to the next, it's smart to reevaluate school year routines and rules. Your kids are a year older and might be in new schools – and have new teachers, different schedules or be ready for new responsibilities. So sit down as a family to discuss rules and expectations while also allowing your child some input. Setting clear expectations ahead of time can help things go more smoothly.

### Things to consider:

- Each person's responsibilities
- A daily schedule
- A family calendar for the year, months and weeks.
- Different expectations between weekdays and weekends
- Screen time restrictions
- Rules around playdates or spending time with friends
- Homework routines and expectations
- When kids need to be awake, eating breakfast and ready to walk out

the door

- How kids will get to and from school and related expectations

### Take safety precautions

Your child's safety is a significant concern when heading back to school and away from your watchful eye. Travel safety between home and school, whether your kids walk, ride a bike, take the bus or carpool with another student or family is especially important. So, create a safety plan for your kids before school resumes.

A reliable way to communicate with your child is essential to their safety. Phones are available that are appropriate for kids of all different ages. Just be aware of your school's policy regarding devices and make sure your child abides by the rules. For younger children, screenless devices like the Relay, KidsConnect or Gizmo Watch are excellent options. These devices are designed specifically for children's safety and come with features like GPS trackers and the ability to communicate with limited contacts.

Another useful way to protect your kids is to use location-tracking apps. If you have older kids with phones, there are many apps for sharing or tracking locations using their phones. Options include GPS tracking or geofencing, where you define a certain perimeter for your child and get notified if your child leaves that area.

Be sure to set expectations that your kids check-in at certain times and before leaving or arriving at a new destination. Also, designate trusted emergency contacts and plans for unexpected events and make sure your child knows who you've chosen.

### Schedule routine checkups

Get your child up to date on health screenings, especially vision and hearing tests, before the school year starts. If your child has problems with hearing or vision, it can severely impact their education. Discovering and addressing any issues ahead of time will prevent unnecessary struggles and reduce or eliminate their need for support or accommodations. Young kids often don't realize they have a fixable problem or are unable to articulate their difficulties. So seeing a

doctor or professional for screenings is essential to getting young children off to a good start.

### Stay up to date on immunizations

Part of setting up a successful school year is ensuring your child and their classmates are protected from preventable diseases with immunizations. Schools are a hotbed for spreading germs and viruses because of the volume of students and lack of personal space and hygiene. Many schools also require certain immunizations. So you'll need to provide proof that your child is up to date unless you have a medical waiver.

### Prepare for special needs or accommodations

If your child has special needs related to school and learning, take that into consideration. Review any documented plans that are in place like a 504 or IEP. Teachers should have this information if it has already been created for your child. But it's a good idea to refresh yourself on your child's needs and established supports so you can advocate on your child's behalf. Also, plan ahead for special accommodations to help your student at home, too. This may include hiring a tutor or setting a regular homework schedule.

### Don't forget to build excitement

Even kids who are excited about getting back to school and seeing their classmates often feel some amount of trepidation about a new school year. Going back to school should be a time of celebration and new beginnings. Treat it like a holiday and start a back-to-school family tradition. Have your child choose a special outfit for the first day of school. Talk with your kids about what everyone is excited about and looking forward to in the new school year. Also, make school-year resolutions and help your kids set realistic goals. Involve your kids in the process of preparing for the new school year, and find ways to make it fun to help ensure a smooth transition.

*Kimberly Blaker is a freelance parenting and lifestyle writer. She's also founder and director of KB Creative Digital Services, an internet marketing agency.*



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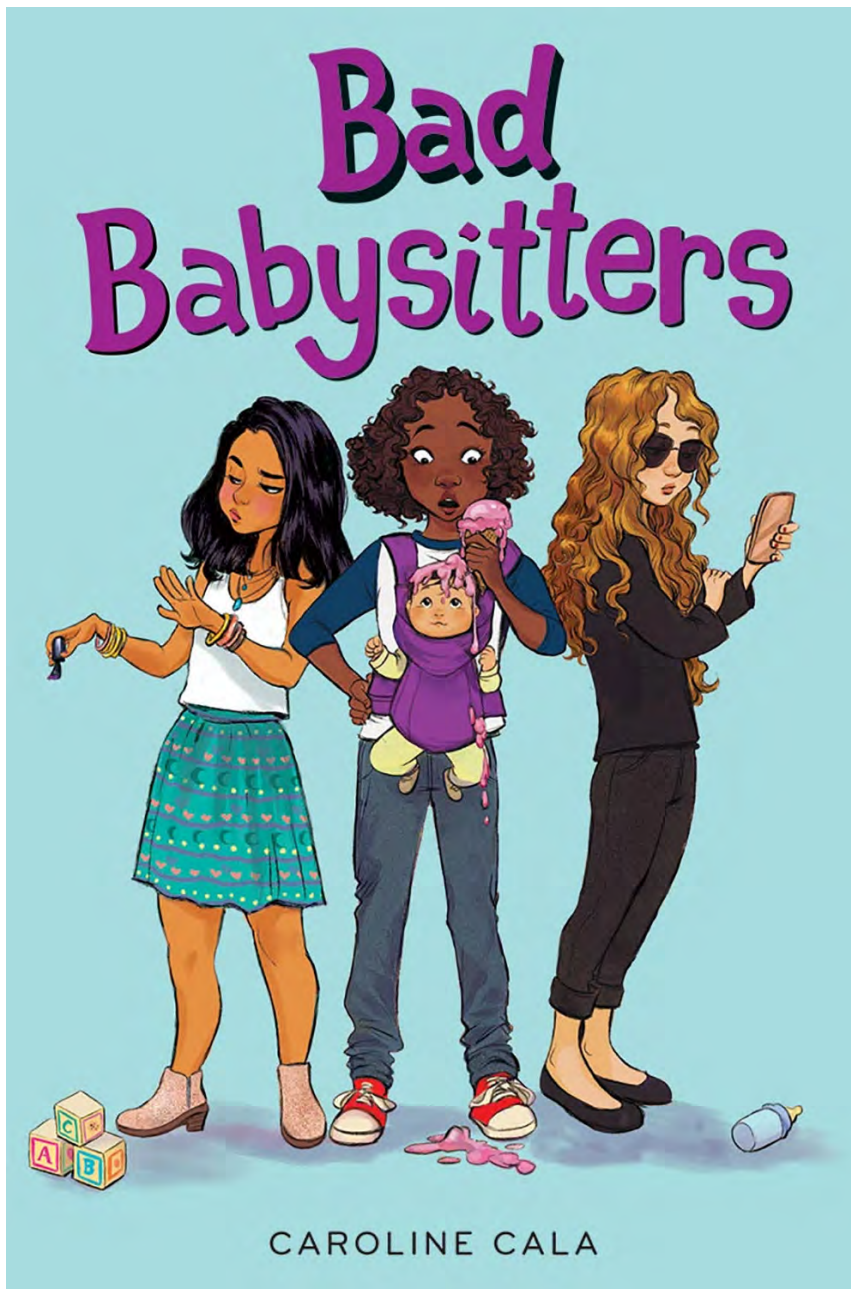
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# Encouragement for young entrepreneurs

Two books to get your kids thinking about earning their own money

PARENT | Deana Metzke



It was not intentional, but this summer I read a couple of books that would be great reads for children who have an entrepreneurial spirit.

I remember when I was a young junior high student, a few of my friends and I got together with every intention of becoming our own local version of The Babysitters Club. I think we only met once, in the room of the one friend who had a phone in her room. No one called during that time to hire us because our efforts to spread the word amounted to maybe one flyer posted in the neighborhood. However, it was a memory that I still look back fondly on more than 30 years later. So, when I started reading *Bad Babysitters* by Caroline Cala, I knew it was a nod to that era.

Our main character, Malia, finds an old copy of *The Babysitters Club* and is inspired to convince her friends that this is the best way to make money for their joint 13<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Now while they definitely do a better job of advertising than my friends and I did, Malia and her friends, Dot and Bree, run into a couple of other obstacles that derail their plans, including some babysitting competition. The friends even had one situation where they had too many kids that they were responsible for watching.

Their story does have a positive ending, and *Bad Babysitters* is actually the first book in the Best Babysitters Ever series. While it was nostalgic for me, if you have a reader who might be looking for a way to earn extra money with their friends, this would be a nice series to get them motivated. And if you were a fan of the BSC, it might bring up some good memories for you, too.

Another book I read promoting young entrepreneurship was *The Startup Squad* by Brian Weisfeld and Nicole C. Kear. In this book, the inspiration for money-making came from school, where small groups in Teresa's class are assigned to sell lemonade in the

neighborhood in an effort to raise money for their class trip to an amusement park. The group that makes the most money gets fast passes to the park.

While the girls in *Bad Babysitters* are already friends, the four girls in *The Startup Squad* know each other, but only two of them are actually friends with each other. So not only do we get to see the hijinks of the girls trying to navigate their relationships with each other, we also get to see them trying to figure out how to make the most money. The main character, Teresa, has a strong personality and is extremely motivated to sell the most lemonade in order to win the tickets. However, throughout the book she has to learn how to work well with others in order to try to get what she wants, and I think the authors do a good job of showing Teresa's growth during the competition process. This book also does a good job of showing different roadblocks when starting a business, including cost, location and product, but in a way that makes sense for its young readers. Again, like *Bad Babysitters*, this book is also the first in the series, all written around the different businesses this group of girls come up with.

So, if you have a young reader who might be interested in making their own money, or already is running their own business, *Bad Babysitters* or *The Startup Squad* may be books they would enjoy. You can find both of them at your local library or wherever you buy books.

*Deana Metzke is the literacy/social studies/library coordinator for District 186 and a mom of two. For more children's book recommendations, follow her blog at <http://raisingreaders.site>.*



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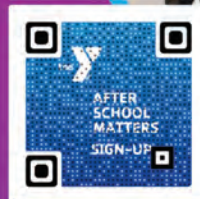
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Email: tnaumovich@springfieldparks.org

**217-585-2941 ext. 2301**

**April McClintock - Administrative Assistant**  
Email: amcclintock@springfieldparks.org

**217-585-2941 ext. 2302**

### FUNSHOP

**Eric Henderson - Facility Program Supervisor**  
Email: ehenderson@springfieldparks.org

**217-753-2800 ext. 2001**

**Rose Zaidi - Funshop Program Supervisor**  
Email: rzaidi@springfieldparks.org

**217-753-6234**

### GOLF COURSES & PROGRAMMING

**Lance Flury - Head PGA Golf Pro Lincoln Greens Golf Course**  
Email: lflury@springfieldparks.org

**217-786-4111 ext. 1901**

**Mike Logsdon - PGA Golf Pro Pasfield Golf Course**  
Email: mlogsdon@springfieldparks.org

**217-698-6049**

**Megan Greco - Assistant Pro Shop Manager Pasfield Golf Course**  
Email: mgreco@springfieldparks.org

**217-698-6049**

**Linda Sherwood - LPGA Golf Pro Bergen Golf Course**  
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**217-753-6211**

**Laura Kuchar - Facility Manager Bunn Golf Course**  
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**217-522-2633**

### HENSON ROBINSON ZOO

**Doug Hotle - Zoo Director**  
Email: dhotle@springfieldparks.org

**217-585-1821 ext. 1705**

**Lori Crowder - Marketing & Guest Service Manager**  
Email: lcrowder@springfieldparks.org

**217-585-1821 ext. 1704**

**Rachel Hughes - General Curator**  
Email: rhughes@springfieldparks.org

**217-585-1821 ext. 1702**

**Joe Curry - Business Services Administrator**  
Email: jcurry@springfieldparks.org

**217-585-1821 ext. 1701**

**Jessica Prumm - Learning Facilitator**  
Email: jprumm@springfieldparks.org

**217-843-0360 ext. 1706**





### NELSON CENTER ICE SPORTS

**George R. Tucker** - General Manager  
Email: gtucker@springfieldparks.org **217-753-2800 ext. 2002**

**Leslie Jones** - Funshop & Nelson Center Admin Asst.  
Email: ljones@springfieldparks.org **217-753-2800 ext. 2004**

**Eric Henderson** - Facility Program Supervisor  
Email: ehenderson@springfieldparks.org **217-753-2800 ext. 2001**

### RECREATION

**Marty Strieker** - Superintendent of Programming and Events  
Email: mstrieker@springfieldparks.org **217-753-2800 ext. 2003**

### SPECIAL RECREATION | INCLUSION PROGRAMMING

**Andre Hawkins** - Special Recreation Supervisor  
Email: ahawkins@springfieldparks.org **217-585-2941 ext. 2307**

### THOMAS REES MEMORIAL CARILLON

**Carlo van Ulft** - Carillanist  
Email: cvanulft@springfieldparks.org **217-546-3853 ext. 2501**

### VELASCO TENNIS CENTER

**Andrew Coon** - Tennis Manager  
Email: acoon@springfieldparks.org **217-546-4103 ext. 2201**

## GENERAL AND PARK MAINTENANCE

**301 Eastdale Avenue, Spfld IL 62703** **FAX: 217-753-6237**

**Chuck Smith** - Arborist  
Superintendent of Natural Resources **217-753-6212 ext. 1402**  
csmith@springfieldparks.org

**John Turasky**  
Project Manager **217-753-6212 ext. 1407**  
jturasky@springfieldparks.org

**Mark Adkins, CPSI**  
Superintendent of Park Maintenance **217-753-6212 ext. 1403**  
madkins@springfieldparks.org

**James Schackmann**  
Superintendent of Park Maintenance **217-753-6212 ext. 1406**  
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## GOLF MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

**Dan Crumrine**  
Superintendent of Golf Courses **217-786-4120 ext. 1910**  
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**Arden Lear**  
Bunn Golf Course Superintendent **217-544-1751 ext. 1301**  
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## AQUATICS AND ICE MAINTENANCE

**Nick Cordell**  
Superintendent of Maintenance Operations **217-753-2800 ext. 1001**  
ncordell@springfieldparks.org

## PARK DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENT

**1508 W. Fayette, Spfld 62704** **FAX: 217-698-7456**

**Patrick Murphy**  
Police Chief **217-698-6030 ext. 2803**  
pmurphy@springfieldparks.org

## Facilities

**BERGEN GOLF COURSE** **Phone: 217-753-6211**  
2900 Clearlake Avenue, Spfld 62703

**BOTANICAL GARDEN** **Phone: 217-546-4116**  
1740 W. Fayette Avenue, Spfld 62704

**BUNN GOLF COURSE** **Phone: 217-522-2633**  
2500 S. 11th Street, Spfld 62703

**EISENHOWER POOL** **Phone: 217-525-8847**  
2351 E. Cornell Avenue, Spfld 62703

**ERIN'S PAVILION** **Phone: 217-585-2941**  
4965 S. 2nd Street, Spfld 62703 **FAX: 217-529-5668**

**FUNSHOP - LINCOLN PARK** **Phone: 217-753-6234**  
1601 N. 5th Street, Spfld 62702  
funshop@springfieldparks.org

**HENSON ROBINSON ZOO** **Phone: 217-585-1821**  
1100 E. Lake Shore Drive, Spfld 62712

**LINCOLN GREENS GOLF COURSE** **Phone: 217-786-4111**  
700 E. Lake Shore Drive, Spfld 62712

**LINCOLN PAVILION**  
1601 N. 5th Street, Spfld IL 62702  
parks@springfieldparks.org

**NELSON CTR ICE RINK & POOL** **Phone: 217-753-2800**  
1601 N. 5th Street, Spfld 62702 **FAX: 217-753-4766**

**PASFIELD GOLF COURSE** **Phone: 217-698-6049**  
1700 W. Lawrence Ave, Spfld 62704

**RIVERSIDE CAMPGROUNDS** **Phone: 217-753-0630**  
4105 Sandhill Road, Spfld 62707

**THOMAS REES MEMORIAL CARILLON** **Phone: 217-546-3853**  
1740 W Fayette Avenue, Spfld 62704

**VELASCO TENNIS CENTER** **Phone: 217-546-4103**  
1501 S Grand Ave W, Spfld, IL 62704

**WASHINGTON PARK PAVILION** **Phone: 217-546-3970**  
1400 Williams Boulevard, Spfld 62704  
Reservations: parks@springfieldparks.org







Juried Fine Art & Craft Fair  
**September 14 - 15, 2024**

**10am - 4pm**  
**FREE Admission!**  
 at the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon

**ART SPECTACULAR**  
Rated in the best 200 fine art fairs in the USA by Sunshine Artist Magazine!

For more information please go to [www.carillon-rees.org](http://www.carillon-rees.org)



WASHINGTON PARK BOTANICAL GARDEN

*Leaf Identification*  
**HIKES**

**SEPTEMBER 28TH | 10a-12p and 1-3p**



ALL AGES \$7R / \$10NR  
 PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
[bit.ly/Leaf\\_ID-Trails](https://bit.ly/Leaf_ID-Trails)







FREE EVENT  
Rain or shine!

# Carve For the Carillon!

## October 12 & 13

11:00am - 2:00pm\*

\*Or while supplies last

Help us carve pumpkins at the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon & Washington Park Botanical Garden grounds for the **Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular!**



**Takes Place Both Days - While Supplies Last!**

For more info: [carillon-rees.org](http://carillon-rees.org)  
Questions? Call the Botanical Garden: 217-546-4116

Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W Fayette Ave, Springfield, IL 62704



The Springfield Park District and Rees Carillon Society Present

# Jack~O~Lantern Spectacular

## October 18 & 19

6:30pm - 9:30pm

Both Nights - Rain or Shine

**NEW!** Sensory Friendly hour is 5pm-6pm

Come enjoy the sparkling splendor of illuminated Jack-O-Lanterns surrounding the Carillon & Botanical Garden at Washington Park. Food Vendors will be on site during the event!



**Advanced Admission:** Adults \$7

\*Pre-tickets: available at Carve for the Carillon & Ashley's Furniture.

Children age 4-11 \$5

Children 3 & under FREE

**Evening of Admission:** Adults \$10, Children age 4-11 \$7





# ZOOLIE

## Shoulie

**\$5  
ENTRY**



**OCT. 25: 1pm - 8pm  
OCT. 26: 11am - 6pm**

**Safe trick-or-treating inside  
the Henson Robinson Zoo!**

Located at 1100 E Lake Shore Dr, Springfield, IL

**henson  
robinson ZOO  
SPRINGFIELD  
PARK DISTRICT**

**CAPITOL  
MEDIA GROUP**  
NOW



### SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT SPECIAL RECREATION

# MONSTER MASH

**ALL AGES  
FREE!**

# HALLOWEEN DANCE



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 7-9 P.M. ERIN'S PAVILION  
4965 S 2ND ST SPRINGFIELD, IL**

**COME IN YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME FOR THRILLS & FUN!  
ENJOY REFRESHMENTS, TREAT BAGS, FACE PAINTING AND A COSTUME CONTEST!**



Activity #370250  
Go to [bit.ly/SPD\\_Oct\\_Dance](http://bit.ly/SPD_Oct_Dance)  
or Scan the QR Code for more information!

**ANDRE HAWKINS  
SPECIAL RECREATION SUPERVISOR  
217-585-2941**





# WASHINGTON PARK BOTANICAL GARDEN

## Annual FRESH EVERGREEN WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Bring your friends, have some refreshments, and make your own fresh, evergreen wreath to take home!



9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
OR 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
AGES 18 +  
\$50/R & \$55/NR

7  
DEC



REGISTER ONLINE WITH  
ACTIVITY #361111  
[bit.ly/SPD\\_Wreath\\_Workshop](http://bit.ly/SPD_Wreath_Workshop)



# WINTER HOLIDAY FLORAL SHOW

Takes place  
December 2-20

Enjoy 500+ poinsettias nestled among the decorated fresh evergreens and lush tropical foliage.  
**The event is free and for all ages!**

Monday-Friday: 12pm-4pm  
Saturday-Sunday: 12:pm-5pm

For more information, please call 217-546-4116





# Santa House

A local tradition for over 40 years!

Plan to make a visit this holiday season to the **Santa House!**  
**Bring your own phone or camera for pictures with Santa!**

*Free Admission!*

**Santa House is back and coming to a park near you this holiday season!**

Check out our website at [springfieldparks.org](http://springfieldparks.org) for future dates and times!

For more info please contact 217-544-1751.

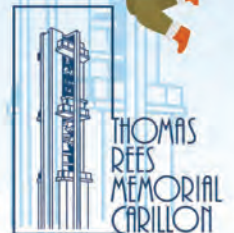
Rees Carillon Society, The Carillon Belles  
& the Springfield Park District invite you to

# Caroling at the Carillon

Sunday, December 8th | 3:00pm - 5:30pm

*FREE Admission, Refreshments, and Kid's Activities!*

Join us as we celebrate the season around a roaring bonfire singing holiday carols to the bells of the **Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon!**



**SPRINGFIELD  
PARK DISTRICT**

For more information please go to [carillon-rees.org/](http://carillon-rees.org/) or call 217-546-3853.



# ZOO LIGHTS

At the Henson Robinson Zoo

Take a stroll through the zoo and enjoy thousands of lights and themed lighted displays! Enjoy the hot chocolate bar or roast a marshmallow over the fire pit for a delicious smore.

For Special Events be sure to watch our Zoo Facebook page [@HensonRobinsonZoo](#)

Adults: \$7.50 | Kids Ages 3-12: \$5.50 | Ages 2 & Under: Free

## SCHEDULE

5:00-9:00pm \*last admission is at 8:00pm

11/29-12/01  
12/05-12/08  
12/12-12/15

**WEEK BEFORE  
CHRISTMAS!**  
12/19-12/23

For more information, please call the Zoo at 217-585-1821 or visit [www.springfieldparks.org](http://www.springfieldparks.org)



# Weddings



The Springfield Park District offers a range of stunning venues perfect for hosting your dream wedding ceremony, reception, or both!

Our venues feature **beautiful natural settings** and elegant facilities that will make your special day unforgettable.

SITE	PARK	TIME	Res	Non-Res	Contact
Gazebo	Washington	2 hr blocks	\$70	\$90	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Bandshell	Douglas	2 hr blocks	\$70	\$90	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Roman Cultural Garden	Botanical Garden	2.5 hr blocks	\$360	\$460	217-546-4116 (Botanical)
Rose Garden	Botanical Garden	2.5 hr blocks	\$360	\$460	217-546-4116 (Botanical)
Annual Display Bed	Botanical Garden	2.5 hr blocks	\$360	\$460	217-546-4116 (Botanical)
Bridge	Lincoln	2 hr blocks	\$70	\$90	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Iron Springs	Washington	2.5 hr blocks	\$125	\$155	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Exhibit Hall	Botanical Garden	4 hr blocks	\$400	\$500	217-546-4116 (Botanical)
Exhibit Hall	Botanical Garden	Additional hr	\$75	\$100	217-546-4116 (Botanical)
Lincoln Park Pavilion	Lincoln	4 hr blocks	\$400	\$560	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Lincoln Park Pavilion	Lincoln	Additional hr	\$100	\$140	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Banquet Hall	Lincoln Greens Golf Course	4 hr blocks	\$400	\$560	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Banquet Hall	Lincoln Greens Golf Course	Additional hr	\$100	\$140	217-544-1751 (Bunn)
Franklin Room	Nelson Center	2 hr blocks	\$300	\$300	217-753-2800 (Nelson)
Franklin Room	Nelson Center	Additional hr	\$150	\$200	217-753-2800 (Nelson)
Franklin Room	Nelson Center	2 hr blocks	\$150	\$200	217-753-2800 (Nelson)
Franklin Room	Nelson Center	Additional hr	\$75	\$100	217-753-2800 (Nelson)

\*Alcohol Permit Fee \$75 and Dram Shop insurance required.

\*\*Does not include golf outings

\*\*\*Non-Refundable deposit for Washington Park Botanical Gardens, Washington Park Pavilion, Lincoln Park Pavilion and Lincoln Greens Banquet Hall is 50% at the time the contract is executed. Balance is due two weeks prior to the rental.





# Weddings & Party Rentals at Erin's Pavilion

## WEDDING CEREMONY SITES

A wedding altar is a sacred place where you and your significant other stand in front of one another and exchange vows. Erin's Pavilion offers some of the most stunning wedding venues in Springfield at a very affordable price. (CAP— capacity, refers to seated guests)

### Southwind Park - 217-585-2941

Babbling Brook	Gazebo
Erin's Pavilion Terrace (with Erin's Facility Rental)	Historic Selvaggio Arches
	Treehouse

### Erin's Pavilion 4965 S. 2nd St, Springfield 217-585-2941 CAP: 300

The Pavilion's 5,000 square foot main hall can be arranged to accommodate up to 300 guests and has all the table and chairs you would need to host a successful event. It can be sectioned off into four separate meeting rooms, each hosting access to the beautiful terrace with a panoramic lakeside view. Brides have successfully staged their weddings on our terrace and then come right inside to host an elegant affair for the evening. Erin's In-House Audio Visual System or dance floor can enhance any event.







**YOU ARE  
INVITED**

**to host your**

# **BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH US!**

**Make your child's birthday party a memorable one. Parents relax and enjoy, while you host your party with us and we do the clean up!**

**Each party listed includes their own unique amenities. Pick the FUN that's right for you and your little ones...**

[bit.ly/SPDBirthdayParties](http://bit.ly/SPDBirthdayParties)

## **FUNSHOP PARTIES!**

Parents and children can enjoy the Funshop program in the setting of a birthday party! There are a ton of tantalizing toys and interest areas that will capture your children's imagination.

**2 Hours | Min. 20 people, Max. 50**

### **COST:**

\$100R | \$120NR for 1-10 Kids    \$150R | \$180NR for 11-15 Kids  
\$200R | \$230NR for 16-20 Kids

**AGE:** 16mo-5yrs

**PARTY INCLUDES:** Toys, games, and activities | Party host, birthday paper goods, and tables and chairs provided | Bring your own food and drink.

**CALL THE FUNSHOP TO BOOK YOUR PARTY!  
217-753-6234**



## **PARTY WILD AT THE HENSON ROBINSON ZOO**

**2 Hours | 20 Guests**

**COST:** \$170 for Members    \$180 R | \$200 NR

**PARTY INCLUDES:** Zoo Admission, Party Host, Feed for Goats + Fish, Special Gift for Guest of Honor, Birthday Decorations. Bring your own cake and ice cream! (no other outside food or drink allowed)

**ADD ONS:** Animal Encounter with Zoo Staff - \$30 | Train Ticket Package - \$30 for 20 riders | Party Favors - \$4 each | Additional Guests - \$5 per guest | Hotdog Lunch - \$5 each

**CALL THE ZOO TO BOOK YOUR PARTY! 217-585-1821**



## **FOOTGOLF**

Ready, set, let's kick-it at Bergen Golf Course! Come play Footgolf for your next Birthday Party. It's a new sport that is a combination of soccer and golf. It's easy, just come dressed in athletic wear and we'll provide the soccer balls! Open early April through October (weather permitting).

**2 Hours | Min. 8 people, Max. 16**

**COST:** \$80

**AGE:** ALL

**DAYS:** Fri, Sat or Sun

**PARTY INCLUDES:** Each additional guest past 8 will incur a \$10 add-on fee per guest | Soccer Balls for all participants to play FootGolf | FootGolf Instruction card and guide from the first tee | Birthday reservations are welcome to bring their own refreshments and cake.

**CALL BERGEN GOLF COURSE TO MAKE A  
RESERVATION. 217-753-6211**



## **ICE SKATING PARTY BECAUSE IT'S COOLER AT THE NELSON CENTER!**

Ice Skating, Skate Rentals, Party Room, Birthday Paper Goods

**2 Hours | Min. 5 people**

**COST:** \$18 R | \$20 NR for Gold Package \$14 R | \$16 NR for Silver Package  
(cost for packages is per person)

\*\$25 deposit due on day of booking. \$25 subtracted from total on day of party.

**AGE:** ALL

**PARTY INCLUDES:** Ice Skating | Skate Rentals | Birthday Paper Goods

**CALL: 217-753-2800**







# Winter Camp

**DEC 23rd - JAN 3rd**

**7:30 am - 5:30 pm**

\*There will be no camp on Dec 25, Dec 26, & Jan 1.

Our Winter Camp is all inclusive with safe and fun activities for a wide range of individuals.

**Each patron will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities; Arts-N-Crafts, Bingo, Card Games, Movies, Sports and much more!**

Each child should bring a sack lunch and snacks in a disposable container. Please no peanuts/nut products.



at [bit.ly/SPD\\_Wint-Camp](https://bit.ly/SPD_Wint-Camp)

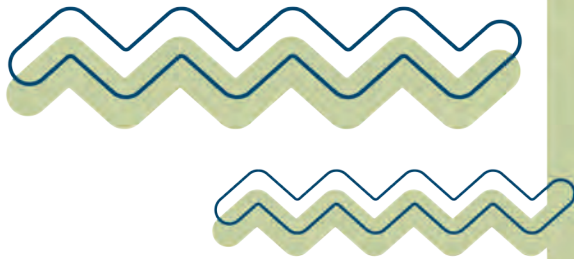
Activity #370240

Fee: \$112R/\$142NR





# GIVE THE GIFT OF FUN!



*The gift of experience is so much more valuable than "stuff!" Why not pay for a loved one's season pass, hockey, zoo class or swimming lessons...?*

*Purchase a gift certificate*  
**Online Today!**

*It will be a great surprise for any special occasion or the upcoming holiday season!*



*To buy a gift certificate, purchase online, call, or stop by your nearest Park District Facility.*

**springfieldparks.org**



# DIVE INTO THE MILESTONE CHALLENGE

LEARNING MONEY SKILLS CAN BE HARD,  
BUT IT'S TOTALLY WORTH IT!

That's why CEFCU® has the Milestone Challenge. It's all about encouraging good financial habits. The best part is, any CEFCU member age 10-15 can step up to the challenge!

Complete at least nine challenges to earn a \$10 eGift Card.\*

Find out more at [cefcu.com/challenge](https://cefcu.com/challenge).

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\*Visit [cefcu.com/challenge](https://cefcu.com/challenge) for official rules and requirements.

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In the Kidzeum courtyard:  
The Migrating Mural  
By Jane Kim

In partnership with the Air Combat Museum

## Wheels up!

*The Science of Flight*

- Flight Simulator
- Historic objects from the Air Combat Museum
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The entries for this year's Miniature Butter Cow Contest are on display in the Dairy Building, along with the 500-pound butter cow. PHOTO BY JAMES BENGFORT

# Miniature Butter Cow contest back again

PARENT | Daron Walker

It's August – that means the Illinois State Fair and its must-see, iconic butter cow sculpture is back again.

And so is the annual miniature butter cow contest sponsored by *Illinois Times* and Prairie Farms Dairy. The contest, which started in 2020 when the fair was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, invites people to try their hand at sculpting their own butter cow creations.

Like the 500-pound butter cow, the miniature works also are on display in the Dairy Building.

This season, some notable young butter artists are honing their creative skills.

One of them is Giovanni Steele, 9, of Springfield.

Giovanni, who was in the contest last year with his mother, Abbey Caitlin Steele, asked his mother if they could compete again. Their summertime butter masterpiece, named “Moo Lincoln,” is a cow wearing the classic stovepipe hat Abraham Lincoln wore.

“It was fun,” Abbey Steele said, “We used sticks of butter, then melted them

down to mold the cow.”

Abbey Steele, who had forgotten how challenging it is to work with butter, said she has nothing but “respect” for the creator of the full-size butter cow.

Since the 1920s, the life-size figure traditionally made of 500 pounds of unsalted butter has drawn crowds of fairgoers to the Dairy Building.

Competitor Briley Ingersoll, who just turned 8, was inspired by this year's mullet haircut contest to create a miniature bovine in its own mullet contest.





Mullet Contest by Briley Ingersoll

Briley’s mother, Deidre, said Briley “wanted to make people smile with her miniature butter cow. Briley highlighted something new at the State Fair this year, the mullet contest! Her cow is ready to show off his winning mullet.”

This year’s top three finalists, in order, are Dr. Diane Hillard-Sembell of Springfield, Colette Ellenberg of Springfield and Pam Martin of Alexander. All three were finalists last year as well, with Hillard-Sembell once again taking first place, based on online voting. The top three entries will receive cash prizes

of \$200, \$100 and \$50.

Martin’s sculpture once again is inspired by a ride at the fair’s carnival – this time the Ring of Fire. The sculpture is titled “Ring of Fire Cash Cow.”

“It’s just fun to do,” said Martin, who said one of her grandfathers was a Modesto-area dairy farmer who sold his milk to Prairie Farms Dairy in Carlinville.

It took about five pounds of butter to create the ride. The miniature Bessie is the same one from last year – preserved in the refrigerator just like the butter used in the State Fair sculpture.



Moo Lincoln by Giovanni Steele and Abbey Steele



**ILLINOIS STATE FAIR**

**Moove over, Bessie**

Aug. 8-18,  
during daily fair hours  
Illinois State  
Fairgrounds, Dairy  
Building, Central Avenue  
Free, 217-782-6661



**Join Scouting Today**

[alincolnbsa.org/join](http://alincolnbsa.org/join)



# Learning disabilities and ADHD: What parents need to know

PARENT | Kimberly Blaker

Approximately 10% of American school-age children suffer from a learning disability (LD) and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control. About 4% of children have both. But for many kids, these disorders go undetected despite their ongoing struggles with school work and behavior issues that often accompany the conditions.

Often, parents don't suspect learning disabilities because many people associate it with low IQ. But LDs affect children of all intelligence levels and has nothing to do with IQ. In fact, it isn't uncommon for a child with a learning disability to excel in one or multiple subjects, while struggling in another. Also, kids with LDs or ADHD may do well under certain conditions. Yet, in other situations, they have great difficulty. Depending on the LD and severity of it, a child might struggle in all areas.

## Forms of learning disabilities

There are multiple forms of LDs. Some pose input problems, which means a child struggles with either sound or visual input. What happens is the information isn't processed correctly or gets stored incorrectly in the brain. This can pose problems with the retrieval of information as well as short or long-term memory.

An LD can also cause output problems. This can sometimes be seen in motor skills such as handwriting difficulties. Another common problem is verbal output. This is usually evident in kids that have trouble organizing their thoughts, either in writing or orally. Punctuation, grammar and spelling may also suffer as a result.

**Dyscalculia** is a math learning disability. Kids with dyscalculia may have difficulty learning to tell time, counting



money or counting in general, learning math facts, calculating, understanding measurement or performing mental math.

**Dyslexia** is a reading disability, although the symptoms are not exclusive to reading. Children with this disorder may have difficulty with spelling, vocabulary or comprehension. They may read slow, have trouble learning left from right or have organizational problems with both written and spoken language.

**Dysgraphia** is a writing disability. Poor handwriting and often, an awkward style of holding a pencil or even contorting the body while writing, are hallmarks. A child may also have trouble drawing lines. With dysgraphia, kids can often better express their understanding of the material through speech than in writing.

**Auditory processing disorder** is a problem with input. It isn't a hearing problem. Instead, the brain has difficulty processing sounds. As a result, kids with APD can be distracted by loud noise or struggle to follow conversations. This can be especially problematic when there's a

lot of background noise, which makes it difficult to distinguish sounds.

**Visual processing disorders** are also a problem with input. But VPD isn't a vision problem. It's actually a problem with the brain processing what the eyes see. It can result in a child bumping into things or being unable to distinguish the shapes they see. It can also pose difficulty in identifying letters or numbers or result in problems with visual sequencing, among other symptoms.

**Nonverbal learning disorder** is similar to Asperger Syndrome and shows up as difficulties with social skills. Academic problems are sometimes present as well. But often, these don't show up until kids reach higher grade levels. Those with NLD may be afraid of new situations, struggle to make friends, lack common sense and experience social withdrawal. Academic problems can include reading comprehension and working out math story problems.

**ADHD** is marked by attention problems and/or hyperactivity and impulsivity. Girls often have only attention issues, while boys are more



commonly impulsive or hyperactive. Symptoms can include difficulty staying on task or paying attention. Yet, they often hyperfocus on stimulating activity. Children with ADHD may fidget or have trouble staying seated, interrupt and act without thinking.

The symptoms listed above for each of the LDs aren't exhaustive. You can learn more about symptoms by visiting the website of the Learning Disabilities Association of America at <https://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/>.

### What to do if you suspect your child has an LD or ADHD

The first step is to talk with your child's teacher and find out what the teacher has observed. Then speak to the school principal. Public schools are required by law to provide an assessment. This should include an IQ test, assessments of math, reading and writing, and testing of processing skills. If your child is in a private school and it doesn't offer this service, you can request it through your public school district.

Once your child has received a diagnosis, your school psychologist should be able to recommend and help you set up services or accommodations for your kid. Depending on the specific learning disability, your child may qualify for special education services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or accommodations through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Keep in mind, you are your child's best advocate. So read books and articles on your child's LD and learn how you and your school can help. Talk to your child's teacher about additional ways the teacher can assist your child. Most teachers are eager to help, although, depending on the student-teacher ratio and the school's resources, it's sometimes challenging for teachers to do as much as they'd like. There are likely other kids in their classrooms with special needs as well. If you feel your child isn't getting the help needed, talk to the school administrator.

*Kimberly Blaker is a freelance parenting and lifestyle writer. She's also founder and director of KB Creative Digital Services, an internet marketing agency.*

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# Family event calendar

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## ONGOING

### Kidzeum Sensory-Friendly Visit Times

First Sunday of every month through Dec. 1, 9-11am. Lights and noises are turned down to make the museum more comfortable for visitors with sensory differences so they can explore and discover the galleries at their own pace. Headphones available for loan at the admissions desk. [kidzeum.org](http://kidzeum.org). Admission. Kidzeum of Health and Science Children's Museum, 412 E. Adams St., 217-971-4435.

### Carillon concerts

Through December. Master carillonneur Carlo van Ulft and local assistant carillonneurs play a variety of music from original carillon compositions to arrangements of popular classics and pop music. Enjoy the beauty of the park and gardens with the unique accompaniment of carillon music. Visit the website or call for performance times. [carillon-rees.org](http://carillon-rees.org). Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, Washington Park, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

### Illinois Products Farmers Market

Thursdays through Sept. 26, 3:30-7pm. Local meats, produce, dairy products, baked goods, honey and jams, craft beers, woodworking, jewelry and more. Plus live entertainment and a food truck. Illinois State Fairgrounds, The Shed, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-524-9129.

### Old Capitol Farmers Market

Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8am-12:30pm. Through Oct. 26. Shop for fresh local produce, baked goods and products. Sponsored by HSHS St. John's Hospital. Old Capitol Farmers Market, Fourth and Adams streets, 217-544-1723.



Enjoy free concerts through December at Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon in Washington Park.

### Moonlight Market

First and third Wednesdays through Sep. 18, 6-9pm. A wonderful way to enjoy an evening downtown. Find the works of local artists and artisans, plus dine and sip while you shop. Downtown Springfield, Jackson Street, between Sixth and Seventh streets. 217-670-0627.

### 5-Mile History Bike Tour

Thursdays, 1pm, from May 31 to Nov. 9. Ride your own bicycle following a guide on a casual, neighborhood-style bicycle

tour of historic sites, including the Black Fire House, Dana-Thomas House, Lincoln Home, Old State Capitol, Lincoln Tomb and others. Helmets are required and a water bottle is recommended. The 5-mile tour begins at 1pm at the Dana-Thomas House, 301 E. Lawrence Ave. 217-782-6302.

### 1908 Race Riot Walking Tour

Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m., from May 31 through Nov. 9. This 60-minute tour will examine the devastating 1908 Race Riot that destroyed and affected the lives of many



of Abraham Lincoln's African American friends and their descendants. Good walking shoes and water recommended. Donations welcome. Fifth and Adams streets, 217-782-6302.

**Black History Walk**

Saturdays, 2pm. From June 1 through Nov. 9. This 90-minute walk through Oak Ridge Cemetery focuses on the history of Springfield's African American community, discussing great tragedies, as well as stories of success in the face of adversity and prejudice. Water and good hiking shoes recommended. Donations welcome. Meet at Lincoln Tomb parking lot, 217-782-6302.

**Friends of Lincoln Hike**

Thursdays, 1:30pm, from May 31 through Nov. 9. This 90-minute hike through Oak Ridge Cemetery visits the graves of Abraham Lincoln's friends, neighbors and political associates. Guides will discuss their lives and highlight their interactions with the 16th president. Comfortable shoes and water recommended. Donations welcome. Meet at Lincoln Tomb parking lot, 217-782-6302.

**Underground Railroad Walk**

Fridays, 1:30pm, from May 31 to Nov. 9. This 45-minute, 1-mile walk explores locations in Springfield that hold a special significance to the railroad. Includes visits to the Old State Capitol and Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Good shoes and water recommended. Meet outside Lincoln Home Visitor Center, 217-782-6302.

**A Stroll with Old Bob**

Sundays, 1:30pm, through Nov. 9. Experience the life of Abraham Lincoln through the eyes of his horse, Old Bob. This walk traces Lincoln's route to work each day and includes stories from Old Bob about Lincoln, his family and Springfield. Best suited for families with children through age 10. Meet at the Lincoln Home Visitor Center, 217-782-6302.

**20th Century Black History Walk**

Fridays, 1:30pm, from May 31 to Nov. 9. After the 1908 Race Riot, Springfield's Black community persevered,



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The Edwards Place Fine Art Fair is scheduled Sept. 21-22 at Edwards Place, 700 N. Fourth St, Springfield.

establishing businesses, participating in politics and organizing. Early Black leaders created opportunities for future generations. This walk will feature stories of the men and women who uplifted their families and communities and dedicated their lives to make the city a better place for all. Meet in the Lincoln Tomb Parking Lot, 217-782-6302.

#### Parents WILD Night Out

Get out on the third Friday of every month, 6-9pm, through Aug. 16. Drop off the kids to play, create and learn about the wild world around them while you spend a couple hours doing grownup things. Pizza and snacks provided or send a packed dinner. Registration is \$30-\$35, then \$25-\$30 for each additional child. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 East Lake Shore Drive, 217-585-1821.

#### Artist in the Park

Fridays, noon to 1p.m., through Aug. 30. Local musicians perform in Union Square Park, 500 E. Madison St. Sponsored by the Springfield Area Arts Council. [Springfieldartsco.org](http://Springfieldartsco.org). Free. 217-753-3519.

#### Masters' Back Porch Chautauqua Series

Third Sunday of every month, 2-4pm. Through Sep. 15. Listen to experts lecture on topics of local interest in literature, art and history followed by original performances by area songwriters. The Masters' Memorial Museum will be open for tours the hour preceding the event. Free. 1st and 3rd Boutique and Wine Bar, Petersburg, 105 S. Seventh St.

### AUGUST

#### Illinois State Fair

Aug. 8-18. Every kind of food imaginable, the sounds of music and con certgoers' cheers at the Grandstand shows, a midway with all the bells and whistles, harness-racing horses kicking up the dust on the track, tons of agricultural shows and lots of 10-gallon hats and cowboy boots. Visit the Facebook page for Grandstand shows updates and admission info. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

#### Illinois State Fair Rodeo

Aug. 10, 7:30pm. See competitions in

nine edge-of-your-seat events including bareback riding, saddle bronc, bull riding, tie down roping, steer wrestling and barrel racing. Presented by Wooten Rodeo Co. Adults \$10, children 12 and younger \$5. Gate 11 (campgrounds), Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-899-9175.

#### Fairytales On Ice - The Adventures of Peter Pan & Wendy

Aug. 17, 11am, 3pm and Aug. 18, 11am, 3pm. \$25. Award-winning skaters bring this favorite fairy tale characters to life through ice skating, singing and music. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-899-9175.

#### YART Sale

Sat., Aug. 17, 9am-3pm. Donated supplies and equipment from forgotten hobbies available at low prices for your new art-making passion. Supplies and equipment in metals, ceramics, painting, photography and so much more. [springfieldart.org](http://springfieldart.org). Free. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

#### USAC Silver Crown Series

Sat., Aug. 17, 2pm. See the always



exciting Bettenhausen 100. Adults \$25, children \$10. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

**Demolition Derby**

Sat., Aug. 17, 5pm. Adults \$25, children \$5. Watch the metal-twisting action as these skilled drivers smash and crash into one other until only one vehicle remains. Multi-Purpose Arena, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-899-9175.

**Arca Super Series**

Sun., Aug. 18, 1pm. Adults \$25, children \$10. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

**Abe's Amble**

Aug. 18, 7:30am. On the last day of the Illinois State Fair, hundreds of runners from Illinois and surrounding states take to the streets covering the fairgrounds, Lincoln Park, Oak Ridge Cemetery and back. This challenging 10K course is USATF-certified and a lot of fun. Certified 5K course option available. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-782-6661.

**Powerlight Fest**

Aug. 18. Featuring Dove Award-nominated Jordan St. Cyr, The Afters and Adelaide at the Lincoln Stage. Free with paid fair admission. Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-553-5271.

**Disney and Cameron McKintosh's Mary Poppins**

Aug. 23-25, Aug. 30-Sep. 1. One of the most popular Disney movies of all time is capturing more hearts as a musical. The tale of nanny Mary Poppins delighted Broadway audiences for more than 2,500 performances and received nominations for nine Olivier and seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Hcfta.org. \$22. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

**Jubilee Morgan Horse Show**

Aug. 28-31, 9am-9pm. The stamina and spirit of the Morgan, combined with its build and way of traveling, contributed greatly to the formation of the other American breeds. Coliseum, Illinois State



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For questions, contact Darian Brown [darian@GOTRcentralillinois.org](mailto:darian@GOTRcentralillinois.org)

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International Route 66 Mother Road Festival Sep. 27-29 in downtown Springfield. PHOTO BY CHRIS GOSDA

Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 248-207-4956.

### **Decatur Music Festival**

Aug. 30-31. Two days, more than 20 bands and much, much more. Central Park, 151 N. Water St., 217-423-7000.

### **Springfield Mile**

Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 9am-4pm. The annual Labor Day weekend doubleheader of the world's premier flat track motorcycle racing series. You just now imagined the sound of all those motorcycles roaring past the grandstand, didn't you? \$20-\$150. Children 12 and under \$5-\$25. Illinois State Fair Grandstand, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-632-0277.

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **Bluegrass Concerts and Traditional Music Festival**

Sep. 6-7. Bluegrass performers from all over the Midwest will be playing in the Kelso Hollow outdoor theater both Friday and Saturday from 6-10pm. At the Traditional Music Festival on Saturday, traditional, folk and bluegrass musicians are invited to participate

in impromptu jam sessions from 10am-4pm throughout the village. [lincolnsnewsalem.com](http://lincolnsnewsalem.com). Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, 15588 History Lane, Petersburg, 217-632-4000.

### **Jiu Jitsu Tournament**

Sep. 7, 9:30am. Presented by FUJI BJJ Championship Series. Competitors range in age from 4 years old to 60+. [fujibjj.com](http://fujibjj.com). \$20 at the door. Age 12 and under are free. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Ave., 217-725-8047.

### **Rock and Run for Mental Health**

Sep. 8, 8-11am. Event combines a 5K run, live music, vendors and food event to benefit mental health non-profit organizations. See the web site for more info and to sign up. [rock4mentalhealth.com](http://rock4mentalhealth.com). Rochester Community Park, Rochester, 90 Wild Rose Lane.

### **Art Spectacular**

Sep. 14, 10am-5pm, and Sep. 15, 10am-4pm. A juried fine art and craft fair, ranked by Sunshine Artist Magazine as one of the best 200 art fairs in the United States. [carillon-rees.org](http://carillon-rees.org). Free. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 1740 W. Fayette Ave., 217-546-3853.

### **Capital City Century Ride**

Sep. 14. One of the oldest and most popular recreational bicycle rides in Illinois. A scenic, one-day ride on low-traffic roads. Multiple route options. Hosted by the Springfield Bicycle Club. [Capcitycentury.com](http://Capcitycentury.com). 217-801-2873.

### **200th Birthday Celebration and Open House**

Sep. 14, 10am-4pm. Artisan demonstrations of 1800s homestead industries, wagon rides, farm animals and activities for children to experience some of the games and work performed in that period. Concessions will be available. [jacksonvilleil.org](http://jacksonvilleil.org). Adults \$5, children \$3. Woodlawn Farm, Jacksonville, 1463 Geirke Lane, 309-678-7716.

### **Fall Festival**

Sun., Sep 15. Fun-filled day for the whole family. Includes children's games, health fair, food truck, raffles, country store and live music by the Jonnie Concaroo Band. St. Frances Cabrini Parish 1020 N. Milton Ave., 217-522-8555.

### **Community Park Car Show and Cruise Night**

Sep. 21, 9am-9pm. 40th annual event.



Car show 9am-3pm. Specialty awards, doors prizes, vendors, swap meet. Cruise 5-9pm. Community Park, Jacksonville, South Main Street, 217-245-6884.

**Capital City Clash**

Sep. 21, 7pm. Are you ready to rumble? See professional wrestlers from around the world do battle in this “base-brawl.” Fans can meet the wrestlers, take photos and get autographs during at 5pm during a special VIP session. Presented by the Springfield Lucky Horseshoes, Global Force Wrestling and Pro Wrestling Entertainment. shoebaseball.com. Robin Roberts Stadium, 1415 N. Grand Ave. E., 217-381-3858.

**Edwards Place Fine Art Fair**

Sep. 21, 10am-5pm and Sep. 22, 10am-4pm. Shop over 70 different vendors, take tours of Edwards Place Historic Home and join in other fun family activities. This fair is popular with locals and is in its 35th year. Free. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-544-2787. springfieldart.org.

**Fall Festival**

Sep. 21-22, 9am-4pm. A local favorite with music, food, crafts, children’s activities and historic buildings to tour. Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains, Route 125, 217-481-4430. clayville.org.

**Chatham Oktoberfest**

Sept. 21, 10am-9pm. Traditional(ish) celebration with food, fun and German and American music. See the Chatham Jaycees Facebook page for more info. Chatham Memorial Square.

**International Route 66 Mother Road Festival**

Sep. 27, 6-10pm, Sep. 28, 9am-10pm and Sep. 29, 9am-2pm. Hundreds of street machines, muscle cars and hot rods will rumble into downtown Springfield followed by thousands of spectators for a weekend of family fun, live music and entertainment. Cruise at 6pm Friday with car show Saturday and Sunday. Don’t miss the Burnout Competition. Free for spectators. Downtown, 217-553-5271.

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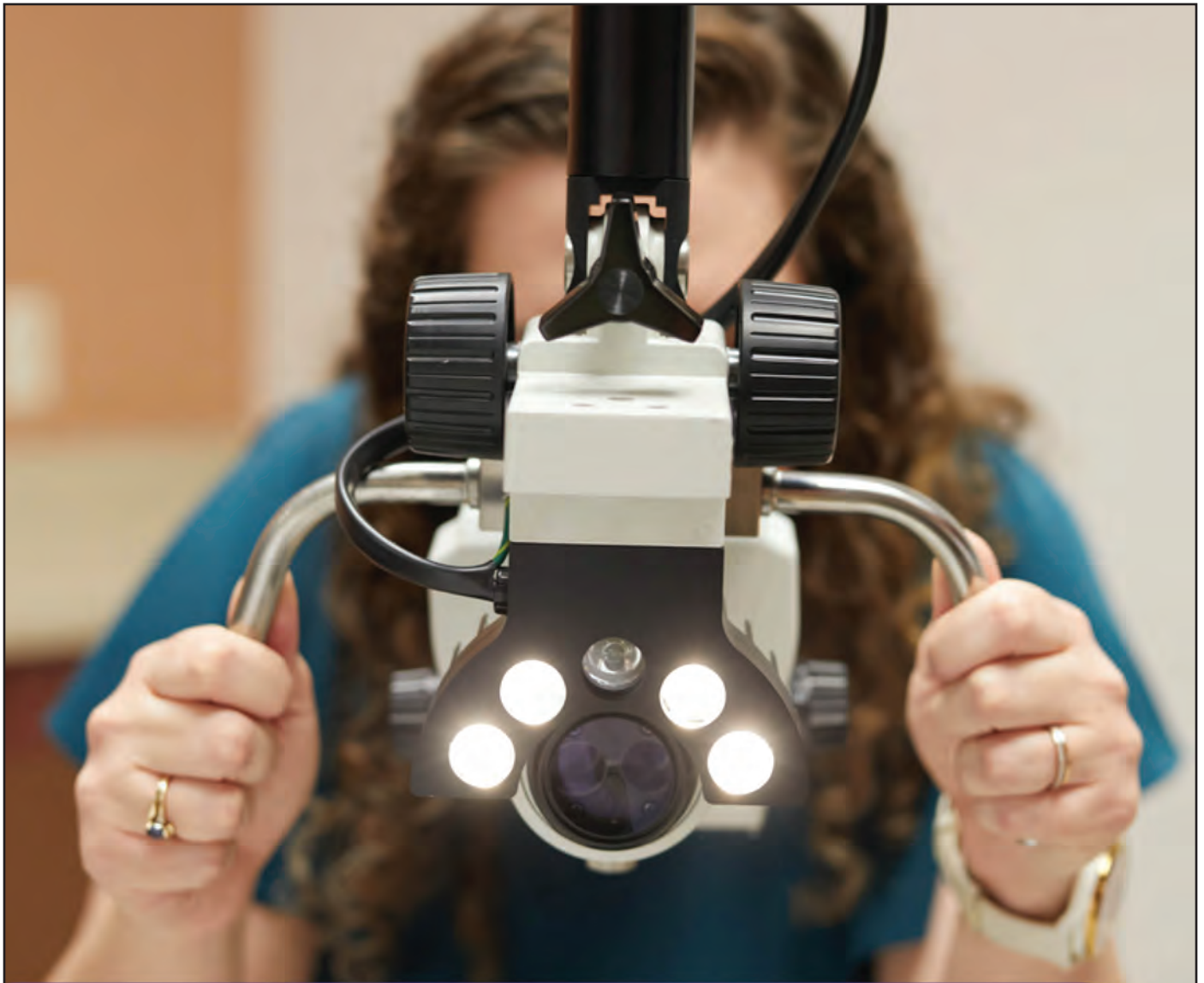
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