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DES MOINES' GUIDE FOR ACTIVITIES AND THINGS TO DO



FALL 2025



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DES MOINES' GUIDE FOR ACTIVITIES AND THINGS TO DO



FALL/WINTER 2025

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CITYVIEW



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- Photo courtesy of The Bartenders' Handshake
- Photo courtesy of Seven Oaks
- Photo courtesy of Latino Heritage Festival

Get up and get out

Fall and winter fun is at your fingertips.

BY CYOTE WILLIAMS

Put away the sunscreen and bug spray and pull out the jackets, crewnecks, boots and fuzzy socks. The weather is cooling off, but the number of things to do in and around the Des Moines metro is only heating up.

There are plenty of places to get a nice hot plate of comfort food to warm you up on a breezy evening. If that is not your choice in how to stay warm, there are also plenty of bars that bring you seasonal cocktails if that's your heater of choice. Do you need something for a loved one? We found several holiday/seasonal pop-up shopping events just for you.

Want to get out of the house but stay out of the cold? We detail some of the best movie theaters to catch a new, or a classic movie. If live theatre is your niche, Des Moines has plenty of that, too. Want to get out of the house, but STAY in the cold? Not to worry, as Des Moines and the surrounding area have plenty of winter games and activities to keep you on the go. Interested in scaring yourself or a friend? Haunted houses are found within these pages.

If all of that is not enough, Des Moines is home to several sports teams bringing the action all season long. Live music hits stages in the city and in the suburbs. And there are countless community festivals and events worth marking on your calendar. With all these reasons and more, it is yet another great time to Explore Des Moines. ■

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COMFORT FOOD

Sometimes the best thing about the fall and winter months is a hot plate of home-style, comfort-food goodness.

BUBBA

200 10th St., Des Moines

www.bubbadsm.com

“Downtown & Downhome.” That is the short but sweet sentence that greets customers visiting the upscale comfort food restaurant in downtown Des Moines. While comfort food is not normally associated with fancy cocktails or high-end whiskey, the flavor that Bubba packs into its southern offerings makes it worthy of a mention. Excellent fried chicken, catfish skillet, chicken fried steak, and mac and cheese all hit the spot.

GOOD EATIN’S SOUTHERN FOOD

5418 Douglas Ave., Des Moines

www.goodeatinsdsm.com

Get ready for your mouth to water. Good Eatin’s menu features many southern comfort foods classics such as collard greens with turkey, fried chicken, turkey leg and baked beans, just to name a few. If you are looking for something sweet, they also have peach and apple cobblers and lemon and strawberry cakes.



Fried chicken and some comforting sides. Photo courtesy of Good Eatin’s Southern Food.

MAGEE’S IRISH PUB & EATERY



Cheese curds make Ireland feel like Iowa. Photo courtesy of Magee’s Irish Pub & Eatery.

HIGHLIFE LOUNGE

200 S.W. Second St., Des Moines

www.thehighlifelounge.com

Just on the edge of downtown Des Moines is the Highlife Lounge. It is attached to El Bait Shop. The two restaurants could not be any different, though. Stepping into the old, classic-feel lounge brings diners back in time. Goulash, Mom’s pot roast and chicken pot pie are on the menu. Talk about comforting. Since the two eateries are conjoined, you can order some of the finest beers this state has to offer with your home-style meal.

MAGEE’S IRISH PUB & EATERY

1610 S.W. Main St., Ankeny

www.mageesirishpub.com

Comfort food comes in all shapes and sizes. For comfort food from our friends across the pond, Magee’s Irish Pub in Ankeny serves some delightful options. Stews, corned beef and fried fish are found on the menu. And, there is even something to remind you of where you really are: Wisconsin cheese curds. Shepherd’s pie is a great choice if you are diving into the cuisine for the first time.



WATCHA SMOKIN' BBQ

403 Iowa Ave., Luther

www.whatchasmokinbbq.com

A short drive out of the city will bring you to some of the best comfort food and BBQ the state of Iowa has to offer. Described as “central Texas style” BBQ, these meats are smoked daily and will put you into a comfort food coma. Burnt ends from brisket to pork belly offer flavor explosions. Every Friday features a prime rib dinner. Saturdays are great for ribs. Iowa Twinkies make for spectacular Sunday food as well. Bring an empty stomach — and a few extra napkins.

MI PATRIA

1410 22nd St., West Des Moines

www.mipatriadsm.com

Just like we wrote about Magee's, comfort food comes in all shapes and sizes. These are from Ecuador. Try the Picadillo de Hornado, a slow-roasted marinated pulled pork served with white corn, fava beans, potato patty and ensalada criolla. Costillas a la Brasa are slow-roasted spareribs. Fritada con Moté are marinated pork tips. Plantains are a great side, crispy and flavorful.

CAJUN BELLE

5460 Merle Hay Road, Suite A, Johnston

www.cajunbelleia.com

Another restaurant with Texas roots hands you comfort food through the drive-thru, helping you enjoy it in the comfort of your own home. Jambalaya has bacon, pork shoulder and chicken in it. Fried gator brings a taste you might not be familiar with, while catfish po' boys offer a reason to come back again.



Picadillo and Patacones con Queso. Photo courtesy of Mi Patria

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512 E Grand Ave, Des Moines www.masao.restaurant 515-207-1570

COMFORT FOOD

DAM PUB



The Steakhouse Burger. Photo courtesy of the Dam Pub

ANGRY GOLDFISH

2301 S.W. Ninth St., Des Moines

www.angrygoldfishdsm.com

The goldfish might come angry, but patrons are sure to leave happy. This neighborhood bar and grill, tucked away on the south side of Des Moines, just outside of downtown, serves some tempting comfort food. The goldfish tenderloin is crusted with the delectable cracker. Poutine comes as an appetizer. Cinnamon rolls with chili bring diners back home while they are within the walls of this eatery. And, not to be forgotten, pork medallions and meatloaf come as entrees.

TUPELO HONEY

665 Grand Ave., Suite 100, Des Moines

www.tupelohoneycafe.com/restaurant/des-moines

Tupelo Honey provides made-from-scratch southern food for all meals of the day. The bar menu is also extensive with cocktails, wines and local craft beers. Fresh biscuits can be ordered at any time. Fried green tomatoes serve as a solid appetizer. Nashville chicken can come in a sandwich or with waffles. There is also a solid selection of grilled fish and tasty sides to make you feel at home.

DAM PUB

2710 Beaver Ave., Des Moines

www.dampubdsm.com

The Dam Pub is nearly hidden away in the Beavertdale neighborhood, but it is well worth the exploration. The brunch menu includes all of the favorite fixins' from bacon and eggs, biscuits and gravy, breakfast pizza and more. The loaded beaver entree comes with mashed potatoes topped with gravy, spicy corn and your choice of shredded pork or chicken. Finished with colby jack shredded cheese. We're already outside. ■





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EXPLORE OUR THAI DISHES

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Wed - Sat: Lunch 11am-2pm | Dinner 4:30pm-9pm

SEASONAL DRINKS

With the holidays right around the corner, we suggest more than a few beverages to get you into the reason for this season.

THE STUFFED OLIVE:

GRASSHOPPER

216 Court Ave., Suite 100, Des Moines
www.stuffedolivedsm.com

A grasshopper cocktail is described as a minty and creamy drink, perfectly in line with holiday flavors. The Stuffed Olive's grasshopper includes Tippy Cow Vanilla, 360 Chocolate Vodka, White Crème de Cacao, Green Crème de Menthe, and cream. Garnished with chocolate swirls.

THE BARTENDERS' HANDSHAKE:

OLD-FASHIONED

3615 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines
www.thebartendershandshake.com

You will want to give your bartender a handshake after trying one of the city's best old fashioned. Labeled as "Old Fashioned No. 6," it comes with rye, toasted-coconut-infused bourbon, Jamaican rum, raw sugar syrup, All Spice Dram, and house tiki bitters.

WILSON'S CIDERHOUSE:

CIDER

3201 15th Ave., Cumming
www.wilsonsorchard.com

In the nearby town of Cumming, one of fall's best beverages is served at Wilson's Ciderhouse restaurant and bar. Their sparkling cider is a mere \$4 on the menu. Wilson's says this about their orchard: "Our farm team and cider makers work together in an integrated process beginning in our nursery and ending in your glass; our goal is to make some of the best ciders in the world, right here in Iowa!" Count us in.



THE BARTENDERS' HANDSHAKE

The atmosphere inside The Bartenders' Handshake is warm and inviting. Photo courtesy of The Bartenders' Handshake



CHEESE BAR DSM: HOT BUTTERED RUM

2925 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines
www.cheesebardsm.com

That's right, Cheese Bar serves hot buttered rum. The drink is aptly named, typically served warm, made with rum, butter, sweetener (like brown sugar), hot water or cider, and warming spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. Some of the season's best flavors in a cup.

THE CONTRARY: ESPRESSO MARTINI

503 E. Locust St., Des Moines
www.instagram.com/thecontrarydsm

One of Des Moines' newest and hottest cocktail bars is located in the East Village and serves an excellent espresso martini. Espresso martinis have been gaining in popularity as of late, typically served as a coffee-flavored cocktail made with vodka, coffee liqueur and a shot of — you guessed it — espresso. ■



Hot Buttered Rum at Cheese Bar DSM. Photo courtesy of Cheese Bar DSM



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SEASONAL DRINKS



Photo courtesy of Secret Admirer

HOLIDAY-THEMED BAR POP-UPS

These area bars transform for the holidays with their own specialty drinks and decorations.

MIRACLE ON INGERSOLL

The Station, 3124 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines
www.facebook.com/miracleoningersoll

SNOWGLOBE DSM

Exile Brewery, 1514 Walnut St., Des Moines
www.facebook.com/snowglobedsm

RUDOLPH'S ROOFTOPS

The Republic on Grand, 401 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines
www.therepublicongrand.com

THE NAUGHTY LIST

Good News Darling, 717 Locust St., Des Moines
www.instagram.com/goodnewsdarling

THE NICE LIST

Secret Admirer, 110 S.W. Fifth St., Des Moines
www.instagram.com/secretadmirerdm

CITYVIEW BEST 2025

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Jethro's BBQ Smokehouse Steaks
2601 Adventureland Dr • Altoona

Jethro's BBQ All Stars Downtown
721 3rd St • Des Moines

Jethro's BBQ South Side
4337 Park Ave • Des Moines

Jethro's BBQ Jambalaya
9350 University Ave • West Des Moines

Jethro's BBQ Bacon Bacon
1480 22nd St • West Des Moines

Jethro's BBQ Ames
1301 Buckeye Ave • Ames

Jethro's BBQ Iowa City
75 2nd St • Coralville

HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENTS

Pop-up shopping

CHRISTKINDLMARKET DES MOINES

Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines
www.christkindlmarketdsm.com

Dec. 4-7, 11-14

This German-inspired Christmas market aims to educate and entertain the Des Moines community with tasty European foods, products and activities. Vendors on site sell hand-crafted goods while entertainment such as choirs, polka bands and bell-ringers perform for listening ears. There is also a kids area for children to participate in activities and a beer tent for the parents at this Christmas-themed market.

BEAVERDALE HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

2926 Beaver Ave., Des Moines
www.holytrinitydm.org/beaverdale-holiday-boutique/
Nov. 14-15

With more than 60 artisans and vendors expected to be at this year's event, shoppers will be able to find one-of-a-kind, handcrafted items at this holiday shopping event. Wood and glass figures, clothing for all seasons, home decor and more. The Holy Trinity Catholic School is transformed into a winter wonderland of sorts, making this a great event for families. Santa will be present on the Saturday of the event.



A slice of German Christmas right here in Des Moines. Photo courtesy of Leaps + Bounds Photography

JUNK JUBILEE JINGLE

Iowa State Fairgrounds,
3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines
www.junkjubilee.com

Nov. 7-9

This vintage market takes place in the Varied Industries Building at the fairgrounds. More than 100 vendors flood the venue with all sorts of items waiting to be brought to a new home. The wide variety of vendors and potential gifts at this shopping event make it perfect for holiday shopping. Plenty of vendors decorate their booths to match the season, making the event that much more enjoyable.

DES MOINES HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

EMC Expo Center, Iowa Events Center,
730 Fourth St., Des Moines
www.desmoinesholidayboutique.com

Nov. 7-9

More than 200 businesses and vendors will be at the annual Des Moines Holiday Boutique. Local artisans and sellers give shoppers the chance to discover unique items, while vendors showcase the latest trends in jewelry, gifts, children's items, gourmet foods and more. This is the eighth show and draws nearly 15,000 visitors.



Hundreds of businesses bring shoppers great holiday season gifts. Photo courtesy of Beaverdale Holiday Boutique



JUNK JUBILEE JINGLE



Perhaps even Santa will get some holiday shopping done at the Junk Jubilee Jingle. Photo courtesy of Junk Jubilee Jingle

EAST VILLAGE PROMENADE

Historic East Village, downtown Des Moines
www.eastvillagedesmoines.com

Fridays, Nov. 21 through Dec. 16

The holiday Promenade is a staple of the East Village come holiday season. This is a festive, free celebration featuring holiday-themed activities, live entertainment, shopping and family-friendly fun. Events throughout the days include a tree lighting ceremony, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, workshops and a grand finale on the final Friday.

FALL MAKER'S MARKET

Jester Park Nature Center,
12130 N.W. 128th St., Granger
www.jesterparknaturecenter.com/fall-makers-market

Nov. 23

Just outside of Des Moines is Jester Park in Granger. While the area is normally home to wildlife, its Maker's Market takes over in the fall. This year, they expanded to include the Nature Center, Outdoor Recreation building and Jester Park Lodge for the more than 60 local vendors, selling handmade goods. Food vendors will also be on site, serving hot meals and drinks.

Science is fun until it gets messy, then it is awesome- some

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HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENTS

CHAMPAGNE & MISLETOE

601 S.W. Third St., Ankeny

www.uptownankeny.org

Nov. 14

Participating businesses in Ankeny's uptown shopping district will stay open late, offer holiday-themed drinks and treats. Carriage rides are offered in the areas Winter Wonderlights display from 5-7 p.m. Businesses are also expected to be decked out for the holidays for a fun night in one of the area's best shopping districts.

WINTER SOLSTICE MARKET

Winterset Courthouse Square, 116 S. First Ave., Winterset

www.exploremadisoncounty.com

Dec. 12-13

The Winterset Courthouse square transforms for the holiday season. They carefully curate 40 local vendors and artisans to provide handcrafted goods, last-minute holiday shopping or even something nice for yourself. The event has been dubbed the "Best Holiday Market in Iowa" by Food & Wine and named one of the "Best Christmas Markets and Craft Fairs in the Midwest" by Midwest Living. ■



WINTER SOLSTICE MARKET

The Winter Solstice Market is consistently rated one of the best markets in the Midwest. Photo courtesy of Madison County Tourism

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4820 SE 14th Street • 4500 Fleur Drive, Des Moines
4565 86th Street, Urbandale • 855 E. Hickman Road, Waukee
1112 S. Duff Avenue, Ames • 2415 Grand, Avenue, Ames
2205 SE Delaware Avenue, Ankeny • 3635 8th Street SW, Altoona
1105 73rd St, Windsor Heights
5340 Buffalo Ridge Drive NE, Cedar Rapids



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Gallery Night October 10

Yoga in the Park October 11

Sip & Shop October 23 & 30, November 6

Pumpkin Walk October 26

Jingle in the Junction November 20, December 4, 11 & 18

Small Business Weekend November 28 - December 1

[VALLEYJUNCTION.COM](http://valleyjunction.com)

MOVIE THEATERS

Sometimes, the best choice during the chillier months is to hunker down in a movie seat with a soda, popcorn and some sweets and catch the best new flick.

CINEMARK CENTURY JORDAN CREEK 20 AND XD

101 Jordan Creek Parkway,
Building 2000, West Des Moines
www.cinemark.com/theatres/ia-west-des-moines/cinemark-century-jordan-creek-20-and-xd

Whether you just finished shopping and decided to catch a movie, plan to see an early screening and get some shopping done afterwards, or, if you just want to see a movie in some comfortable seats, the movie theater at Jordan Creek Mall gets the job done. The XD theaters provide an extra immersive experience for moviegoers.

THE PALMS THEATRES & IMAX

200 N.E. Westgate Drive, Waukee
www.fridleytheatres.com/movie-theater/waukee-thepalmstheatres

The giant neon palm tree outside the Waukee movie theater lets you know where you are. The IMAX theater is the only one of its kind in the Des Moines area. Each theater inside the building is equipped with UltraLux Recliners. Also inside is Rick's Café Americain, a full restaurant and bar where you can order excellent meals to enjoy while you watch your next favorite film.

FLIX BREWHOUSE

3800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines
www.flixbrewhouse.com

A movie theater with a truly unique concept, Flix Brewhouse is a brewery, movie theater and restaurant all in one. The Flix “Core Four” includes 10 Day Scottish Ale, Luna Rosa, Nebulas and Lucha Libre. The beers have won awards for their quality and taste, and their menu has plenty of options that are great to enjoy while seeing the latest blockbuster. Flix has been serving the area for more than 10 years now as Iowa’s Cinema Brewery.

VARSITY CINEMA

1207 25th St., Des Moines
www.varsitydesmoines.com

The Varsity is operated by Des Moines Film. The venue is a true Des Moines classic and recently had an overhaul, allowing it to continue to bring the newest movies to its screens while continuing to show the classics at the same time. The building has been operating as a theater since the 1930s and was designated a landmark in 2020. Check their Special Events tab to see which motion pictures the theater is bringing that you might not be able to catch anywhere else.

FLEUR CINEMA & CAFE

4545 Fleur Drive, Des Moines
www.fleurcinema.com

Cosmopolitan Magazine called it the coolest movie theater in Iowa, and they may be right. This independent theater has been open since 2001 and shows new releases of indie, foreign and other Hollywood cinema. They often show the classics and host Iowa-based film festivals as well. The Cafe offers a coffee bar, draft beer, wine, Italian sodas and desserts. Oh, and don’t forget the popcorn and candy. ■



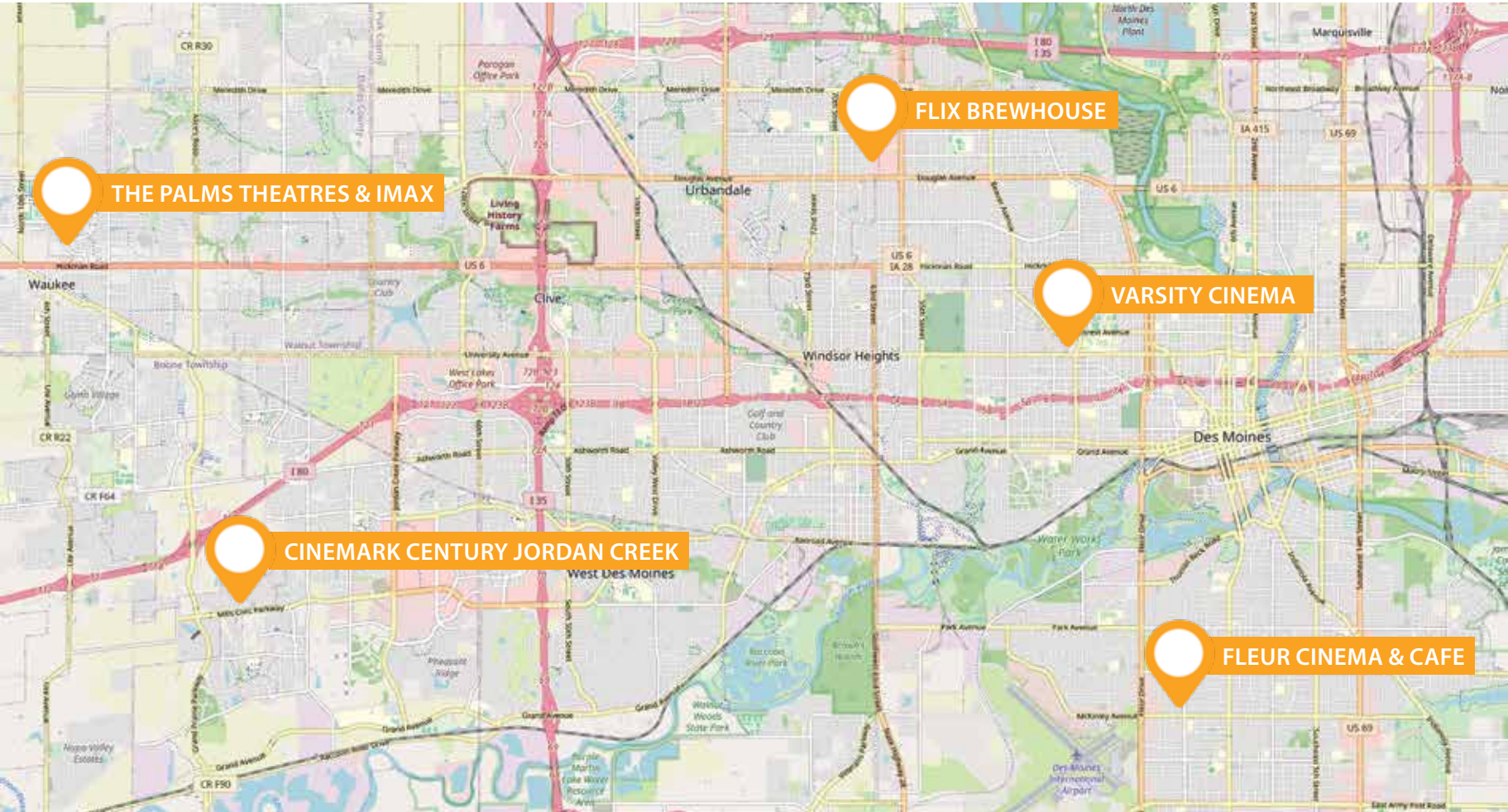
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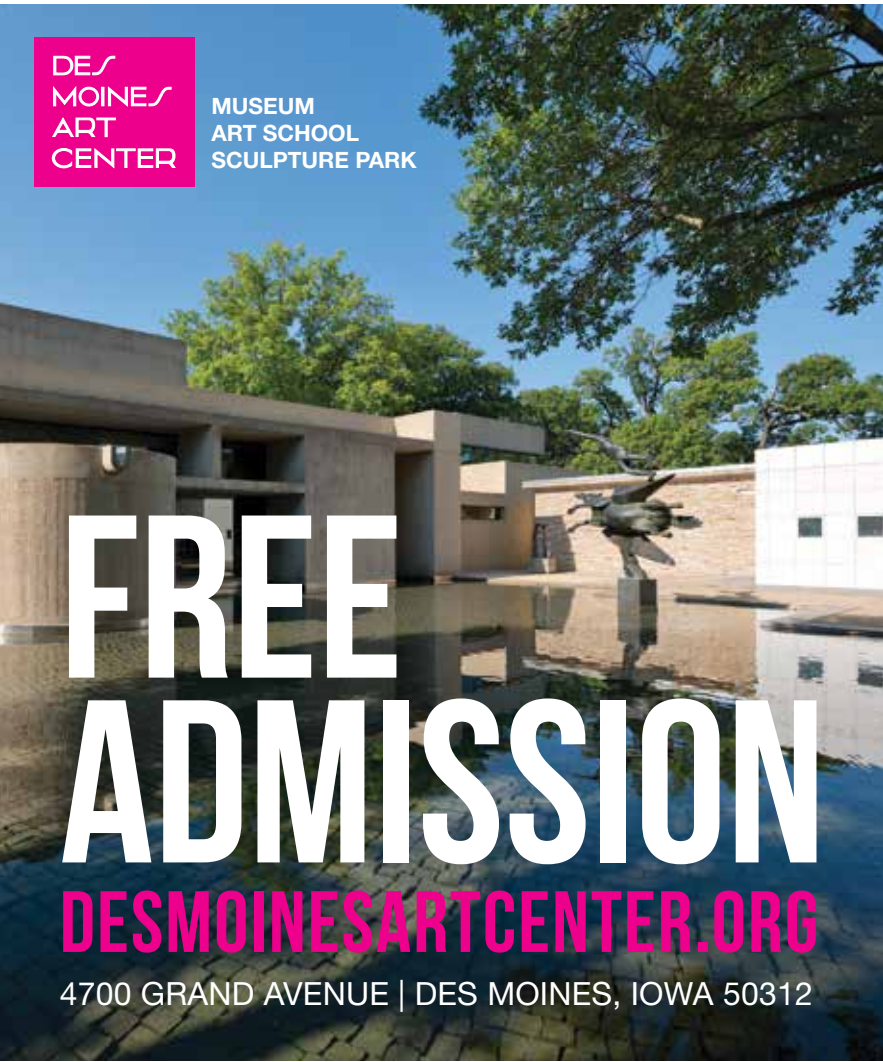
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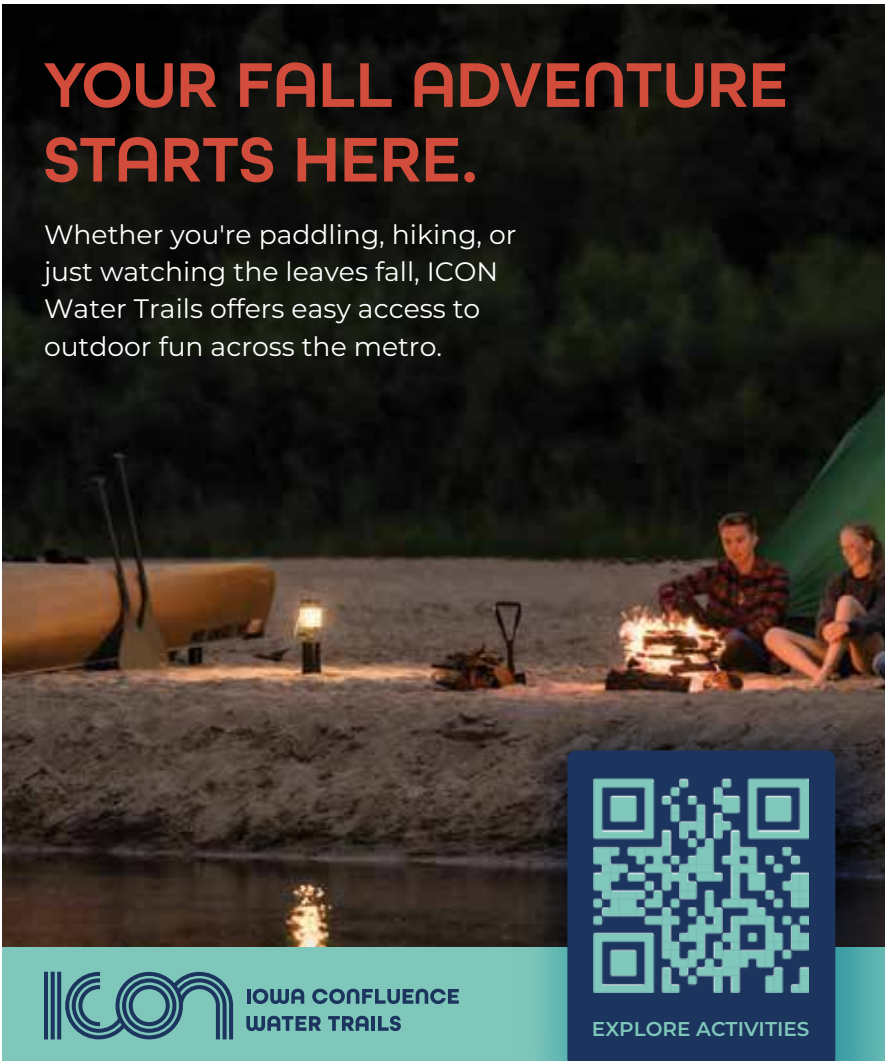
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EXPLORE ACTIVITIES



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THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

Quotes provided by John Busbee, CITYVIEW theater columnist

"From the power of national touring Broadway shows presented by Des Moines Performing Arts to intimate theatre in venues of less than 100, Greater Des Moines has achieved a strong mix of live theatre for patrons. Be a cultural adventurer and add an extra show or two to enrich your life."

ACTORS, INC. - AMES COMMUNITY THEATER

120 Abraham Drive, Ames

www.actorsinc.org

- Sept. 11-13, 19-21: "You Can't Take It With You"
 - Nov. 6-8, 14-16: "Next to Normal"
- "...gives everyone in the community the opportunity to participate in putting on a show."

ABOUT TIME THEATRE COMPANY

www.abouttimetheatre.com

- Fall play TBD
- "...more interactive theatre, immersive theatre. Things that aren't happening in Des Moines. We want to present riskier choices."

ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE

1932 S.W. Third St., Ankeny

www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com

- Oct. 3-12: "Blithe Spirit"
 - Dec. 5-14: "Miracle on 34th Street, the play"
- "...provides quality live theatre entertainment and participation opportunities for central Iowa community members."

CAROUSEL THEATRE COMPANY

117 E. Salem Ave., Indianola

www.carouseltheatre.org

- Nov. 6-9: "Almost Maine"
- "...producing live theatrical experiences, fostering community awareness of theatre as an art form, and developing educational, recreational and cultural activities for the community."

DES MOINES COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE



A Des Moines Community Playhouse performance of "Kinky Boots." Photo by Steve Gibbons, courtesy of Des Moines Community Playhouse

CLASS ACT PRODUCTIONS

201 First Ave. S., Altoona

www.captheatre.org

- Oct. 24-26, 31, Nov. 1-2, 7-9: "Beetlejuice JR."
- "CAP Theatre does a stellar job introducing and engaging 7- to 17-year-olds to stage work and production crew work."

DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS

Des Moines Civic Center, Cowles Commons, Stoner Theater, Temple Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines

www.desmoinesperformingarts.org

- Oct. 14-19: "Disenchanted! The Hit Musical Comedy"
 - Oct. 21-26: "A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical"
 - Nov. 3: "BODYTRAFFIC"
 - Nov. 7: "Both Sides Now: The Music and Lives of Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen"
 - Nov. 8: "SUGAR SKULL! A Día De Muertos Musical Adventure"
 - Nov. 12-16: "Les Misérables"
 - Nov. 18: "Earth After Dark"
 - Nov. 18-23, 25-26, 30, Dec. 3-7: "Triple Espresso"
 - Nov. 25: "A Drag Queen Christmas"
 - Dec. 2-7: "The Notebook"
 - Dec. 16-21: "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical"
- "Provides performing arts experiences that educate, inspire, and challenge including hosting national Broadway show tours to Temple Comedy Series."



DES MOINES COMMUNITY
PLAYHOUSE

831 42nd St., Des Moines
www.dmplayhouse.com

- Sept. 7: “Runaway Train”
- Sept. 19 to Oct. 5: “Bright Star”
- Dec. 5-27: “Frozen”

“To create extraordinary, shared experiences through live theatre from mainstage plays and musicals to literature-based family theatre.”

DES MOINES YOUNG ARTISTS’
THEATRE

4801 Franklin Ave., Suite 1166,
Des Moines
www.dmyat.org

- Nov. 7-16: “Willy Wonka Jr.”
- “DMYAT includes socially relevant works and musicals in its eclectic seasons.”

DMACC ANKENY CAMPUS
THEATRE

2006 S. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny
www.facebook.com/DmaccTheatre

- Oct. 3-5, 9-12: “The Apiary”
- Nov. 14-16, 20-23: “Kate and Sam Are Not Breaking Up”

“Under the leadership of department head Carl Lindberg, DMACC’s programming offers great theatre at an exceptional value.”

IOWA STAGE THEATRE COMPANY

Stoner Theatre, 221 Walnut St.,
Des Moines
www.iowastage.org

- Oct. 17-26: “Buried Child”
- Dec. 5-21: “A Christmas Carol”

“...transforms Iowa, its citizens, and its arts community by producing truthful, relevant, and intimate theatre that inspires, enlightens and entertains.”

TALLGRASS THEATRE COMPANY

2019 Grand Ave., Suite 100,
West Des Moines
www.tallgrasstheatre.org

- Sept. 12 to Sept. 28: “Blithe Spirit”
- Nov. 7 to Nov. 23: “The Boxcar Children”
- Dec. 19-21: “The A Sisters & Friends at The Velvet Lounge”

“The Mission of Tallgrass Theatre Company is to enrich and contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of West Des Moines and surrounding communities.” ■



A previous performance by the Tallgrass Theatre Company. Photo by Dylan Heuer



Les Misérables will be performed at the Des Moines Civic Center from Nov. 12-16. Photo by Matthew Murphy



STAY ACTIVE THIS WINTER

Lace up those boots, bust out the winter coat and gloves and step outside to these wonderful places and events this winter.

SEVEN OAKS

1086 222nd Drive, Boone

www.sevenoaksrec.com

If you want to get outside of Des Moines for some winter fun, just an hour's drive north brings you to Seven Oaks. Activities include tubing, skiing, sledding, snowboarding and ice skating. Before the snow falls, check their website as the location also offers paintball every day of the week with advanced reservations.

SLEDDING HILLS

Altoona

- Lions Park, 507 13th Ave., S.W.

Ankeny

- Northcreek Park, 2301 W. First St.
- Summerbrook Park, 1009 S.E. Eighth St.

Clive

- Campbell Park, 12385 Woodlands Parkway
- Country Club Glen Park, 16335 Sheridan Ave.
- Mercy West Clinic, 1601 N.W. 114th St.

Des Moines

- Blank Golf Course, 808 County Line Road
- Grandview Golf Course, 2401 E. 29th St.
- Capitol Hill, 1111 E. Court Ave.
- Ewing Park, 5300 Indianola Ave.
- Greenwood Park, 4500 Grand Ave.
- MacRae Park, 1021 Davis Ave.
- Union Park, 725 Thompson Ave.
- Waveland Golf Course, 4908 University Ave.
- Johnston: Beaver Creek Elementary, 8701 Lyndhurst Drive
- Pointe Vista Park, 9612 Enfield Drive
- Pleasant Hill: Doanes Park, 5050 Doanes Park Drive
- Oak Hill Park, 2115 Copper Wynd Drive

Urbandale

- Winter Park, 5110 N.W. 72nd St.

Waukee

- Warrior Park and Sledding Hill, 1050 Fourth St.

West Des Moines

- Jordan Creek Elementary, 4501 Fuller Road
- Pearson Park, 1256 19th St.
- Southwoods Park, 350 S. 35th St.



Seven Oaks provides quality sledding, snowboarding and skiing hills. Photo courtesy of Seven Oaks

MORE SKATING RINKS

- **Metro Ice Sports Facility**, 5100 N.W. 72nd St., Urbandale
- **West Des Moines RecPlex**, 6500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines
- **Centennial Park**, 605 S.E. Driftwood Lane, Waukee
- **Crosshaven Park**, 7909 N.W. 95th St., Johnston
- **Greenwood Park Pond**, 100 45th St., Des Moines
- **Johnston Commons Ice Rink**, 6700 Merle Hay Road, Johnston
- **Johnston Town Center Ice Rink**, 6245 Merle Hay Road, Johnston
- **MacRae Park Pond**, 1021 Davis Ave., Des Moines
- **Indianola Ice Skating Rink**, 2204 W. Second Ave., Indianola Activity Center
- **Raccoon River Park Ice Rink**, 2500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines
- **South River Valley Park**, 725 E. 13th St., Ames
- **Sunrise Park**, 506 S.E. Peterson Drive, Ankeny





A tug of war competition at Shiver on the River. Photo courtesy of Shiver on the River

SHIVER ON THE RIVER

SHIVER ON THE RIVER
 Captain Roy's, 1900 Saylor Road, Des Moines
www.shiverdsm.com

Feb. 14-15
 Described as the coldest party in the world, we are sure patrons will find a way to keep warm at this chilly event. The first day gives time to register and scope out the competition and maybe enjoy a drink and meal at Captain Roy's. The next day, however, is packed full of events from tug of war to beer cooler curling to slapshots to cycling.

SLEEPY HOLLOW SPORTS PARK
 4051 Dean Ave., Des Moines
www.sleepyhollowsportspark.com

Sleepy Hollow Sports Park provides metro residents with sledding, skiing and snowboarding hills right in the metro's backyard. The good news, you do not have to wait until winter and snowfall to enjoy Sleepy Hollow's hills. The world's largest all-weather hill resides at the park for tubing, as well as skiing and snowboarding, or just boarding, on special occasions.



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STAY ACTIVE THIS WINTER

BRENTON SKATING PLAZA

520 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines
www.dsm.city/departments/parks_recreation/brenton_skating_plaza

The Brenton Skating Plaza in downtown Des Moines is a great place to bring the family or a first date. The outdoor rink is open from November to March each year and has been serving good times and bruised buttocks for metro residents since 2006.

JESTER PARK

12130 N.W. 128th St., Granger
www.jesterparknaturecenter.com

Cross-country skiing is the main winter attraction at Jester Park. There are nearly 5 miles of trails in the area, leading skiers through the woods, near Saylorville Lake and on the edge of the golf course. The Lakeshore trail is also open for snowmobiling when conditions permit; just make sure to call ahead. You can also hoof it by snowshoeing the area. The park says to avoid groomed cross-country ski trails, Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt and golf courses. ■



Brenton Skating Plaza has entertained thousands of skaters since it opened in Des Moines in 2006. Photo courtesy of Des Moines Parks and Recreation

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SPOOKY FAMILY FUN

Some for kids. Some for adults. Either way you scare it, there's plenty of Halloween fun to be had this year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE HAUNTED ATTRACTION

500 Locust St., Des Moines
www.slaughterhousedm.com

While this section is meant for family fun, you might want to leave the kids at home for this one. The Slaughterhouse has received national recognition for its ability to scare customers thanks to the Biggs Family. The history of this haunted house and the family within is worth the read. Register for a frightful night here, but we recommend some light cartoons afterwards to put your mind at ease.

PHANTOM FALL FEST

Adventureland Park,
305 34th Ave. N.W., Altoona
www.adventurelandresort.com/discover-adventureland-resort/Phantom-Fall-Fest
Sept. 20 to Oct. 30

Adventureland Park is all about bringing the fun during the summer, but once the weather cools, the theme park transforms for the Phantom Fall Fest. They boast five haunted houses and four scare zones for 2025, described as "A Little Gothic, A Little Gory, Pure Panic." Not to mention this year's "Spell Keeper." The keeper has escaped, and now he is on a mission for revenge.

SLEEPY HOLLOW SCREAM PARK

4051 Dean Ave., Des Moines
www.sleepyhollowscarempark.com

While Sleepy Hollow is one of the premier places for winter outdoor fun, it is also one of central Iowa's best for Halloween horrors. The park becomes unrecognizable starting on Oct. 3. The area will have more than 10 haunted attractions, including the Castle of Blood, terrifying Chaos RED, bizarre Freakshow, and the morbid Nightmare Asylum. Wander through the village and try to complete each one... but bring a buddy.



SLEEPY HOLLOW SCREAM PARK



Several scary characters walk the grounds of the Sleepy Hollow Scream Park to add extra excitement to your visit. Photo courtesy of Sleepy Hollow Scream Park

BARNUM CIRCUS OF FREAKS

97 Indiana Ave., Des Moines
Find them on Facebook

The Barnum Circus of freaks is the newest addition to the haunted house scene in Des Moines. The focus on this one is, you guessed it, clowns. Check back in for the official dates, normally weekends in October.

NIGHTMARE ON INGERSOLL

The Station, 3124 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines
www.instagram.com/ingersollnightmare

It is more like heaven on Ingersoll for Halloween fans. The bar creates plenty of seasonal drinks, Halloween movie trivia, DJ sets and even comedy shows. The month of October will be a must visit at what is normally one of the Des Moines best dive bars.



LINN'S HAUNTED HOUSE



Linn's welcomes patrons with a friendly looking clown. Photo courtesy of Linn's

LINN'S HAUNTED HOUSE

Linn's Supermarket,
3805 Sixth Ave., Des Moines
www.linnshauntedhouse.com

Linn's is one of Des Moines' oldest haunted houses and is still operating for good reason. Since 1984, this attraction has been located in the basement of Linn's supermarket. Those looking for a night of frights begin by crawling into a pitch black tunnel. There are plenty of reasons to make it all the way through their dozens of spooky scenes. Make sure you watch out for spider webs and flying insects.

TRICK OR TREES

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden,
909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines
www.dmbotanicalgarden.com

Oct. 25

The Botanical Garden becomes the BOOtanical garden for one night of trick or TREEting. Celebrate the spooky side of plants and you and your family can enjoy festive entertainment, educational activities and some of falls favorite foods. Costumes and curiosity are encouraged.

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SPOOKY FAMILY FUN

THE HAUNTING AT EXILE

1514 Walnut St., Des Moines

www.exilebrewing.com/exile-events

Exile Brewing Company becomes haunted during October. Multiple events take place during the haunt, including beer dinners, beggars brunch, super hero brunch and pumpkin painting. Also, try the Halloween-themed drinks and dishes and experience decor that is sure to create a unique and memorable experience for anyone looking to enjoy the holiday.

SPOOKY SCIENCE

Science Center of Iowa, 401 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Des Moines

www.sciowa.org

Oct. 25

The Science Center encourages patrons to wear costumes (no weapons) and bring the entire family down for a night of spooky science and safe Halloween fun. There will be hair-raising experiments, creepy crawlies and more spooky programming. ■



EXILE BREWING CO.

One of Des Moines most popular breweries gets spooky for Halloween dining. Photo courtesy of Exile

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SPORTS

Professional sports occur all fall and winter long.

IOWA WOLVES

Casey's Center
233 Center St., Des Moines
iowa.gleague.nba.com

Scan this code for the Iowa Wolves schedule once it is released



IOWA WILD

Casey's Center
233 Center St., Des Moines
www.iowawild.com

Home games:

- Oct. 11 vs. Chicago Wolves at 6 p.m.
- Oct. 12 vs. Rockford Icehogs (Chicago Blackhawks) at 5 p.m.
- Oct. 28 vs. Grand Rapids Griffins (Detroit Red Wings) at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 1 vs. Tucson Roadrunners (Utah Hockey Club) at 6 p.m.
- Nov. 2 vs. Tucson Roadrunners at 3 p.m.
- Nov. 3 vs. Chicago Wolves at 10:30 a.m.
- Nov. 9 vs. Rockford Icehogs at 6 p.m.
- Nov. 14 vs. Charlotte Checkers (Florida Panthers) at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 15 vs. Charlotte Checkers at 6 p.m.
- Nov. 18 vs. Texas Stars (Dallas Stars) at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6 vs. Manitoba Moose (Winnipeg Jets) at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 7 vs. Manitoba Moose at 3 p.m.
- Dec. 10 vs. Rockford Icehogs at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17 vs. Grand Rapids Griffins at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19 vs. Grand Rapids Griffins at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 27 vs. Chicago Wolves at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 30 vs. Texas Stars at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 31 vs. Texas Stars at 5 p.m.



The Iowa Wolves host some of the most talented basketball players in the world at the Casey's Center. Photo courtesy of Iowa Wolves

IOWA STATE BASKETBALL

Hilton Coliseum
1705 Center Drive, Ames
www.cyclones.com

Men:

Non-conference home games (times TBA):

- Oct. 26 vs. Farleigh Dickinson
- Nov. 6 vs. Grambling State
- Nov. 17 vs. Stonehill College
- Dec. 3 vs. Alcorn State
- Dec. 11 vs. Iowa
- Dec. 14 vs. Eastern Illinois
- Dec. 21 vs. Long Beach State
- Dec. 29 vs. Houston Christian

Big 12 home games (dates and times TBA):

- Arizona State, UCF, Colorado, Houston, Texas Tech, West Virginia, Baylor, Kansas and Oklahoma State

Women:

- Nov. 3 vs. St. Thomas

- Nov. 5 vs. Southern
- Nov. 9 vs. Sacred Heart
- Nov. 12 vs. Valparaiso
- Nov. 16 vs. Norfolk State
- Nov. 23 vs. Mercyhurst
- Dec. 7 vs. Northern Illinois
- Dec. 10 vs. Iowa
- Dec. 14 vs. University of Northern Iowa

Big 12 home games (dates and times TBA):

- Cincinnati, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Arizona, Arizona State, Baylor, UCF, Kansas and West Virginia





The Drake men's and women's basketball programs continue to improve, providing elite college hoops viewing in Des Moines. Photo courtesy of Drake.

IOWA STATE FOOTBALL

Jack Trice Stadium
1732 S. Fourth St., Ames
www.cyclones.com

Home games:

- Sept. 27 vs. Arizona
- Oct. 25 vs. BYU
- Nov. 1 vs. Arizona State
- Nov. 22 vs. Kansas

DRAKE BASKETBALL

Knapp Center
2601 Forest Ave., Des Moines
www.godrakebulldogs.com

Men's home games

- Nov. 6 vs. Robert Morris
- Nov. 10 vs. Simpson
- Nov. 14 vs. SIUE
- Nov. 21 vs. Buena Vista
- Dec. 2 vs. Western Illinois
- Dec. 5 vs. UAB
- Dec. 13 vs. North Dakota State

Women's home games

- Nov. 9 vs. Creighton
- Nov. 20 vs. Iowa State University
- Dec. 3 vs. Lindenwood
- Dec. 7 vs. Western Illinois
- Dec. 21 vs. Minnesota

DES MOINES BUCCANEERS

MidAmerican Energy RecPlex
6500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines
www.bucshockey.com

The Tier 1 USHL developmental hockey franchise continues to serve up a chance for amateur hockey players to enhance their ability to succeed at the next level.

Home games:

- Oct. 3 vs. Chicago Steel at 7:05 p.m.
- Oct. 4 vs. Chicago Steel at 6:05 p.m.
- Oct. 24 vs. USA NTDP at 7:05 p.m.
- Oct. 25 vs. USA NTDP at 7:05 p.m.
- Nov. 1 vs. Tri-City Storm at 6:05 p.m.
- Nov. 14 vs. Waterloo Black Hawks at 7:05 p.m.
- Nov. 21 vs. Lincoln Stars at 7:05 p.m.
- Nov. 22 vs. Sioux City Musketeers at 6:05 p.m.
- Nov. 28 vs. Lincoln Stars at 7:05 p.m.
- Dec. 5 vs. Sioux City Musketeers at 7:05 p.m.
- Dec. 9 vs. Waterloo Black Hawks at 6:35 p.m.
- Dec. 13 vs. Waterloo Black Hawks at 7:05 p.m.
- Dec. 27 vs. Tri-City Storm at 7:05 p.m. ■



LIVE MUSIC

Catch some of the biggest names in music, as well excellent local artists, at Des Moines' wide array of venues.

NOCE



Catch a live jazz performance at Noce throughout the fall season. Photo courtesy of Noce

DES MOINES CIVIC CENTER

Des Moines Civic Center,
221 Walnut St., Des Moines
www.dmpa.org

- Oct. 23: The Lubben Brothers
- Oct. 29: PlayStation | The Concert
- Oct. 30: Twilight in concert
- Nov. 4: Jordan Messerole
- Nov. 5: Straight No Chaser
- Dec. 13: Andrew Hoyt

DES MOINES SYMPHONY

Des Moines Civic Center,
221 Walnut St., Des Moines
www.dmsymphony.org

- Sept. 27-28: Opening Night 2025
Celebration: Triumph - Tchaikovsky 5
- Oct. 11: The Goonies in Concert
- Oct. 18-19: Wisdom - Dvořák 6 & Chopin
- Nov. 22-23: Strength - Scottish
Highlands & Eroica
- Dec. 20-21: Holiday Brass
- Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Pops: Crique

CASEY'S CENTER

Casey's Center, 223 Center St., Des Moines
www.iowaeventscenter.com

- Sept. 27: Eric Church "Free the Machine Tour" at 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5: Jonas Brothers: JONAS20 Greetings From Your Hometown at 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 9: Brandon Lake: King of Hearts Tour at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 14: Paul McCartney at 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 24: Sexy Red - Midwest Fall Jam at 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 27-30: Disney On Ice presents "Frozen & Encanto"



MORE LIVE MUSIC VENUES

WOOLY'S

504 E. Locust St., Des Moines
www.firstfleetconcerts.com/first-fleet-venues/woolys

VIBRANT MUSIC HALL

2938 Grand Prairie Parkway, Waukee
www.vibrantmusichall.com

LEFTY'S LIVE MUSIC

2307 University Ave., Des Moines
www.leftyslivemusic.com

WATERWORKS PARK

Lauridsen Amphitheater, Des Moines Water Works Park, 2251 George Flagg Parkway
www.dsmwaterworkspark.com

XBK

1159 24th St., Des Moines
www.xbklive.com

TEMPLE THEATRE

1011 Locust St., Des Moines
www.desmoinesperformingarts.org/venues/temple-theater

HORIZON EVENTS CENTER

2100 N.W. 100th St., Clive
www.horizoneventscenter.com

SHELOW AUDITORIUM

2507 University Avenue, Des Moines
www.calendar.drake.edu/sheslow_auditorium

CAPTAIN ROYS

1900 Saylor Road, Des Moines
www.captainroys.com

GREENWOOD LOUNGE

3707 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines
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VAL AIR BALLROOM

301 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines
www.firstfleetconcerts.com/val-air-ballroom

HOYT SHERMAN PLACE

1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines

www.hoytsherman.org

- Oct. 1: Leonid & Friends at 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 2: AJ Croce presents Croce playing Croce at 8 p.m.
- Oct. 5: Il Divo at 3 p.m.
- Oct. 6: Johnnyswim: When the War is Over Tour at 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12: Evil Dead in Concert at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 14: Mania: The Abba Tribute at 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 18: Girl Named Tom at 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 23: Dee Dee Bridgewater with Bill Charlap at 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 29: Greensky Bluegrass at 8 p.m.
- Nov. 2: Blue October at 8 p.m.
- Nov. 5: Keb' Mo' at 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 9: Josh Ritter and the Royal City Band at 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 15: The Black Jacket Symphony presents AC/DC's "Back In Black" at 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 16: A Motown Christmas at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 3: Christmas with The Celts at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 4: Christmas with Lorie Line 2025 at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 20: Shaun Johnson & The Big Band Experience at 7:30 p.m.

HOYT SHERMAN PLACE



Dee Dee Bridgewater performs with Bill Charlap at Hoyt Sherman Place on Oct. 23. Photo courtesy of Hoyt Sherman Place

NOCE

1326 Walnut St., Suite 100, Des Moines

www.nocedsn.com

- Sept. 25: Jazz on the House with Zane Gedler & Co. at 7 p.m.
- Sept. 26: For Once In My Life: A Night Of Stevie, Luther, & More with Napoleon Douglas at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Oct. 3: Fly Me To The Moon: The Max Wellman Big Band Plays Sinatra & More at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Oct. 4: Hannah Marks, Michael Malis, & Jonathan Taylor - National Act at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 10: Follies: A Night of Broadway with Napoleon Douglas at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Oct. 11: Torch Songs: Lauren Vilmain with Her Jazz Orchestra at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Oct. 17: MN Jazz Vocalist Leslie Vincent - National Act at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 24: The Nola Jazz Band at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 31: Halloween with The Paul Lichty Jazz Orchestra at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Nov. 1: Bojangles: Napoleon Douglas Sings The Music of Sammy Davis Jr. with His Jazz Orchestra at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Nov. 6: Jazz on the House with Kyle Bachara & Co. at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 7: Mike Conrad with The Iowa Jazz Composers Orchestra at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 8: Vocalist Aviana Gedler with Her Band - National Act at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Nov. 13: Jazz on the House with Robert Espe & Co. at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 14: Voix de Ville: A Noce Folly From Max Wellman at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Nov. 15: KC Saxophonist Adam Larson - National Act at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 20: Jazz on the House with The Carson Parker Trio at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 21: Standard Time with Max Wellman at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 28: The Domita Show, feat. Travis Ness at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Nov. 29: The Nate Sparks Big Band at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Dec. 1, 21: Under The Mistletoe with Lauren Vilmain at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 2, 4, 6, 12-14: Max Wellman's 16th Annual Home for the Holidays at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 3, 17: Sounds of the Season with The Des Moines Big Band at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 5, 7, 23: All I Want For Christmas: Gina Gedler at 7 and 9 p.m.
- Dec. 8, 10, 15, 22, 27: A Charlie Brown Christmas with The Tanner Taylor Trio at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 9, 16, 26: A NOLA Christmas at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 11, 19: A Swingin' Christmas with Carson Parker, featuring Aviana Gedler at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 18: Matt Wilson's Christmas Tree-O - National Act at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 20: Christmas with The Nate Sparks Big Band at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. ■



EVENTS

Check out these festivals, community celebrations and so much more.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER THROUGH OCTOBER: Des Moines Farmers Market. Residing in the Historic Court District, Iowa's largest farmers' market will cater to the local fall cravings every Saturday morning. www.dsmpartnership.com/desmoinesfarmersmarket

SEPT. 25-27: Des Moines Area Quilters Guild annual show. Iowa State Fairgrounds 3000 East Grand Ave., Des Moines; www.dmaqg.org

SEPT. 26: Comedy Revival at The Station: Stand-up Comedy Showcase. A night of comedy by local comedians. The Station on Ingersoll, 3124 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines. www.thestationdsm.com/des-moines-ingersoll-the-station-on-ingersoll-party

SEPT 26-27: Oktoberfest. Celebrate with authentic German traditions: enjoy German beers, delicious German food, and much more. The District at Prairie Trail, S.W. District Drive, Ankeny; www.oktoberfestdsm.com

SEPT. 26-28: Iowa's Largest Arts and Crafts Show. More than 250 creators bring their best handmade products to the Iowa State Fairgrounds, E. 30th Street and E. University Avenue, Des Moines; www.iowastatefairgrounds.org/event-calendar/iowa-largest-arts-and-crafts-show

SEPT. 27-28: Latino Heritage Festival. This is the only two-day Latino Heritage festival in the state. The exclusive Sabor Latino event features everything, meaning there's something for everyone during the action-packed weekend. Western Gateway Park, 100 Grand Ave., Des Moines; latinoheritagefestival.org.

SEPT. 27: Applefest. The historic Living History Farms celebrate the apple harvest season apple treats, such as apple butter, cake or pie, and cider. Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; www.lhf.org

SEPT. 27: Wild Boar Challenge. An off-road obstacle course designed to push participants through a series of challenges that will test both their speed and agility as they navigate through the course. Wildwood Hills Ranch, 2552 Union Lane Street, St. Charles; www.wildboarchallenge.org

SEPT. 27: Log Cabin Days Festival. The annual festival brings you in for a taste of Indianola's history. Warren County Fairgrounds, 1400 W. Second Ave., Indianola; www.warrencountyhistory.org/default.html

LATINO HERITAGE FESTIVAL



Sept. 27-28: Latino Heritage Festival. Photo courtesy of Latino Heritage Festival

CAPITAL CITY GAMING CON



Oct. 17-19: Capital City Gaming Con. Photo courtesy of Capital City Gaming Con



PUMPKIN DESTRUCTION



Nov. 1-2: Pumpkin Destruction. Photo courtesy of Center Grove Orchard

OCTOBER

RECURRING WEEKLY THROUGH NOVEMBER:

The Haunting at Exile. This pop-up includes both the upstairs dining room and beer hall spaces. Halloween-themed drinks, dishes and decor create a unique and memorable experience for anyone looking to enjoy the holiday. Exile Brewing Company, 1514 Walnut St., Des Moines; www.exilebrewing.com

RECURRING DAILY THROUGH NOV. 2: Scarecrow

Festival. A farm-wide celebration filled with colorful displays, playful scarecrows and the warm spirit of the season. Center Grove Orchard, 32835 610th Ave., Cambridge; www.centergroveorchard.com

OCT. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26: Apple and Pumpkin Festival. Wagon rides, corn maze and corn pool and, of course, apple and pumpkin picking. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays at Wills Family Orchard, 33130 Panther Creek Road, Adel; www.willsfamilyorchard.com

OCT. 4: Spooky Sprint - Des Moines. A Halloween-themed event that is perfect for the whole family. Big Creek State Park, 8550 NW 142nd Ave., Polk City; www.runsignup.com/Race/IA/PolkCity/SpookySprintDesMoines

OCT. 4: Wauketoberfest. Join the Waukee Area Historical Society for a day of fun, featuring live

MADISON COUNTY COVERED BRIDGES FESTIVAL



Take in the iconic sights and enjoy this local festival at the same time. Photo courtesy of Explore Madison County

music, delicious German food, beer and an exciting stein-holding contest. Traditional attire is encouraged. Downtown Waukee Triangle, Ashworth Drive and Sixth Street; www.waukeehistory.org

OCT. 4: Little Giant Beer Summit at El Bait Shop.

El Bait Shop's love letter to local craft breweries, held in its parking lot. El Bait Shop, 200 S.W. Second St., Des Moines; www.elbaitshop.com

OCT. 4: Adam Sandler. Casey's Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines; www.iowaeventscenter.com

OCT. 11: Indigenous Iowans Day. Explore the native cultures that have shaped our state. Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; www.lhf.org

OCT. 11: Leprechaun Bags Tournament. The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Central Iowa present the Leprechaun Bags Tournament hosted at Sully's Irish Pub, 860 First St., West Des Moines. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Play starts at noon. \$30 per two-person team. Cash payouts for top three teams; www.friendlysonsiowa.com

OCT. 11-12: Madison County Covered Bridges Festival. Discover Madison County's rich history and iconic covered bridges. Enjoy food and art vendors, a car show, a parade and more.. Starting at 9 a.m. in Winterset Square, Winterset; www.exploremadisoncounty.com

OCT. 17-19: Capital City Gaming Con.

Des Moines' very own board game convention. Buy, play, test and enjoy board games of all types. Hilton Garden Inn, 205 S. 64 St., West Des Moines; www.capitalcitygamingcon.com

OCT. 17-19 and 24-26: Family Halloween at Living History Farms. Various start times, at 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; www.lhf.org/event/halloween

OCT. 18: SCI's Big Blast: 55 Years of Science, Wonder and Community. Celebrate the past and present of one of Des Moines' best attractions. Science Center of Iowa, 401 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Des Moines; www.sciowa.org

OCT. 18-19: Des Moines Lapidary Society 2025 Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Fossil show. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 East Grand Ave., Des Moines; www.dmlapidary.org

OCT. 18-19: Great Iowa Pet Expo. Including trade show, education and entertainment. 2100 N.W. 100th St., Clive; www.greatiowapetexpo.com

OCT. 19: Gabriel Iglesias. Casey's Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines; www.iowaeventscenter.com

OCT. 19: IMT Des Moines Marathon. Since 2002, the annual marathon has been taking participants on a run throughout Iowa's capital. 1001 Grand Ave., West Des Moines; www.desmoinesmarathon.com



OCT. 25: Des Moines Whiskey Festival. Horizon Events Center, 2100 N.W. 100th St., Clive; www.horizoneventscenter.com

OCT. 26: Des Moines Jazz Hall of Fame Gala. Hall of Fame honors for 2025 will be awarded to trombonist/educator/arranger Paul McKee and guitarist Willie Shay, with other honors presented throughout the night. Community Jazz Center of Greater Des Moines, 1326 Walnut, Des Moines; www.cjc-dsm.org

THROUGH OCT. 26: Phantom Fall Festival. Every weekend in October, Adventureland hosts their fall festival with several haunted houses, ghosts, ghouls, goblins and more. 3200 Adventureland Drive, Altoona; www.adventurelandresort.com/discover-adventureland-resort/Phantom-Fall-Fest

OCT. 30: Beggars' Night. The night before Halloween is Beggars' Night, and children across many communities will be out and about performing tricks or asking for treats. In some neighborhoods, from 6-8 p.m.

NOVEMBER

NOV. 1: 25th annual Red Tie Gala. Help support the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa. Dress to impress for this special benefit. Community Choice Convention Center, 833 Fifth Ave., Des Moines; www.rmhdsmoines.org

NOV. 1-2: Pumpkin Destruction. Sick and tired of pumpkin spice season? See pumpkins smashed in a variety of ways at this event. Center Grove Orchard, 32835 610th Ave., Cambridge; www.centergroveorchard.com

NOV. 7-9: Des Moines Holiday Boutique. More than 200 businesses join together to create the shopping event of the season. Discover unique, high-quality vendors showcasing the latest trends in jewelry, gifts, children's items, gourmet foods and more for the holiday season. EMC Expo Center, Iowa Events Center, 730 Fourth St., Des Moines; www.desmoinesholidayboutique.com

NOV. 8: Living History Farms race. Race across the grounds and see 300 years of Iowa history in the process. Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; www.lhf.org

NOV. 9: Girls on the Run 5K. Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines; www.gotrcentraliowa.org/5k

NOV. 23: Fall Makers Market. Local vendors, crafters, artisans and more will be available for your shopping needs right before the holidays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jester Park Nature Center 12130 N.W. 128th St., Granger; www.jesterparknaturecenter.com/calendar-events/fall-makers-market



Dec. 4-6, 11-14: ChristkindlMarket. Photo courtesy of Leaps + Bounds Photography

NOV. 29: Christmas in Olde Town. A holiday celebration in the heart of Downtown Altoona. S.E. Second St., Altoona; www.visitaltoona.com

NOV. 27: Des Moines Turkey Trot. The 5K plus 5-mile race takes over Des Moines on Thanksgiving and is regarded as one of the top trots in the country. Starting at 9 a.m. on Court Ave., Des Moines; www.desmoines turkeytrot.com

NOV. 28: Winterset Festival of Lights. Kick off the holiday season with an enchanting display of lights, live music and delicious food and drinks. From 5-8 p.m. at Winterset Courthouse, 112 S. John Wayne Drive, Winterset; www.madisoncounty.com/special-events

NOV. 28-30: 42nd annual Festival of Trees and Lights. Expertly decorated trees, local music, dance groups and a visit from Santa himself, all in the name of supporting Blank Children's Hospital. Iowa Events Center, 833 Fifth Ave., Des Moines; www.unitypoint.org/giving/blank-childrens-hospital-foundation/ways-to-give/events/festival-of-trees-and-lights

DECEMBER

DEC. 4-6, 11-14: ChristkindlMarket. Discover regional vendors showcasing handcrafted products from charming wooden stalls. Enjoy lively performances of polka music, traditional dances and choirs in Yuletide Hall. Engage in children's activities, and savor Glühwein (warm, mulled wine) and European beers. All at Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines; christkindlmarketdsm.com

CHRISTKINDLMARKET

DEC. 5: Light Up Polk City from 6-8 p.m. in the Polk City town square; www.gopolkcit.com/light-up-polk-city

DEC. 5: City of Clive Mayor's Tree Lighting. Clive Public Library, 1900 N.W. 114th St., Clive; www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation

DEC. 6: Family Christmas at Living History Farms. 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; www.lhf.org

DEC. 11: Bert Kreischer. Casey's Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines; www.iowaeventscenter.com

DEC. 12-13: Winter Solstice Market. Get some holiday shopping done for your friends, family or yourself. 116 S. First Ave., Winterset Courthouse Square; www.madisoncounty.com/special-events

DEC. 13: Santa 5K run. Bring your best Santa suit, but leave the milk and cookies at home. 521 E. Locust St., Des Moines; www.fleetfeet.com/s/desmoines

DEC. 13: Peppermint Trail. Winter festival located along Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines; theavenuesdsm.com/peppermint-trail

DEC. 5 through DEC. 28: Holiday Hullabaloo. Experience a family-friendly holiday event with festivities and entertainment every weekend through the dates posted. Southridge Event Center, 1111 Army Post Road, Des Moines; www.holidayhullabaloo.com ■



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NOON to MIDNIGHT

FOR MORE INFO AND TICKETS:
OKTOBERFESTDSM.COM

FALL
STYLE
SHOW

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21**

1 to 3 P.M.



**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 24**

4 to 7 P.M.



**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 6**

2 to 6:30 P.M.

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